



**DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY  
LOCAL PLAN REVIEW**

**SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL (SA)  
SCOPING REPORT: Draft**

**August 2017**

# DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY LOCAL PLAN REVIEW

## SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL (SA) (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Impact Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment)

### SA Scoping Report: Draft

date:	June 2017 v1 Initial DRAFT August 2017 Final Draft	
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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### **Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)**

- 1.1 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a systematic process that must be carried out during the preparation of a Local Plan. The purpose of a Sustainability Appraisal is to promote sustainable development through assessing the extent to which an emerging plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives<sup>1</sup>.
- 1.2 The requirement for SA is set out in Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and in Paragraph 165 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Extant guidance<sup>2</sup> recommends that SA incorporates the requirements for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) set out in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, which implements the requirements of the EU SEA Directive<sup>3</sup>. Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) has commissioned independent specialist consultants Enfusion Ltd to undertake the SA process for the Review of the Dartmoor Local Plan.
- 1.3 In addition, DNPA has chosen to integrate the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) process within the overarching SA/SEA process. Public bodies have a duty to assess the impact of their policies on different population groups to ensure that discrimination does not take place and where possible, to promote equality of opportunity. Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is not a statutory requirement for planning authorities but it is good practice in plan-making; health considerations are a requirement of the SEA process and thus the overall SA process.
- 1.4 The DNPA is also required to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the Dartmoor Local Plan Review. The aim of the HRA process is to assess the potential effects arising from a plan against the nature conservation objectives of any site designated for its nature conservation importance. The HRA process has its own legislative drivers and requirements and while the different processes can inform each other, it is important that the HRA remains distinguishable from the wider SA process. While the HRA process will be undertaken in parallel to the SA, the detailed method and findings will be reported separately and the findings of the HRA will inform the SA.
- 1.5 National Planning Practice Guidance sets out the key stages and tasks for the SA process and their relationship with the Local Plan process – as illustrated in the following Figure 1.1. These key stages and tasks are applicable to the SA

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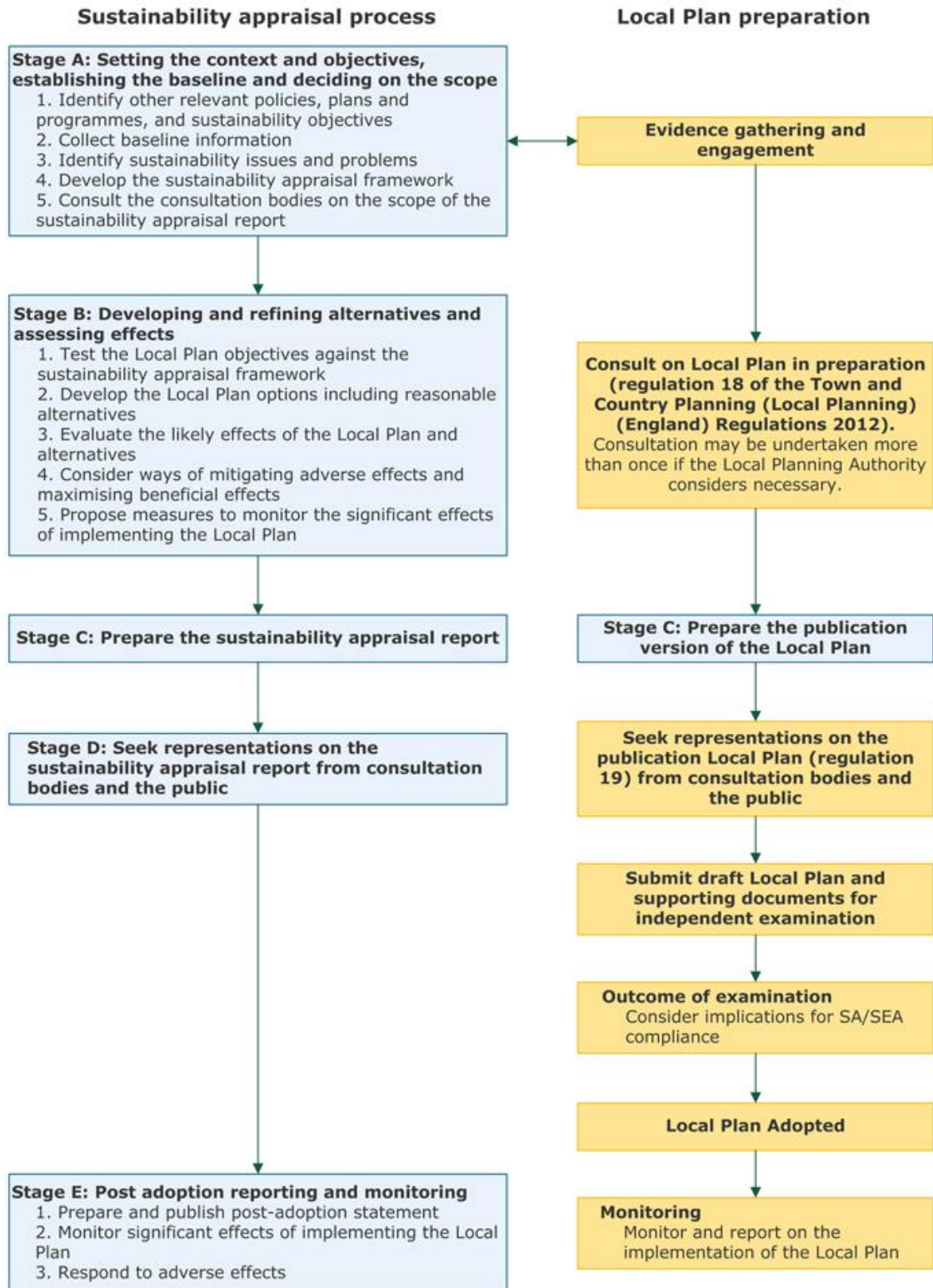
<sup>1</sup> DCLG (2014) National Planning Practice Guidance - Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> EU Directive 2001/42/EC

process for the Dartmoor Local Plan. It is important to note that SA is an iterative and on-going process. Stages and tasks in the SA process may be revisited and updated or revised as a plan develops, to take account of updated or new evidence as well as consultation responses.

**Figure 1.1: SA and Plan-making Stages and Tasks**



- 1.6 The scoping stage is the first stage of the SA process, and it aims to identify the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the SA Report. It sets out the context, objectives and proposed approach for the assessment; it identifies key issues and opportunities to develop a framework of SA objectives that will form the basis against which the emerging elements of the plan will be assessed.

### The Dartmoor Local Plan Review

- 1.7 Dartmoor National Park Authority is undertaking a review<sup>4</sup> of the Dartmoor Local Plan. The previous Core Strategy was adopted in 2008, with the Development Management & Delivery DPD adopted in 2013. A Minerals Plan was also included within the previous Local Plan. The New Local Plan will replace these separate Plans with a single document and cover such issues as: house extensions, design, the environment, listed buildings, housing, farming, tourism, quarrying, and land for development. It will include its own waste and minerals policies as the National Park is not included in the Devon County Waste & Minerals Plan.

**Figure 1.1- Location of Dartmoor National Park<sup>5</sup>**



<sup>4</sup> <http://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/living-and-working/planning/planning-policy/local-plan-review>

<sup>5</sup> Dartmoor National Park Authority



1.8 Fundamental to the review of the Local Plan are the two statutory<sup>6</sup> purposes of the National Park designation:

- to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage
- to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public

Also, the duty of National Park Authorities in pursuing National Park purposes:

- to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities (within the National Park) by working closely with the agencies and local authorities responsible for these matters

1.9 A first consultation for the Local Plan Review has been undertaken, with an Issues Consultation Paper published in October 2016, offering residents, communities, visitors, businesses and other organisations an early opportunity to give their views on how the new local plan should guide future development. An Issues Consultation Report (April 2017) summarises the written responses received and notes of meetings and drop in events held during the consultation period.

1.10 The Dartmoor Local Plan Regulation 18 draft will comprise a Vision and Strategic Objectives, Core, Strategic and Development Management Policies organised within themes appropriate to planning and caring for the National Park. It will also include proposed site allocations for housing and employment land.

### **Purpose and Structure of this SA Scoping Report**

1.11 This document reports the scoping stage of the SA process for the Dartmoor Local Plan Review. Following this introductory Section 1, this report is structured into five further sections:

- Section 2 provides the policy context, setting out the objectives of key plans and programmes of relevance to the SA of the Dartmoor Local Plan and their implications for plan-making.
- Section 3 describes the characteristics of the plan area including the baseline situation, trends and likely evolution without the plan by sustainability theme.
- Section 4 identifies the key sustainability issues and proposed SA Frameworks to form the basis for the appraisal.
- Section 5 sets out the proposed approach and method for the SA.
- Section 6 provides the consultation details for this Draft SA Scoping Report and next steps for the process.

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<sup>6</sup> National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949 as amended by the Environment Act 1995



## 2.0 POLICY CONTEXT

### Introduction

- 2.1 It is a requirement of the SEA process to identify the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community, or national level, that are relevant to the plan being assessed and report how these objectives have been considered during its preparation.

### Key Plans & Programmes

- 2.2 As part of the SA scoping process, a review of relevant plans and programmes was undertaken to identify the key relevant objectives and sustainability/environmental considerations with likely implications for the plan preparation. The plans and programmes considered are as follows:

#### National

- **DCLG, National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2012)** - the NPPF is the overarching planning framework which provides national planning policy and principles for the planning system in England.
- **English National Parks and the Broads- UK Government Vision and Circular (2010)**- The document provides a 2030 visions for the National Parks and Broads, and key Priority Outcomes. The document also provides suggestions for how National Park authorities will achieve the outcomes, and focuses on promoting a renewed focus on achieving the National Park Purposes.
- **8-Point Plan for England's National Parks (2016)**- The Plan has been produced by DEFRA, EA, NE and National Parks England. There are 8 points to the Plan, which aim to promote the National Parks to all communities, provide new apprentices, encourage tourism, and highlight the special qualities of the National Parks.
- **Rural Development Programme for England (2015)**- Providing funding to improve agriculture, the environment and rural life, with funding available until 2020.
- **Environment Agency, Managing Water Abstraction (2013)** - is the overarching document for managing water resources in England and Wales and links together the abstraction licensing strategies.
- **The Heritage Alliance, Heritage 2020** - the historic environment sector's plan for its priorities between 2015 and 2020.
- **Defra, Waste Management Plan for England (2013)** - the plan sets out the measures for England to work towards a zero-waste economy.
- **Infrastructure and Projects Authority, National Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2016 - 2021** - Brings together the Government's plans for economic infrastructure over the next 5 years with those to support delivery of housing and social infrastructure.
- **Natural Environment White Paper (2011)**- Outlines the governments approach to managing and protecting the natural environment over

the next 50 years. This includes reconnecting people with nature, enhancing the natural environment and growing the green economy.

- **UK National Ecosystem Assessment (2011)**- The assessment examines the natural environment of the UK in terms of the economic and social benefits it provides. The assessment highlights the key issues and the future of ecosystem services, and how to respond to the identified challenges, with a focus on sustainable development using the ecosystem approach.
- **Defra, Biodiversity 2020 - A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (2011)** - the strategy builds on the Natural Environment White Paper and implements international and EU biodiversity commitments, setting out the strategic direction for biodiversity policy on land and at sea.
- **Natural Capital Committee- Fourth state of Natural Capital Report (2017)**- The report advises the government on its development of the 25 year Environment Plan, and makes recommendations relating to improving and protecting the Natural Capital of the UK. One of the key recommendations is that National Parks should quantify and value their Natural Capital.
- **Public Health England Strategic Plan, Better outcomes for 2020 (2016)**- Outlines the strategic methods which will be used to improve the quality of health for all residents in England, including using new technology and reducing health inequalities.
- **Air Pollution Strategy (2017)**- Focuses on the reduction of nitrogen dioxide emissions to improve air quality, and proposes the implementation of 38 Clean Air Zones.

## Regional

- **South West Water Resource Management Plan (2014)**- The Plan outlines how South West Water will manage their water resources to ensure supply levels meet demand levels over the Plan period and outlines forecasts in water consumption and how to promote water efficiency.
- **South West Water Drought Plan (2013)**- South West Water summarise their plan for ensuring water is supplied for essential customer needs during times of drought. Options for coping with drought are provided, including reducing water consumption and attempting to increase water available for supply.
- **South West River Basin Management Plan (2015)**- The RBMP focuses on protecting the water environment and achieving good ecological status for water bodies as set out in the EU Water Framework Directive. This includes water biological and chemical quality, and outlines objectives for water bodies to achieve.
- **Heart of the South West Strategic Economic Plan (2014)**- strategic ambitions are outlined to promote the South West as an area to live, work, visit and invest in. The economic plan focuses on utilising the distinctive assets of the area, creating the conditions for growth and maximising productivity and employment.
- **Devon & Torbay Local Transport Plan 3, 2011-2026**- The Transport Plan examines the current transport network, and highlights key objectives

to enhance the transport network and the benefits that will arise through strategic network enhancement.

- **Devon Council- A Strategy for Growth, 2013-2020**- Focuses on promoting strong and sustainable economic growth in the county by addressing key issues such as productivity, low earnings and an ageing population.
- **Devon Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy, 2016-2019**- Highlights the current health and equality issues which are present throughout the county, and provides objectives and strategies to address these issues.
- **Devon County Council Green Infrastructure Strategy (2011)**- The strategy provides several guiding principles which will guide the strategy, including flood resilience, protecting biodiversity and responding to climate change., The strategy proposes a joint approach across the local authority boundaries in the county.
- **West Devon Green Infrastructure Framework (2015)**- Contains a strategic overview of GI within the area, and outlines key objectives for enhancing and protecting GI for the growing population.
- **South Hams Green Infrastructure Framework (2015)**- The framework identifies 4 key themes for GI in the area, and highlights strategic aims and objectives to enhance and protect GI for each theme.
- **Teignbridge Green Space Strategy (2009)**- Provides policies for green spaces in the district and sets standards relating to quality and provision of open space.
- **South Hams and West Devon Playing Pitch Strategy (2015)**- A replacement for the separate open space strategies for the 2 districts, and outlines the current situation with regards to provision and standard of playing pitches, and the issues which will be addressed using detailed action plans.
- **Mid Devon Open Space & Play Area Strategy (2014)**- The strategy summarises the current provision of open space in the district, and establishes standards for the local area, including provision per 1000 population and access distance for different open space categories.
- **Devon Minerals Plan (2017)**- The Devon Minerals Plan provides the policy framework for mineral development in the County. There are specific policies relating to biodiversity and geodiversity (M17) and landscape and visual impact (M18), which will protect the National Park from mineral extraction within Devon.
- **Devon Waste Plan (2014)**- Focuses on sustainable waste management within Devon, and contains key policies that relate to waste prevention (W4), waste management development which protects biodiversity & geodiversity (W11), and the prevention of negative landscape and visual impacts from waste management facilities (W12.)

## Local

- **Dartmoor National Park Management Plan (2014-2019)**- The Plan sets out a long-term Vision for Dartmoor, focusing on 3 key themes. The Plan provides a framework for all policies and activities, a focus for the work of the DNPA, and lists priorities which should be actioned within the Plan period.

- **Dartmoor National Park Authority Business Plan (2017-2018)**- The Business Plan outlines the different projects on Dartmoor, how they are funded and what partnerships they have, as well as showing the projected expenditure within different sectors for the DNPA.
- **Living Dartmoor (2013)**- Living Dartmoor focusses on Dartmoor's biodiversity and natural environment, outlining conservation objectives and methods, examines existing designations and provides a local response to national initiatives.
- **Dartmoor Forestry Plan (2016)**- Outlines the management proposals of the 4 separate forest blocks in the National Park. The aim is to maintain timber output whilst producing woodlands with increased conservation and landscape value.
- **Dartmoor Minerals Plan (2004)** - Sets out policies to regulate mineral extraction and outlines Mineral Safeguarded Areas within the National Park. The Plan restricts minerals development that would damage the natural beauty of the National Park unless it can be demonstrated that there is a national need that cannot be met in any other way (Policy M1). It provides for small scale quarrying of building stone where the impacts are limited (M3).
- **Dartmoor Open Space, Sport & Recreation Study (2011)**- The study examines the provision of open space and recreational facilities on Dartmoor, focusing on the provision within settlement in the National Park.
- **Recreation and Access Strategy for Dartmoor (2011-2017)**- The recreation strategy for Dartmoor sets out a vision for sustainable access and recreation in the National Park and provides clear policies to manage recreation.
- **Greater Dartmoor Local Enterprise Action Fund (2015-2020)**- A fund of £2m provides grants to support farming, forestry, enterprise (small and micro businesses) and tourism/rural services/cultural and heritage activity.

#### Other Development Plans

- **North Devon & Torridge Local Plan (Adoption planned for 2017)**- The Local Plan focuses on guiding development within North Devon, providing Strategic Policies and Development Management Policies, with the aim to provide 16,469 new houses during the Plan period, as well as 110 hectares of employment land.
- **Cornwall Local Plan (Adopted 2016)**- The Cornwall Plan will provide 52,500 new homes, 704,000 sq. metres of employment space, and at least 318 permanent pitches for the gypsy and traveller community.
- **Plymouth & South West Devon Joint Local Plan (to be submitted for public examination in Autumn 2017)**- The Joint Local Plan involves Plymouth City Council, South Hams District Council, and West Devon Borough Council. The Plan aims for 26,700 new dwellings within the 3 Districts, and 82 hectares of employment land. Policy SPT11 focuses on protection of the National Park setting.
- **Teignbridge Local Plan (Adopted 2014)**- The Local Plan's strategic policies outline a need for 12,400 new homes during the Plan period, and 75.7 hectares of employment land. Policy (EN2A) includes the protection of the National Park setting.

- **Mid Devon Local Plan (Review, submitted in March for examination)-** The Local Plan review has increased the target number of homes built in the Plan period to 7,860 from 7200, but has decreased the target for commercial development from 154,000 to 147,000 square metres.
- **Torbay Local Plan (Adopted 2015)-** The Local Plan details a need for 8,900 new homes in the area during the Plan period, and 17 hectares of employment land.
- **East Devon Local Plan (Adopted 2016)-** The Local Plan sets out a need for 17,100 new homes in East Devon during the Plan period, and 150 hectares of land for employment purposes.
- **Exeter City Local Plan (Adopted 2012)-** During the Plan period there is an identified need for at least 12,000 new homes, 60 hectares of employment land and 40,000 square metres of retail floorspace.
- **Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (Early stages)-** The Strategic Plan for the Greater Exeter area, which includes the authorities of East Devon, Mid Devon, Teignbridge, Exeter and Devon County Council, will set strategic policies and proposals for building and land use up to 2040.

## Implications for the Local Plan and SA

- 2.3 National Parks have specific planning policy at a national level. Within the NPPF, it is specified that National Parks have the '*highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty*', and that '*great weight is given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks*'<sup>7</sup>. The NPPF also states that wildlife conservation and cultural heritage within National Parks are also given great weight due to their importance to the National Parks. Furthermore, the government has recognised that National Parks are not appropriate locations for unrestricted housing growth, and therefore general housing targets are not provided for National Park Authorities<sup>8</sup>.
- 2.4 With reference to the NPPF's requirement for a 'proportionate' evidence base, DNPA intends to prepare sufficient information in its context, to inform and set policy with regard to housing requirements. The Core Strategy<sup>9</sup> established a policy requirement of not less than 50% affordable housing on allocated and infill sites in main settlements, and 100% on exception sites and other sites within small classified settlements. Evidence currently shows that this level of development may sustain the National Park population at its current level. Initial consultation is demonstrating an appetite for a greater level of policy flexibility in smaller settlements to perhaps bring forward more opportunity for affordable housing, albeit still at a small scale.
- 2.5 As adjoining Local Plans are prepared, DNPA is working with those Authorities through the Duty to Co-operate to agree an appropriate level of housing development to address needs arising from the National Park. This is likely to be an indicative apportionment of the overall requirement in the respective Housing Market Areas (HMAs), recognising the level of constraint and policy

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<sup>7</sup> DCLG (2012) National planning Policy Framework

<sup>8</sup> DEFRA (2010) English National Parks and the Broads: UK Government Vision and Circular 2020

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/living-and-working/business/planning-policy/local-plan-review>



position of the National Park. The housing figure included in the local plan will therefore be an indicative figure only, and DNPA will work with neighbouring authorities through the Duty to Co-operate to consider how the objectively assessed need (OAN) for housing can be met across the two HMAs. This approach has always been to provide housing to support local needs and subject to the capacity of the National Park's landscape and special qualities to accommodate these needs.

- 2.6 Plans and policies aiming to protect, enhance and manage biodiversity, landscape character, and the historic environment are all key for Dartmoor, as these factors represent why the area has been designated as a National Park. The first purpose of the National Parks is to conserve and enhance these aspects of the environment. Plans relating to the water environment are also key, as the many rivers and streams which flow from Dartmoor are an integral part of the environment for the National Park. The Local Plan should aim to help achieve both the national and local aims by ensuring development is appropriately placed to minimise and prevent degradation or negative effects on the natural and historic environment, and the highly-valued landscapes and settlement characters of the area.
- 2.7 Objectives relating to Green Infrastructure and recreation are very relevant, as the Local Plan can address shortfalls in Green Infrastructure or Public Open Space, meeting the second purpose of the National Park to promote understanding and enjoyment of the National Park. The Local Plan can also ensure development has sufficient access to promote healthier lifestyles. Plans and policies relating to health, economy, employment, and equality can be addressed by the Local Plan, to help achieve local, regional and national objectives. The Local Plan for Dartmoor has the opportunity to use policies to help meet the aims and objectives outlined in the relevant plans, with beneficial effects for the plan area, and wider region. There is a potential inherent policy objective conflict between objectives for recreation and wildlife, which is highlighted in the Sanford Principle. The Sanford Principle<sup>10</sup> specifies that if there are conflicts between conservation and public enjoyment that cannot be reconciled, then the National Park authority must ensure that the conservation issue takes priority, and the plan will need to consider this carefully.
- 2.8 The district authority areas surrounding the National Park all have Local Plans in various stages, with some having been adopted for several years and some still yet to be adopted or submitted for examination. Each of the surrounding Local Plans sets out a target number of dwellings and employment land to be provided during that Plan period. There is a legal duty to cooperate between local planning authorities that seeks to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of Local Plan preparation in the context of strategic cross boundary matters. A Duty to Co-operate Scoping Report<sup>11</sup> has been prepared by DNPA in 2017. The Scoping Report outlines the strategic matters for the Dartmoor Local Plan and outlines who the DNPA will co-operate with regards to specific strategic matters, including

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<sup>10</sup>

<http://www.nationalparks.gov.uk/students/whatisanationalpark/aimsandpurposesofnationalparks/sanfordprinciple>

<sup>11</sup> DNPA (2017) Duty to Co-operate Scoping Report

cooperation with regards to meeting housing targets and community services and infrastructure.

2.9 Development growth outlined in the surrounding Local Plans will likely result in increased pressures on the National Park. Although the surrounding Local Plans will not result in development within Dartmoor, large urban centres such as Exeter and Plymouth and towns on the periphery of the National Park will likely grow as a result of development. This growth is likely to result in a range of different pressures that will affect the National Park, summarised as follows:

- **Recreation:** The National Park is a recreational hotspot within Devon, with both locals and tourists using the area for walking, cycling, horse riding, mountain biking, dog walking, and other recreational activities. An increase in development in the surrounding locations is likely to lead to an increase in recreational activity within the National Park. This could result in negative effects on biodiversity and the natural environment, but can also provide economic and health/well-being benefits for the area.
- **Light Pollution:** Dark night skies in the National Park add to the tranquillity and sense of wildness and is an important characteristic of the National Park. The dark night skies are threatened as encroaching light pollution from the urban centres surrounding the National Park, arising from increased development adjacent to the boundary of Dartmoor.
- **Traffic & Movement; Noise/Tranquillity & Air Quality:** There are already some congestion issues relating to the larger settlements on the periphery of the National Park, including Tavistock and Okehampton. Traffic is likely to increase as a result of new development outlined in the surrounding Local Plans, which could affect roads within and surrounding Dartmoor, and exacerbate existing congestion issues for some Local Centres in the National Park, such as Ashburton, Buckfastleigh and South Brent. However, development can also offer opportunities to improve sustainable transport objectives, including for public transport, cycling and walking.
- **Landscape:** Development outside of the Dartmoor boundary can affect the special landscape qualities of the National Park. Structures and infrastructure can degrade National Park views. The tranquillity of the National Park can be affected because of changes to the landscape, such as the placing of electricity pylons.



## 3.0 BASELINE INFORMATION & CHARACTERISATION

### Introduction

- 3.1 The SEA Directive requires the collation of baseline information to provide a background to, and evidence base for, identifying sustainability problems and opportunities in the Plan area and providing the basis for predicting and monitoring effects of the Dartmoor Local Plan. To make judgements about how the emerging content of the Local Plan will progress or hinder sustainable development, it is important to understand the economic, environmental and social circumstances in the Plan area today and their likely evolution in the future. The aim is to collect only relevant and sufficient data on the present and future state of the Plan area to allow the potential effects of the plan to be adequately predicted.
- 3.2 The SA/SEA Guidance produced by Government<sup>12</sup> proposes a practical approach to data collection, recognising that information may not yet be available and that information gaps for future improvements should be reported as well as the need to consider uncertainties in data. Collection of baseline information should be continuous as the SA process guides plan making as new information becomes available. The baseline information is presented below and structured around the relevant SA/SEA themes.

### Landscape & Settlement Character

- 3.3 This topic explores both designated and non-designated landscapes, their special qualities and overall character, and the potential threats to both designated land and landscape character areas. Dartmoor National Park covers an area of 953km<sup>2</sup> in central and southern Devon. The landscape is rural in nature, and is influenced by factors including geology, weather, climate and farming practises. It was designated as a National Park in 1951 due to its natural landscape, wildlife and historical features<sup>13</sup>. Partially bordering the National Park to the west is the Tamar Valley AONB, and to the south there is South Devon AONB, which at its nearest point is approximately 2km south of the National Park<sup>14</sup>.
- 3.4 The National Park is almost entirely located within the Dartmoor National Character Area<sup>15</sup> (NCA), with some of the periphery of the National Park located in adjacent NCAs, including the South Devon NCA and The Culm NCA.
- 3.5 The Dartmoor NCA is characterised by extensive upland moorland, which is overlaid with peat deposits and supports internationally important blanket bogs. The peat and bogs are important for carbon storage, and for absorbing

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<sup>12</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government (2014) National Planning Practice Guidance - Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal. Online at <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.nationalparks.gov.uk/>

<sup>14</sup> Magic Map (2017)

<sup>15</sup> Natural England (2014) Dartmoor National Character Area Profile

and releasing large amounts of water. Deep-cut valleys steeped in woodland where rivers flow are a notable landscape feature, as are the skylines and ridges and distinct granite tors. A large amount of the National Park land is used for the grazing of cattle, sheep and ponies which has helped shape the NCA. Associated farmsteads, pastoral fields and hedgebanks are a key part of the landscape<sup>16</sup>. The National Park is considered to have a high level of tranquillity, and dark night skies<sup>17</sup>, although the area is not currently designated as a Dark Sky Reserve. However, encroaching light pollution from Plymouth and Exeter are threatening the dark night skies of Dartmoor, which can result in negative effects on wildlife<sup>18</sup>.

3.6 The NCA has identified environmental opportunities<sup>19</sup> as follows:

- Protect, manage and enhance Dartmoor's extensive open moor, its sense of wildness and remoteness, the internationally important habitats and species it supports, and the carbon and water stored in its deep peat
- Protect, manage and enhance Dartmoor's rich cultural heritage and its strong connection with granite and associated minerals, providing inspiring information to promote understanding of the landscape.
- Protect, manage and enhance the enclosed, tranquil character of the pastoral landscape, encouraging the management of boundary features, including granite walls, and of semi-natural features to strengthen local distinctiveness and connectivity. Create opportunities for quiet, informal recreation, particularly around settlements.
- Protect and manage Dartmoor's network of streams, leats and rivers; and enhance the contribution they make to landscape character, recreation and biodiversity, while managing water flows, quality and supply.

3.7 A Landscape Character Assessment published in 2017 by LUC for DNPA highlighted 10 distinct Landscape Character Types (LCT) for the National Park. These can be seen mapped in figure 3.1 below.

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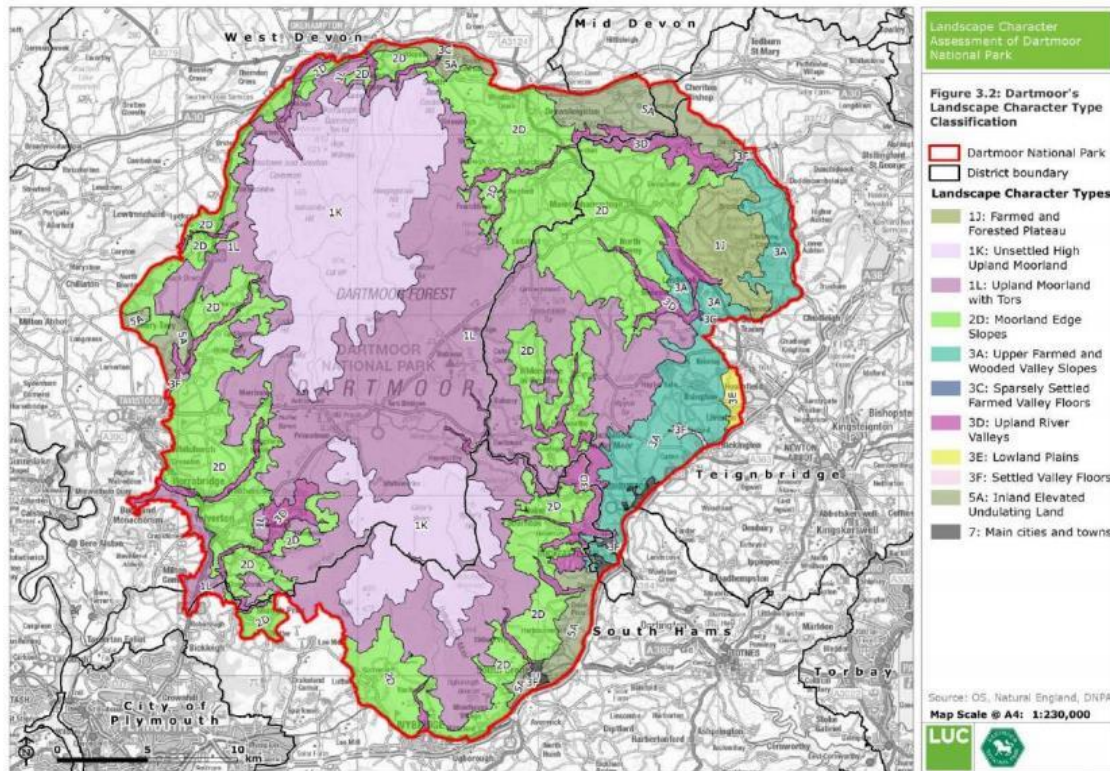
<sup>16</sup> Natural England (2014) Dartmoor National Character Area Profile

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> DNPA (2017) State of the Park Report

<sup>19</sup> Natural England (2014) Dartmoor National Character Area Profile

**Figure 3.1: Landscape Character Types in Dartmoor National Park<sup>20</sup>**



The Landscape Character Assessment highlighted the valued attributes of the landscape, which are features of the landscape which are significant to the landscape character. Each landscape character type has different valued attributes, which include the presence of different habitats, the historic features of the landscape and the gradient of the landscape. The Valued Attributes are detailed further in the Landscape Character Assessment<sup>21</sup>. Below is a list of Valued Attributes which are common across several of the character types:

- Sense of remoteness and tranquillity
- Spectacular views across the landscape
- Medieval field patterns with Devon hedgebanks
- Farmsteads and vernacular buildings

3.8 There are many factors which have the potential to influence the distinct landscape character of the National Park, although the ability to predict the exact effect of these factors is limited. These factors include climate change, where there is the potential for an increase in extreme weather conditions such as drought, higher rainfall resulting in flooding, and heatwaves, and seasonal changes such as warmer winters and dryer summers. These have the potential to alter existing habitats and migration patterns on Dartmoor, which will have an effect on biodiversity and the ability for farming on the land. However, the extension of the growing season as a result of climate change

<sup>20</sup> Land Use Consultants for DNPA (2017) Landscape Character Assessment for Dartmoor National Park

<sup>21</sup> Land Use Consultants for DNPA (2017) Landscape Character Assessment for Dartmoor National Park

would be beneficial for farmers. The need to address climate change may also result in landscape change, with the potential for an increase in renewable energy sources such as wind turbines and solar panels which may be located within the National Park.

- 3.9 There are 3 military training areas in the north of the National Park (Okehampton, Merrivale, Willsworthy) and 3 dry training areas (no live firing involved) in the south (Cramber Tor, Ringmoor and Sheeps Tor). The military have been training on Dartmoor since the early 1800s<sup>22</sup>, however the activities can disrupt the tranquillity of the National Park and introduce built structures which can affect the undeveloped character of the area<sup>23</sup>, with negative effects on the National Park's landscape.
- 3.10 The changes in economic trends could alter the landscape. As so much of the landscape is farmed, impacts on the economy and the uncertainty regarding the future of agri-environment schemes can impact farmers and their practises, which could result in fewer farms that are economically viable on Dartmoor, and therefore a reduction in grazing animals and a potential increase in derelict and unused farm buildings. The conversion of agricultural buildings to residential and holiday uses has an impact on the landscape through the change in land use, the increase in suburban gardens and the creation of new outbuildings. The increase in small holdings would also result in landscape change from the more traditional agricultural holdings, with potentially more non-traditional fencing<sup>24</sup>.
- 3.11 The forests within the National Park are managed by the Forest Commission. The forests, where present, form a key part of the landscape, especially in the central area of the National Park where the Dartmoor Forest Plan<sup>25</sup> area is located. The forests are largely coniferous, which is actively managed for timber production. The management of the forests have the potential for landscape change, either through increased planting to increase timber production, the creation of buildings and tracks for forestry management, and the felling technique used when managing the forests.
- 3.12 The economy can also affect tourism, resulting in a potential decrease or increase in visitor numbers. An increase could require new tourism infrastructure, result in an increased traffic which can damage infrastructure such as historic bridges, and increased recreational pressure. Tourism can also require increased signage and advertisement, which can have negative visual effects on the landscape<sup>26</sup>. Other factors such as social and cultural trends, renewable energy developments, telecommunications infrastructure, natural processes and international, national and local policy can all be forces for change in the landscape.
- 3.13 The built environment of Dartmoor is largely limited to small settlements, individual farmsteads and individual dwellings. It may be noted there is no

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<sup>22</sup> <http://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/living-and-working/access-and-land-management/military-on-dartmoor>

<sup>23</sup> Land Use Consultants for DNPA (2017) Landscape Character Assessment for Dartmoor National Park

<sup>24</sup> Land Use Consultants for DNPA (2017) Landscape Character Assessment for Dartmoor National Park

<sup>25</sup> Forestry Commission (2016) Dartmoor Forest Plan

<sup>26</sup> DNPA (2017) Natural Environment Paper

Green Belt designation in or around the National Park. Local Centres in the National Park comprise the following:

- Ashburton
- Buckfastleigh
- Chagford
- Horrabridge
- Moretonhampstead
- Princetown
- South Brent
- Yelverton

- 3.14 The character of Dartmoor settlements is largely defined by the local building material which has been used, the architectural style and the settlement patterns. A number of settlements have designated Conservation Areas (further discussed in the Historic Environment topic), with Character Appraisals written to define the key features of the settlements. The traditional vernacular architecture of Dartmoor can be seen in most settlements, such as stone cottages and farmsteads, with thatched or slate roofs and informal window arrangements. The vernacular design is a key part of the Dartmoor townscape and a prominent feature in local settlements. Some of the larger settlements such as Princetown and Ashburton contain a more mixed architectural style, with 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century dwellings alongside more modern housing development<sup>27</sup>.
- 3.15 Differences in settlement characters occur between settlements on the High Moor and settlements on the periphery of the National Park. Settlements on the High Moor having a rural feel with wide ranging views of the surrounding landscape. Settlements on the moorland fringe are generally larger than on the High Moor, more densely packed with more constricted views and although the settlements still feel rural they are more urbanised than on the High Moor<sup>28</sup>.
- 3.16 The character of Dartmoor settlements is subject to modification because of new development and alterations to existing development. The Dartmoor National Park Design Guide provides guidance for new development, focusing on how building materials and styles should try to match existing development to ensure settlement characters do not become divided, with clear distinctions between old and new dwellings and therefore minimising the loss of an overall settlement character<sup>29</sup>.
- 3.17 Issues for landscape/townscape and visual impacts are inter-related and integral to design guidance that is well established for the National Park. New development on Dartmoor should be designed to respect the vernacular architecture of the area. Issues regarding PVCu windows and stained hardwood windows have been highlighted in multiple Conservation Area Appraisals. In the larger settlements, modern shop frontages contrast with the historic shop frontages, whereas on the High Moor there is the risk of losing

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<sup>27</sup> DNPA (2011) Dartmoor National Park Design Guide

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.



highly valued views. By promoting local building material and vernacular design, appropriate design and appropriate siting of development the character of Dartmoor settlements can be protected from negative effects. New development can also be designed to be safe places to live, with several design standards which can minimise the risk of crime<sup>30</sup>.

- 3.18 The National Park's built environment also includes an extensive array of historical features, including Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, and undesignated archaeological and historical features. The built environment is a key part of the Dartmoor landscape, with granite mined on Dartmoor being an important building material of dry stone walls, local farmsteads and local dwellings which have existed for hundreds of years. The cultural heritage of the landscape is one of the reasons it was designated as a National Park, and is discussed further in the Historic Environment section. However, new development may have an urbanising influence on the rural landscape, and may affect the setting of designated and undesignated heritage assets.
- 3.19 It is considered that such a nationally designated area should strongly promote environmental sustainability in the furtherance of its purpose and duties. Energy efficiencies are integral to good design with positive effects for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to and managing climate change effects. Design matters regarding sustainable management of soils, minerals, water, and waste are dealt with in the later, topic-specific sections and to avoid duplication at the SA assessment stages. There could be an issue for seeking to identify higher standards than allowed by national policy - aspirational standards for energy, water and waste management in sustainable design within a National Park could lead with exemplar design to promote creativity and technological environmental sustainability, for example, by considering the BRE voluntary Home Quality Mark.
- 3.20 **Evolution without the Plan:** Dartmoor's natural landscape has led to it being designated as a National Park, and is enjoyed by locals and tourists alike. Without a Local Plan development has the potential to result in negative effects on the landscape characteristics of Dartmoor. However, with a Local Plan in place policies can guide necessary development away from areas of more sensitive landscape character and direct it towards less sensitive landscape character areas where its impact would be less harmful. The Local Plan can also ensure development is of a good design standard such that it is integrated well with the existing landscape/settlement character.

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<sup>30</sup> DNPA (2017) Design and the Built Environment

### Key Issues:

- New development has the potential for an unacceptable effect on the landscape or settlement character & their settings.
- High quality design needs to be promoted to make positive contributions to the landscape and townscape in the National Park.
- Identification of appropriate standards and aspirations for sustainable construction and operation.
- Deterioration of the Valued Attributes of key Landscape Character Types that may be at risk should be prevented.
- Farming practises and forestry activities should not result in landscape deterioration through new access ways such as tracks, new buildings and changes in practises.
- The impact of light pollution from peripheral towns and cities, and development within the National Park, which threatens the dark night skies of Dartmoor, should be minimised.
- Change of farmsteads to residential or holiday lets can harm the integration of farmsteads with the landscape through additional buildings and suburban gardens.
- New infrastructure relating to tourism, including signage can damage landscape character, and
- Infrastructure such as telephone masts, could affect the special characteristics of the landscape.

## Biodiversity, Geodiversity & Green Infrastructure

- 3.21 This topic identifies designated biodiversity and geodiversity across the plan area as well as important habitats and species, and their inter-relationships within a Green Infrastructure network that is important for both wildlife and human health and well-being. Please note that the economic value of environmental resources defined as Natural Capital<sup>31</sup> is considered later with the sustainable development theme of Economy and Employment. This section addresses the effects on biodiversity from Green Infrastructure whilst the effects for human health is addressed later in the theme on Health. The role of Green Infrastructure in addressing some of the effects of climate change and managing flood risk is considered later in the theme of Water.
- 3.22 Within Dartmoor National Park there are 3 European designated Special Areas of Conservation (SACs); Dartmoor SAC, South Dartmoor Woods SAC and South Hams SAC<sup>32</sup>. The 3 SACs cover 25,346ha (27%) of the National Park area<sup>33</sup>. Dartmoor SAC is designated for the presence of several Annex I habitats, including European dry heaths, Northern Atlantic wet heaths, blanket bogs and old sessile oak woods, and for an Annex II species which is the southern damselfly<sup>34</sup>. The South Dartmoor Woods SAC is designated for old

<sup>31</sup> <https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=1730> & <http://naturalcapitalforum.com/about/>

<sup>32</sup> Magic Map (2017)

<sup>33</sup> DNPA (2017) State of the Park Report

<sup>34</sup> <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/protectedsites/sacselection/sac.asp?euocode=UK0012>



sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum<sup>35</sup>. South Hams SAC is designated for Annex I habitats in the form of European dry heaths and semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrate, and for the presence of Greater horseshoe bats. There are no Ramsar or SPA designations within the National Park.

3.23 The North Devon Biosphere Reserve encompasses most of North Devon and a small area in the north of the National Park. The reserve is designated due to the special landscape and wildlife areas, heritage assets and communities who value sustainability. The purpose of the reserve is to conserve and protect the natural and historical features of the reserve, promote sustainable development and improve the green economy of the area<sup>36</sup>.

3.24 Outside of Dartmoor but within Devon there are a number of European designated sites<sup>37</sup>, including:

- Blackstone Point SAC
- East Devon Heaths SPA
- Exe Estuary Ramsar/SPA
- South Hams SAC
- Tamar Estuaries Complex SPA
- Plymouth Sound & Estuaries SAC<sup>38</sup>

3.25 There are several national biodiversity designations within the National Park. Overall 26,277ha of the National Park (28%) is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)<sup>39</sup>. The SSSIs are widely spread across the National Park. 98% of the SSSI area is in 'favourable' or 'unfavourable recovering' condition<sup>40</sup>, higher than the national average. Within the National Park there are also 44 Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS), several of which are previous gravel workings or mining areas<sup>41</sup>. A small number of SSSIs in the National Park are also designated for their geological features. There are 4 National Nature Reserves (NNR) in the National Park<sup>42</sup>. These are:

- Black-a-Tor Copse NNR
- Culm Grasslands SAC
- Dendles Wood NNR
- East Dartmoor Woods & Heaths NNR
- Wistman's Wood NNR

3.26 The National Park also contains locally designated biodiversity sites, which includes 232 County Wildlife Sites (CWS)<sup>43</sup>. Overall 88 sites have been

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<sup>35</sup> <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/protectedsites/sacselection/sac.asp?euocode=UK0012749>

<sup>36</sup> <http://www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk/>

<sup>37</sup> Magic Map (2017)

<sup>38</sup> Detailed characteristics of the European sites can be found in Appendix I of the Habitats Regulations Assessment Report of the Dartmoor Local Plan

<sup>39</sup> DNPA (2017) State of the Park Report

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> <http://www.devonrigs.org.uk/DevonRIGSSiteTable.pdf>

<sup>42</sup> Magic Map (2017)

<sup>43</sup> DNPA (2017) State of the Park Report

monitored since 2009, and they are assessed each year against set criteria.  
Overall:

- 39 were in good condition
- 40 not in optimum management and condition but were not far off
- 9 were deemed to require urgent attention

- 3.27 Moorland and woodland is the predominant habitat of the National Park, covering 83.9% of the entire National Park<sup>44</sup>. Dartmoor has a range of both internationally and nationally recognised habitat. Internationally important habitat in the National Park includes blanket bogs, upland heaths, caves and mines and upland oakwoods. Nationally important habitat includes rhos pastures, lowland pastures and valley mires<sup>45</sup>. There are also a range of Priority Habitats which includes lowland heath, hay meadows and species rich grasslands, wet woodland and grass moor. There is approximately 53ha of traditional orchards currently on Dartmoor. Although this is a decrease from past levels, they still provide an important habitat in the local ecosystem<sup>46</sup>.
- 3.28 Dartmoor contains a selection of Strategic Nature Areas (SNAs) which identify areas for maintenance and potential expansion of Priority Habitat, and can be seen on the South West Nature Map<sup>47</sup>. Key Wildlife Areas (KWA) have been identified on Dartmoor. KWAs are a designation created by Dartmoor to improve the accuracy of SNAs by combining local knowledge with SNAs<sup>48</sup>. KWAs include Moorland, Woodland, Dry Grassland and Rhos Pasture. The benefits of the use of KWAs on Dartmoor is that they indicate the location of strong biodiversity network, but also the adjacent areas of KWAs provide the opportunity for improvements to the biodiversity network and show areas where active management and conservation be focused.
- 3.29 Habitat linkages and stepping stones are key, providing networks for wildlife to move between and among habitats. The fragmentation of habitats and loss of stepping stones/linkages has negative effects on wildlife mobility. Maintaining, enhancing and creating new stepping stones/linkages will be beneficial for local biodiversity.
- 3.30 The Dartmoor Mires Project was a pilot project running from 2010 to 2015 to explore the restoration of damaged and deteriorating blanket bogs on Dartmoor. This included some practical restoration and further research and monitoring. The protection of blanket bogs is important for protecting underlying peat which is a large carbon store, as the loss of peat will affect biodiversity, water quality and result in carbon release.
- 3.31 There are a variety of protected species on Dartmoor, protected at both an international and a national level. Internationally protected species (protected under the Habitats Regulations 1994) include bats, dormouse,

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<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

<sup>45</sup> Living Dartmoor [Online] [<http://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/lookingafter/laf-naturalenv/living-dartmoor/living-dartmoor-national-and-regional-level>]

<sup>46</sup> DNPA (2017) State of the Park Report

<sup>47</sup> <http://www.biodiversitysouthwest.org.uk/nmap.html>

<sup>48</sup> DNPA (2017) Natural Environment

otter and salmon. Nationally protected species included reptiles and birds (Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000) and Badgers (Protection of Badgers Act 1992)<sup>49</sup>.

- 3.32 Living Dartmoor highlights several priority species which are considered to be of particular value, and that require targeted conservation efforts to ensure their survival within the National Park. 11 of the 12 species are in a 'stable' or 'recovering' condition<sup>50</sup>. These are shown in table 3.1 as follows:

**Table 3.1: Priority Species for Conservation<sup>51</sup>**

Key Species	Dartmoor Importance	Conservation Value
Greater horseshoe bat	Holds one of the largest breeding sites in Europe	European protected species; rapid national decline
Dunlin	The most southerly breeding population in the world	High conservation concern
Red-backed shrike	The only British breeding pairs	Re-colonised after 18-year national absence
Ring ouzel	The only breeding population in southern England	High conservation concern; National decline
Southern damselfly	3 of the 5 Devon colonies	Globally threatened; European protected species
Marsh fritillary butterfly	One of the national strongholds	Globally threatened; European protected species; national decline
Pearl-bordered and High brown fritillary butterflies	National strongholds for both species	Both of high conservation priority; Rapid national decline
Blue ground beetle	Holds most of the British population	Nationally near threatened
Bog hoverfly	Holds all of the British population	Nationally vulnerable
Deptford pink	The largest British colony	Nationally vulnerable
Vigur's eyebright	Only found on Dartmoor and a few Cornish sites	Endemic
Flax-leaved St John's wort	Holds most of the British population	Nationally near threatened

- 3.33 It is important to recognise that whilst there are a wide range of designations regarding biodiversity in the National Park, it cannot be assumed that these comprise all the significant biodiversity on Dartmoor. It rather reflects the limits of detailed surveyed areas and thus undesignated habitats are still of importance.

- 3.34 Dartmoor has an important role to play for Green Infrastructure (GI) of Devon and the South West as a whole. Due to the presence of a variety of habitats, open spaces and recreation areas, and several large rivers and many smaller streams, green and blue networks can be found across the moor. This includes nationally and locally designated biodiversity and geodiversity sites. Although there is a range of GI within the National Park, there are opportunities to increase GI linkages with surrounding areas, including the

<sup>49</sup> <http://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/living-and-working/planning/wildlife-and-planning>

<sup>50</sup> DNPA (2017) State of the Park Report

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

North Devon Nature Improvement Area which is to the north of Dartmoor. Local Development can also provide GI gains in local areas by providing new habitats, new areas of open space or creating habitat linkages. GI can provide biodiversity gains, whilst also connecting people with the environment and the National Park, with benefits for health and well-being.

- 3.35 Dartmoor is a popular tourist destination with visitors coming to the National Park throughout the year. However high number of visitors can have detrimental effects on key habitats and wildlife, through disturbance, litter and increased recreational pressure. It is important that the natural environment of Dartmoor is protected, and that sustainable tourism is achieved across the National Park. This is highlighted in the Dartmoor Management Plan 2014-2019.
- 3.36 Farming is a prominent feature of the Dartmoor landscape, and a large component of the National Park's economy, with over 90% of the National Park land used for farming<sup>52</sup>. Farming on Dartmoor has helped shape the landscape, including managing habitats, for thousands of years. However, farming practises, such as sheep, cattle and pony grazing, and the creation of infrastructure required for farming practises, have the potential to have negative effects on priority habitats and on protected and priority species. It is important that farming practises used in the National Park are sustainable to ensure that habitats are protected and degradation of the natural landscape is not occurring as a result of changes in farming practises. Forestry is also an active industry on Dartmoor, although viability of the industry in the National Park is uncertain due to Brexit and changes to the woodland grant system<sup>53</sup>. It is important that forest and woodland management is sustainable, and protects biodiversity and wildlife, but ensure the industry is still viable.
- 3.37 Climate change also threatens the biodiversity of the National Park. A changing climate will threaten the wide range of habitats and species on Dartmoor. Effects such as increased competition for limiting resources will harm wildlife populations, habitats will be lost due to extreme weather events and the seasonal changes occurring, and changes in the life cycles of agricultural pests will harm the agricultural industry. Climate change is discussed further in the Energy & Climate Change section.
- 3.38 **Evolution without the Plan:** Without the Local Plan, development within the National Park will still occur. Development would still have to comply with current national policies and guidance, however this would not be specific to the National Park's natural environment, and therefore may have negative effects on Dartmoor. By developing a Local Plan the DNPA will be able to guide local development to ensure that the key sensitive areas are protected such as priority habitats, priority species, stepping stones and habitat linkages. The Local Plan can ensure areas of important biodiversity and geodiversity are given sufficient protection from harmful development.

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<sup>52</sup> <http://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/living-and-working/access-and-land-management/land-management>

<sup>53</sup> DNPA (2017) State of the Park Report

### Key Issues:

- Dartmoor has internationally, nationally and locally designated biodiversity and geodiversity which cover a large area of the National Park, most of which are in good condition, and need to be protected from effects of development.
- Managing access so that designated sites, priority habitat and priority species are not negatively affected by recreational activities.
- Encouraging sustainable farming practises, and engaging farmers to ensure agricultural methods and development arising from agricultural practises do not result in negative effects on biodiversity.
- Increasing stepping stones and habitat linkages to promote wildlife movement within Dartmoor.
- Dartmoor has a higher than national average of SSSIs in 'Favourable' or 'Unfavourable recovering' condition, with an aim to improve sites which are currently in an 'unfavourable' condition.
- Need to ensure that development does not result in the loss or damage of key habitats and wildlife.
- Climate change will threaten Dartmoor's varied habitats and wide range of species.
- Awareness of currently undesignated areas of biodiversity which may have the potential for designation, and which are still important for local biodiversity and require protecting.
- Ensuring forestry activities are sustainable and do not degrade or result in the loss of key habitats or biodiversity.

### Historic Environment

- 3.39 This topic explores existing designated and non-designated heritage assets within the plan area, including potential and existing archaeological sites, and heritage 'at risk'. It is important to remember that one of the statutory purposes of the National Park is to conserve and enhance cultural heritage.
- 3.40 The archaeological landscape of Dartmoor is extensive, as people have been using the landscape, and leaving their mark on Dartmoor for thousands of years. The various communities which have lived and farmed on Dartmoor have not only shaped the physical landscape, but have imposed their cultural practises and traditions in the form of Dartmoor's cultural heritage. Archaeological heritage can be found on Dartmoor from the prehistoric period, medieval period and industrial period and the historic built environment is diverse and wide ranging. Dartmoor has historic farmsteads, longhouses and historic settlements, with a wide range of other historic assets located across the National Park.
- 3.41 Dartmoor has a variety of designated heritage assets. Overall there are:
- 1082 Scheduled Monuments
  - 2059 Listed Buildings

- 2 Registered Parks and Gardens
- 25 Conservation Areas
- 14 Premier Archaeological Landscapes
- Non-designated heritage assets
- 1100 surviving pre-1919 farmsteads

3.42 Dartmoor has more Scheduled Monuments than any other National Park in England. Of the 1082 Scheduled Monuments on Dartmoor, 730 are classified as 'low risk', and are therefore not classified as 'at risk'<sup>54</sup>. However, 171 are classified as 'medium risk', and 181 are classified as 'high risk'<sup>55</sup>. Overall 352 (33%) of the Scheduled Monuments in the National Park are considered to be 'at risk', which is fewer than in 2010<sup>56</sup>. This is because of positive conservation works carried out by various organisations, including Historic England, National Trust, DNPA and volunteer projects. Scheduled Monuments on Dartmoor face a threat from vegetation growth and dense gorse, with the main threat being from bracken growth. Vegetation can also affect the setting of the Scheduled Monuments. Since 2010 the threats from theft have been reduced through micro-chipping projects. The Dartmoor Forest Plan<sup>57</sup> highlights the need to remove tress where required to improve the setting of some heritage assets.

3.43 Since 2010, the number of Listed Buildings in the National Park has fallen by 503, due to a change in the way DNPA calculates the numbers, in line with guidance from Historic England<sup>58</sup>. Listed Buildings are separated into 3 categories, with the numbers in the National Park shown below:

- Grade I (nationally important)- 42
- Grade II\* (regionally important)- 133
- Grade II (locally important)- 1884

3.44 Of the 2060 Listed Buildings, only 36 (1.7%) are considered to be 'at risk', this is a slight increase from the number 'at risk' in 2010<sup>59</sup>. However, only 1.1% of the Grade I and Grade II\* Listed Buildings are considered 'at risk', lower than the national and south west average<sup>60</sup>.

3.45 There are 25 Conservation Areas within Dartmoor, an increase in 2 from 2010<sup>61</sup>. All designated Conservation Areas have Character Appraisals<sup>62</sup> and the settlements with Conservation Areas are listed in table 3.2.

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<sup>54</sup> DNPA (2017) State of the Park Report

<sup>55</sup> Ibid.

<sup>56</sup> Ibid.

<sup>57</sup> Forestry Commission (2016) Dartmoor Forest Plan

<sup>58</sup> DNPA (2017) State of the Park Report

<sup>59</sup> Ibid.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid.

<sup>61</sup> Ibid.

<sup>62</sup> <http://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/living-and-working/planning/listed-buildings-and-conservation-areas/conservation-areas>

**Table 3.2: Conservation Areas**

Conservation Area
Ashburton
Buckfastleigh
Chagford
Crockernwell
Drewsteignton
Dunsford
Horrabridge
Ilington
Lustleigh
Lydford
Manaton
Mary Tavy
Meavy
Moretonhampstead
Murchington
North Bovey
North Brentor
Princetown
South Brent
South Tawton
South Zeal
Sticklepath
Throwleigh
Walkhampton
Widcombe-in-the-Moor

- 3.46 As discussed earlier in the Landscape & Settlement Character theme, the settlement character of local settlements, and the Conservation Areas within certain settlements, can be undesirably affected by new development and changes to existing buildings. Conservation Area Character Appraisals have highlighted Dartmoor Conservation Areas being affected by new development which is not designed with respect to the vernacular architecture of the area. This includes using non-local materials such as PVCu windows, development located which does not follow the pattern and style of the Conservation Area, and buildings falling into disrepair due to lack of use and poor maintenance.
- 3.47 Dartmoor has 14 Premier Archaeological Landscapes (PAL), which arose through the Moorland Vision project<sup>63</sup>. The PALs are not designated through legislation, but are unofficial designations. A PAL is designated where the archaeological importance of a landscape takes precedence when landscape management practices are being considered, including taking precedence over ecological considerations. Their aim is to ensure that archaeological and historical features are protected, and that they can be appreciated in their entirety. The PALs are listed below:
- Dartmeet
  - Headland Warren & Challacombe
  - Houndtor
  - Merrivale

<sup>63</sup> <http://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/about-us/about-us-maps/pals-map>



- Okehampton Deer Park
- Rippon Tor
- Shaugh Moor
- Shovel Down/Kestor
- Throwleigh Common
- Ugborough Moor
- Upper Erme Valley
- Upper Plym Valley
- Walkhampton Common
- Wigford Down

- 3.48 Although there are thousands of designated heritage assets within the National Park, it should be noted that not all the archaeological and historic features on Dartmoor are designated. Many of these historical features are integral parts of the landscape, and may have local significance to communities and individuals; also, many contribute significantly to the character of the places. The Dartmoor Management Plan (2014-2019) highlights the need to identify non-designated heritage assets, and DNPA have adopted a process where potential non-designated heritage assets are assessed against significance criteria, which is further detailed in the Historic Environment Topic Paper<sup>64</sup>. Where the criteria are met, the non-designated heritage asset will be added to the Historic Environment Record.
- 3.49 The historic environment of Dartmoor includes over 1000 pre-1919 historic farmsteads. However, changes in the farming industry have resulted in many farmsteads and farm buildings no longer being used for agricultural purposes. Allowing residential occupation of historic farm buildings helps support a new generation of young farmers and retired farmers; it can also promote the maintenance or enhancement of such heritage. There is a risk that conversion of historic agricultural buildings to residential or holiday lets would have significant adverse effects on the cultural heritage of the Park and on the historic qualities of the farmsteads. The farmsteads are currently seen as part of the landscape, however the conversion of farm buildings to residential purposes can result in the loss of the integration of the building with the landscape.
- 3.50 **Evolution without the Plan:** Due to the presence of national policy, without a Local Plan designated heritage assets would still be protected from negative effects. However, as stated there are many non-designated heritage assets and potential heritage assets that would potentially be at risk from development in the National Park. The Local Plan allows DNPA to propose specific policies which will ensure the rich, designated and undesignated historic and archaeological environment of the National Park will be conserved and enhanced.

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<sup>64</sup> DNPA (2017) Historic Environment Topic Paper

### Key Issues:

- Within the National Park there is a range of historical and archaeological features, both designated and undesignated, most of which are in good condition.
- The setting of designated heritage assets such as Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments should be protected from development.
- Taking active measure to conserve and improve heritage assets which are considered to be 'At Risk'.
- Protecting historic farmsteads and farm buildings, and promoting the reuse of derelict or abandoned buildings without adverse effects on the character and cultural heritage of the National Park.
- Increasing knowledge and identifying undesignated local archaeological and historical features.
- The character of designated Conservation Areas may be adversely affected from poorly designed new development and modifications to vernacular buildings.

### Soils, Land & Minerals

- 3.51 This section explores the availability and quality of the soil resource considering land across the plan area, to include the underlying geology, agricultural land and its quality, existing or potential contaminated land, and the use of previously developed land. Dartmoor's geology is mainly comprised of granite, which formed approximately 280 million years ago. The granite on Dartmoor covers approximately 241 square miles, and is the largest area of exposed granite in southern Britain. Weathering and erosion on Dartmoor has resulted in the creation of Tors, large outcrops of granite rock, which are a notable feature in the National Park landscape. The granite on Dartmoor has been quarried for centuries, with the material being used to construct bridges, local farmsteads and the Haytor tramway. Mining has also been a feature of Dartmoor landscape, with the resources of tin, copper, and lead which formed through hydrothermal action being mined, however today there are no operating mines in the National Park. Due to the impermeability of the granite formation, Dartmoor has a high drainage rate.
- 3.52 Currently there are only a small number of quarries within the National Park, including Linhay Hill quarry and Blackenstone quarry. Local quarries can have benefits for the local communities including economy benefits and providing employment. However, they can damage the landscape and ecosystem of the local area, and result in increased traffic on the roads and a deterioration of air quality. Within the National Park there are Mineral Safeguarded Areas (MSA), which are designated to prevent development from sterilising potentially economically viable mineral resources. Within Dartmoor there are MSAs near Ashburton, Trusham, Okehampton and Drewsteignton. Current Local Plan policy favours smaller mineral extraction sites compared to large scale mineral extraction. No evidence has been found for land contaminated by previous mineral extraction.

- 3.53 The soil on the Dartmoor has been influenced by the underlying granite geology, organic matter and the climatic conditions. Raw peat deposits cover the higher areas of the moor, and there are areas of blanket bogs and valley mires on the higher areas<sup>65</sup>. The lower areas of Dartmoor are characterised by thinner gleyed soils and podzols, and off the moor the surrounding soil is largely gritty brown loams, which are acidic but fertile and support pastoral farming. The peat soil is prone to wind and water erosion, exacerbated where old peat working leave exposed areas of peat<sup>66</sup>.
- 3.54 Although farming is prevalent in the National Park with 86% of Dartmoor declared as utilisable agricultural area<sup>67</sup>, the soil type means there is no Grade 1 or Grade 2 designated best and most versatile agricultural land on Dartmoor. Most of the land is designated as Grade 5, least fertile, with some Grade 3 (sub-grade not known) on the edges of the National Park<sup>68</sup>. Due to the poor soil quality, horticulture, arable farming and dairy farming are constrained to small areas within the National Park<sup>69</sup>. However, the soil resources of Dartmoor are still important, and non-intensive grazing of sheep, ponies and cattle rely on soil for grazing. The loss of soil resources can not only effect farming but also biodiversity.
- 3.55 **Evolution without the Plan:** Without a Local Plan, development in the National Park could result in the loss of important soil resources, which is a national issue. Although most of the soil on Dartmoor is not classed as best and most versatile agricultural land, soil resources will still be used for grazing purposes. The Local Plan would also be able to guide development to the use of previously developed land.

**Key Issues:**

- The Park area does not include any best and most versatile agricultural land (Grade 1-3a) but it is important that soil resources are not degraded or lost - this is a national issue.
- Guarantee any new proposals for mining or quarrying operations do not negatively affect the special qualities of the National Park.
- Promoting the use of previously developed land for development.
- Avoiding development in Mineral Safeguarded Areas which would sterilise resources.

**Water: Resources, Quality, Flooding**

- 3.56 This topic explores all aspects of the water environment in the National Park, including the demand for and supply of water, waste water collection and treatment, the quality of water bodies in the plan area, and fluvial and surface water flood risk. These aspects are all inter-related and need to be

<sup>65</sup> Land Use Consultants for DNPA (2017) Landscape Character Assessment for Dartmoor National park

<sup>66</sup> Natural England (2014) Dartmoor National Character Area Profile

<sup>67</sup> DNPA (2017) State of the Park Report

<sup>68</sup> Natural England (2014) Dartmoor National Character Area Profile

<sup>69</sup> <http://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/wildlife-and-heritage/heritage/farming>

considered together for sustainable water management and to meet with the objectives of the EU Water Framework<sup>70</sup> Directive and UK Regulations. The directive requires all water bodies to achieve good ecological status – as planned and managed through the River Basin Management Plans by the Environment Agency.

3.57 **Water Resources:** Dartmoor is considered to be a major water catchment in the south west, with a network of streams and mires on the high moor feeding into fast flowing rivers. Much of Devon including the city of Plymouth<sup>71</sup>, has its water supplied from Dartmoor. The National Park is within the Roadford Water Resource Zone (WRZ) with water services provided by South West Water<sup>72</sup>. The Roadford WRZ is mainly served by Roadford Reservoir, with other impounding reservoirs, sources and river intakes used in conjunction. The south of the resource zone includes the following reservoirs:

- Burrator
- Kennick
- Trenchford
- Tottiford
- Fernworth
- Avon
- Venford

3.58 The north of the resource zone is supplied by the following reservoirs:

- Meldon
- Upper Tamar
- Wistlandpound

3.59 The Roadford WRZ exports some water resources to the Colliford WRZ in the Saltash area, but also inputs water from the Wimbleball WRZ near Exeter and from Tiverton to North Devon<sup>73</sup>.

3.60 The South West Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) predicts that household consumption and Per Capita Consumption (PCC) will fall throughout the WRMP period, due to the number of households switching to metered billing and that this will exceed the predicted population increase. However, demand is expected to increase steadily in the later period of the Plan. The WRMP also predicts that non-household consumption will decrease continually through the WRMP period. Overall the water available for use (WAFU) in the Roadford WRZ is predicted to be comfortably above the overall demand through the Plan period, including targeted headroom. This can be seen in figure 3.2. Overall there will be a surplus of water in the supply zone up until 2040, and therefore no new infrastructure will be required for the WRMP period<sup>74</sup>.

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<sup>70</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/river-basin-management-plans-2015>

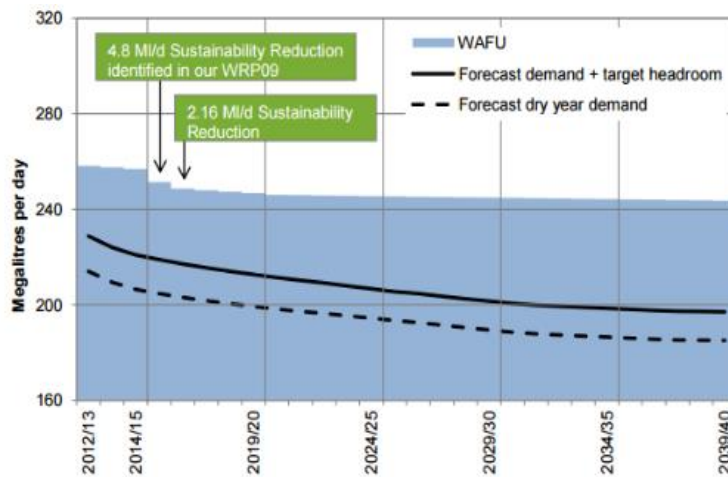
<sup>71</sup> Natural England (2014) Dartmoor National Character Area Profile

<sup>72</sup> South West Water (2014) Water Resources Management Plan

<sup>73</sup> Ibid.

<sup>74</sup> South West Water (2014) Water Resources Management Plan

**Figure 3.2: Baseline Supply Demand for Roadford WRZ<sup>75</sup>**



- 3.61 Within Dartmoor there are some small areas designated as Groundwater Source Protection Zones<sup>76</sup>, which are largely located in the north east of the National Park. A large area in the centre and in the south east of the National Park is designated as a Surface Water Safeguard Zone, which is designated for pesticides<sup>77</sup>.
- 3.62 **Water Quality:** Dartmoor is within the South West River Basin District, and the National Park is within 3 different Management Catchment Areas; North Devon, South Devon and Tamar<sup>78</sup>. The Water Framework Directive (WFD) has been active since 2010, and is designed to establish a framework to protect inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater. The WFD uses a classification system to determine the status of a water body, which can be seen in Table 3.3. The classification system assesses biological, ecological and chemical status.

<sup>75</sup> Ibid.

<sup>76</sup> <http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/wiybyController?topic=groundwater&layerGroups=default&lang=e&ep=map&scale=5&x=264622.4583333333&y=72379.9375#x=267106&y=78883&lg=1,10.&scale=5>

<sup>77</sup> <http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/wiybyController?topic=drinkingwater&layerGroups=default&lang=e&ep=map&scale=5&x=267105.5729166662&y=78883.39583333323#x=267106&y=78883&lg=2,10.&scale=5>

<sup>78</sup> <http://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/RiverBasinDistrict/8>

**Table 3.3: Classification for water bodies in the WFD<sup>79</sup>**

Status	Definition
High	Near natural conditions. No restriction on the beneficial uses of the water body. No impacts on amenity, wildlife or fisheries.
Good	Slight change from natural conditions as a result of human activity. No restriction on the beneficial uses of the water body. No impact on amenity or fisheries. Protects all but the most sensitive wildlife.
Moderate	Moderate change from natural conditions as a result of human activity. Some restriction on the beneficial uses of the water body. No impact on amenity. Some impact on wildlife and fisheries.
Poor	Major change from natural conditions as a result of human activity. Some restrictions on the beneficial uses of the water body. Some impact on amenity. Moderate impact on wildlife and fisheries.
Bad	Severe change from natural conditions as a result of human activity. Significant restriction on the beneficial uses of the water body. Major impact on amenity. Major impact on wildlife and fisheries with many species not present.

3.63 The original target of the WFD was for all aquatic ecosystems to meet 'good' status by 2015. However, this has not been achieved throughout the UK and the Environment Agency have altered targets, with an aim for 60% of water bodies to be in 'Good' status by 2021<sup>80</sup>. Within the National Park there are 51 water bodies which fall within the Water Framework Directive monitoring, which includes 534km of monitored river length; of these:

- 21 have a Good ecological status
- 29 have a Moderate ecological status
- 1 has a Failed ecological status

Of the 534km of river length which is monitored:

- 35% is classified as in Good status
- 63% is classified as Moderate status
- 2% is classified as Poor status

3.64 There has been a slight increase in river length classified as Poor status from 2014, where 100% of river length monitored was in 'Good' or 'Moderate' status<sup>81</sup>. However there have been improvements to the status of some water bodies which has been achieved through projects that have reduced diffuse and point-source pollution<sup>82</sup>. The chemical and ecological status of waterbodies on Dartmoor is mainly affected by pollution from agricultural runoff<sup>83</sup>. It is assumed that sewage is collected and treated through rural sewage treatment works and localised septic tanks but no details have been found and this is identified as a potential information gap.

3.65 **Water Flooding:** The main flood risks on Dartmoor occur from fluvial and surface water sources, with fluvial flooding being the main flood source. Urban development in the floodplain, insufficient channel capacity and

<sup>79</sup> South West Water (2014) Water Resources Management Plan

<sup>80</sup> DNPA (2017) State of the Park Report

<sup>81</sup> DNPA (2017) State of the Park Report

<sup>82</sup> Ibid.

<sup>83</sup> Environment Agency Data Catchment Explorer



inadequate culvert capacity are the main issues resulting in fluvial flooding. Surface water flooding, which includes direct runoff, inadequate stormwater drainage and land drainage, is another significant flood source within the National Park. Due to the underlying granite geology of the area there is minimal risk of groundwater flooding<sup>84</sup>.

- 3.66 Confined floodplains are located in the steep sided valleys of main river catchments located in the National Park. Settlements located on higher ground in the central areas of the National Park are less susceptible to flooding than settlements located on the edge of Dartmoor and settlements located in the steep sided valleys. The effect of climate change on future Flood Zone extents are likely to be limited due to the relatively steep sided valleys that form confined floodplains<sup>85</sup>.
- 3.67 There are 3 categories of flood zone:
- Flood Zone 1- Low Probability
  - Flood Zone 2- Medium Probability
  - Flood Zone 3- High Probability

Most of the historic flood incidents reported are in the Local Centres of Ashburton, Buckfastleigh, Horrabridge and South Brent, where there are areas of Flood Zone 2 & 3. The smaller settlements of Peter Tavy, South Zeal, Cornwood, Sticklepath, Walkhampton, Lustleigh and North Bovey also shown to have experienced flooding incidents<sup>86</sup>. Flood Zones 2 and 3 are largely located in steep sided valleys. There are 2 Critical Drainage Areas (CDA)<sup>87</sup> within Dartmoor, one is located in Ashburton, and the other is part of the Tavistock CDA. There are also CDAs bordering the National Park in Okehampton to the north and at Ivybridge to the south.

- 3.68 Settlements where people and property are at greatest risk are in the Local Centres of Ashburton, Buckfastleigh, and Horrabridge. Smaller settlements within the study area, such as South Zeal, Cornwood, Sticklepath, Walkhampton, Lustleigh and North Bovey are likely to have similar flooding issues<sup>88</sup>. More sustainable flood risk management includes provision/maintenance of habitats and land use higher up the catchments thus helping to attenuate surfacewater run-off and flood risk lower down the catchment. There has been some progress in this respect on Dartmoor<sup>89</sup> <sup>90</sup> but the underlying geology and associated land use may limit further possibilities.
- 3.69 **Evolution without the Plan:** Without a Local Plan in the National Park there is the potential for development to have negative effects on the water environment of Dartmoor, and the surrounding areas, as rivers on Dartmoor flow into the surrounding catchments. Although the WRMP has predicted that there are sufficient water resources in the WRZ for the WRMPP plan period,

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<sup>84</sup> Scott Wilson for DNPA (2010) Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

<sup>85</sup> Ibid.

<sup>86</sup> Ibid.

<sup>87</sup> <https://new.devon.gov.uk/floodriskmanagement/planning-and-development/>

<sup>88</sup> Scott Wilson for DNPA (2010) Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

<sup>89</sup> Dartmoor Mires Project

<sup>90</sup> Environment Agency (2012) South Devon Catchment Flood Management Plan



Policies within the Local Plan could promote a high level of water efficiency in future developments to better promote environmental sustainability. Without a Local Plan, development could result in a deterioration of water quality, which would have harmful effects on local biodiversity within the National Park. Local Plan policies can guide and regulate development to protect the water environment in the National Park and better promote sustainable water management including progress towards WFD objectives. As highlighted some settlements are located in areas where flood risk is a factor, and without a Local Plan there is the potential that development may be poorly sited in areas where flooding may occur. The Local Plan can locate development appropriately and promote flood resilience.

#### Key Issues:

- Contributing to water quality improvement throughout the National Park so that at least 60% of water bodies and monitored water length meet good status by 2021 - as required by the Water Framework Regulations through the Environment Agency.
- Possibilities for promoting sustainable management of water resources in new and existing developments.
- Avoiding development in areas of flood risk.
- Investigating opportunities to manage flood risk in upper catchments through changed habitats and land use practices.

## Communities

- 3.70 This topic explores the demographics of the plan area, and the types of settlement that exist, including the levels of provision and cultural aspects within these varying settlements. Dartmoor has a population of 34,000 residents who live within the National Park boundaries<sup>91</sup>. The population is considered to be stable, with no significant increase or decrease occurring since 2001. Changes in population are down to net migration and natural change (births/deaths). Net migration results in an increase in population size on Dartmoor, whereas natural change results in a population decline on Dartmoor as the population is ageing. These two factors work together to alter the resident population of the National Park<sup>92</sup>.
- 3.71 The average age of residents in Dartmoor is 50, which is higher than the average age of 46 for Devon and 40 for England. The ageing population of Dartmoor means that the proportion of residents who are over 65 has risen from 20% in 2001 to 26% in 2014. The population of Dartmoor residents who are over 80 is 7%, whereas the England average is 5%, and the National Park has a higher old age dependency ratio (OAD) than the national average, which creates issues for Dartmoor<sup>93</sup>. This includes providing adaptable suitable accommodation for elderly residents, an increase in pressure on local health

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<sup>91</sup> Edge analytics for DNPA (2016) Dartmoor National Park Demographic Forecasts

<sup>92</sup> Ibid.

<sup>93</sup> Edge analytics for DNPA (2016) Dartmoor National Park Demographic Forecasts

services, and the accessibility issues for older residents which may require additional public transport services.

- 3.72 The ethnic composition of Dartmoor is predominantly White British, and is higher than the national average. Most residents are British, with only a small proportion of the population coming from outside of the United Kingdom<sup>94</sup>. Other National Parks in the UK have similar ethnicity compositions, where White British is the largest ethnicity group. Within National Parks the biggest non-White racial group is Asian/Asian British<sup>95</sup>. Christianity is the dominant religion in the area.
- 3.73 Dartmoor has 8 local centres, which are listed below:
- Ashburton
  - Buckfastleigh
  - Chagford
  - Horrabridge
  - Moretonhampstead
  - Princetown
  - South Brent
  - Yelverton
- 3.74 Dartmoor also has 34 rural centres. Local centres are service centres for the immediate localities and wider rural hinterlands. They contain services and facilities, for example, schools, shops, pubs, restaurants and cafes; and offer small scale employment. The rural settlements are smaller settlements that can provide facilities for villagers and the parish rural community. The local centres are largely located on the edges of the National Park. There are 7 designated Neighbourhood Plan Areas in the National Park<sup>96</sup> including Ashburton, Buckfastleigh, Horrabridge and Okehampton, and 1 area awaiting designation; Bovey Tracey. It is understood that the Local Plan will only allocate sites in the local centres where there are already services and facilities, such as schools and shops. However, some development will occur in the rural centres on rural exception sites.
- 3.75 Each settlement on Dartmoor has its unique features and identity, and therefore each settlement has its own set of issues that are important to that specific community. Common issues across communities include access to local services/facilities, employment in settlements and rural areas, public transport and traffic. The fewer employment opportunities has resulted in people out-commuting for employment, a lack of opportunity for young people and weaker economies for local settlements. The Dartmoor Communities Fund<sup>97</sup> provides financial support to communities who require community buildings or facilities.

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<sup>94</sup> ONS (2017) 2011 census statistics

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<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/articles/ch/characteristicsofnationalparks/2013-02-19>

<sup>96</sup> DNPA (2009) Development Plan Document- Settlement & Site Specific Policies

<sup>97</sup> <http://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/living-and-working/community/communities-fund>

- 3.76 Some settlements are split between the National Park boundary and other Local Plans of the surrounding district authorities, especially Ashburton, Buckfastleigh, Cheriton Bishop & Yelverton. This will require careful cooperation to meet with the housing needs of different demographics - and as detailed in the Duty to Cooperate Scoping Report (May 2017). There is also a need to retain barns as rural buildings and resist pressures for conversion to residential use (and as discussed previously within the Historic Environment theme).
- 3.77 **Evolution without the Plan:** Without the Local Plan the lack of affordable and adaptable housing will continue to be a problem. If there was no Local Plan, development may be located in areas which do not have suitable services/facilities or the capacity to accommodate new residents. The Local Plan can guide development towards local centres and rural settlements that have the capacity to accommodate development, and areas where development may result in positive effects for town centres. The Local Plan can also help guide employment opportunities to counteract out-commuting.

#### Key Issues:

- An ageing population which will result in increased pressure on local health facilities, and a higher old age dependency ratio (this is also a national issue).
- The decline of some rural settlements due to limited opportunities for appropriate full time employment.
- Need to allow opportunities for new sustainable uses for rural barns, whilst avoiding conversion to inappropriate uses.
- Cooperation needed where settlements adjoin or are split between Local Planning Authority areas, including Ashburton, Buckfastleigh, Cheriton Bishop and Yelverton.
- New development should be focussed in areas that are the most sustainable and have the capacity for change.

### Housing

- 3.78 In terms of housing there has been an increase in the dwelling vacancy rate, which was 6% in 2001 but has risen to 8% in 2011<sup>98</sup>. The vacancy rate, which is higher than both the Devon and England average, is attributed to the number of second homes and holiday lets within Dartmoor. There has been an increase in the house prices on Dartmoor. The average house price is currently £303,219, which is a 3.8% increase since 2012. This average is 33% higher than the Devon average, and 11% higher than the national average. Whilst house prices on Dartmoor are increasing, average Devon house prices have fallen by 3% since 2012<sup>99</sup>. In the National Park the most prominent tenure type is owned outright or owned with a mortgage or loan. Privately rented

<sup>98</sup> Edge analytics for DNPA (2016) Dartmoor National Park Demographic Forecasts

<sup>99</sup> DNPA (2017) State of the Park Report

accommodation is the second highest form of tenure<sup>100</sup>. However, house prices in the National Park largely exceed average earnings. Young people, seasonal staff and part time workers, and other key workers are priced out of Dartmoor as they cannot afford accommodation. Traditional farming and woodland management have helped to create the distinctive landscape of Dartmoor. Whilst the NPPF states that isolated new houses in the countryside should be avoided, special circumstances may be justified when accommodation is required to enable the essential need for a rural worker to live permanently at or near their place of work<sup>101</sup>. There may also be some need for the provision of succession farm dwellings on farmsteads. Enabling people to continue to farm whilst providing the highest status of protection to the landscape remains an issue for the review of the Local Plan.

- 3.79 Housing completion decreased in 2015/16 from 2014/15. Of a target number of 50 dwellings in 2015/16 only 36 were completed. The Affordable Housing SPD set out a 50% affordable housing target. In 2014/15 44% of completions was affordable, which has decreased to 11% in 2015/16. However, the cumulative total number of houses which have been constructed exceeds the strategic estimated cumulative total<sup>102</sup>.

#### Key Issues:

- A need for affordable housing for local and young people, and appropriate housing for older people who may be looking to downsize.
- Meeting the housing need for the different demographics within the National Park.
- A high average house price which greatly exceeds the average wage for the area, making access to the property market unattainable for many.
- Special circumstances for succession farm dwellings to enable people to continue to undertake traditional and sustainable farming and woodland management
- Increasing prevalence of second homes and holiday homes

### Health & Equalities

- 3.80 This topic explores the health of residents within Dartmoor, as well as existing inequalities and areas of deprivation. It also identifies the types and provision of leisure and recreational facilities available in the local centres and the access for residents to these facilities.
- 3.81 None of the Dartmoor Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOA) are classified as being within the most deprived national quintile, although 17% fall into the second most deprived national quintile. None of the LSOAs are in the least

<sup>100</sup> ONS (2017) 2011 census statistics

<sup>101</sup> DCLG (2012) NPPF paragraph 14 footnote 9

<sup>102</sup> DNPA (2016) Local Plan Annual Monitoring Report

deprived national quintile, but 29% are within the below average national quintile. Dartmoor has a lower than average Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) score, of 17.1 compared to the national average of 21.78<sup>103</sup>.

- 3.82 The average life expectancy for Dartmoor is 83.2 years, which is 1.9 years longer than the national average and 0.8 years longer than the Devon County average. However, the average life expectancy on Dartmoor varies between LSOAs, with a potential variation of nearly 11 years between some areas<sup>104</sup>. Although there is no specific data relating to obesity levels within the boundaries of the National Park, within West Devon, Teignbridge and South Hams (the three Authority Districts that Dartmoor is within) on average approximately 20% of the population is considered to be obese<sup>105</sup>. This lower than the national average of 27%<sup>106</sup>.
- 3.83 Child poverty in Devon as a whole has fallen since 2013, as have teenage pregnancies<sup>107</sup>. Child development levels are above the South West and national averages. The number of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSE's at A\* to C level in Devon County is 58.1%, largely in line with the national average of 57.3%. However, there are regional difference in education figures, with fewer pupils attaining GCSEs in the more deprived LSOAs<sup>108</sup>.
- 3.84 10.26% of households in Devon suffer from fuel poverty. This is above the south west average of 9.39%, but below the national average of 10.41%. West Devon, in which a large amount of the National Park is located within, has the highest fuel poverty value in Devon, at 11.63%. This is partly attributed to the lower wage economy in this area of Dartmoor. Fuel poverty has increased in the region since 2011, due to the lack of double glazing and poor insulation in older housing stock, which is against the general decline in the rest of the country<sup>109</sup>.
- 3.85 Overall a number of key health statistics in Devon are below or in line with the national averages, and in some cases figures such as child poverty are decreasing. Although there are no LSOAs in the most deprived quintile, there is a highlighted difference between the least and most deprived LSOAs in terms of life expectancy and education. The Devon Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy highlights several key health issues facing the Devon County. These include:
- New towns and growth in existing towns with a younger population profile and different health and wellbeing needs providing an opportunity for a different approach
  - A high quality outdoor environment but poor quality indoor environment in some areas due to poor housing

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<sup>103</sup> DNPA (2017) State of the Park Report

<sup>104</sup> Ibid.

<sup>105</sup> <http://www.devonhealthandwellbeing.org.uk/jsna/profiles/district/>

<sup>106</sup> Carl baker (2017) Obesity Statistics Briefing Paper

<sup>107</sup> Devon County Council (2016) Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy

<sup>108</sup> <http://www.devonhealthandwellbeing.org.uk/jsna/health-and-wellbeing-outcomes-report/>

<sup>109</sup> <http://www.devonhealthandwellbeing.org.uk/jsna/overview/archive/jsna-contents/ageing-well/fuel-poverty/>

- Below average earnings and high cost of living and housing impacting on poverty, fuel poverty, homelessness and mental health
- Rurality and access to services impacting on the model of care and support
- Social isolation and loneliness particularly in older people, certain groups and isolated places

3.86 As stated in the earlier section on communities, the majority of residents on Dartmoor are of White- British ethnicity, with Christianity being the main religion. Studies have shown that National Park visitors are largely comprised of White able-bodied people, with fewer residents or visitors being from different ethnic groups. The issue of encouraging a wide range of ethnic backgrounds to visit and enjoy National Parks is of national significance, as it is an issue occurring across National Parks across the whole of the UK, and has resulted in a number of initiatives to address the issue. Due to the rural nature of the National Park, access for disabled people has been an issue. DNPA have been pro-active in addressing this issue, providing information about available recreational activities for less-abled people, and the provision of disabled facilities at visitor centres. Protected characteristics will be further assessed in the EqIA, however the baseline has highlighted that the protected characteristics of age, disability and race are identified issues for the National Park.

3.87 Good access to open space and recreation facilities results in positive health effects and well-being. Research has been conducted by Natural England into the use of the natural environment by children, with findings showing that 9 million children visited the natural environment in 2015. In the South West 75% of children visited the natural environment at least once a week (higher than the national average of 70%), and 11% of children never visited the natural environment in 2015 (national average was 12%)<sup>110</sup>.

3.89 Overall, 48% of Dartmoor National Park is designated as Access Land for the public, and therefore all residents and visitors have access to this land to use for recreational purposes. However, children's play spaces, allotments, amenity greenspace and outdoor sports facilities provision vary from settlement to settlement within the National Park<sup>111</sup>. The provision of open spaces within the 8 local centres in the National Park can be seen in the following table 3.4.

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<sup>110</sup> Natural England (2016) Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment: a pilot to develop an indicator of visits to the natural environment by children

<sup>111</sup> DNPA (2011) Open Space, Sport & Recreation Study



**Table 3.4: Local Centres Open Space Provisions<sup>112</sup>**

Settlement	Allotments		Amenity Greenspace		Cemeteries and Churchyards		Civic Spaces		Outdoor Sports		Play Space	
	Number of sites	Total area (ha)	Number of sites	Total area (ha)	Number of sites	Total area (ha)	Number of sites	Total area (ha)	Number of sites	Total area (ha)	Number of sites	Total area (ha)
Ashburton	1	0.13	2	0.83	1	1.26			4	5.21	9	0.3
Buckfastleigh	2	0.54	2	0.41	1	1.67	1	0.02	4	4.26	6	0.76
Chagford	1	1.66	2	0.61	1	0.9			3	2.61	1	0.06
Horrabridge	1	0.29	2	0.48	1	0.65			1	2.08	1	0.01
Moretonhampstead	1	1.36	3	0.76	1	0.96	3	0.03	3	2.2	3	0.12
Princetown			3	0.46	1	0.89	1	0.1	3	2.54	1	0.34
South Brent	1	0.91	3	1.86	2	1.15	1	0.02	2	2.79	4	0.36
Yelverton			1	2.04	1	0.28			4	3.22	1	0.24

3.90 Table 3.5 following shows the local centres current provision of Outdoor Space and Play Space, and the requirement needed to meet the overall provision required appropriate for the population of the settlement. All but 1 of the local centres has a sufficient provision of outdoor sports facilities, but all fall short of the required provision of play space.

<sup>112</sup> DNPA (2011) Open Space, Sport & Recreation Study

**Table 3.5: Local Centre Open Space provision identified deficit and surplus<sup>113</sup>**

		Total settlement provision (ha)	Provision per 1,000 (ha)	Standard per 1,000 (ha)*	Requirement to meet standard (ha)
<b>Ashburton</b>	Outdoor Sports	5.21	1.58	1.1	-0.48
Population: 3,306	Play Space	0.30	0.09	0.3	0.21
<b>Buckfastleigh</b>	Outdoor Sports	5.59	1.95	1.1	-0.85
Population: 2,866	Play Space	0.76	0.27	0.3	0.03
<b>Chagford</b>	Outdoor Sports	2.61	2.53	1.1	-1.43
Population: 1,031	Play Space	0.06	0.06	0.3	0.24
<b>Horrabridge</b>	Outdoor Sports	2.08	0.91	1.1	0.19
Population: 2,289	Play Space	0.01	0.00	0.3	0.30
<b>Moretonhampstead</b>	Outdoor Sports	2.20	1.88	1.1	-0.78
Population: 1,168	Play Space	0.12	0.10	0.3	0.20
<b>Princetown</b>	Outdoor Sports	2.54	1.97	1.1	-0.87
Population: 1,292	Play Space	0.34	0.26	0.3	0.04
<b>South Brent</b>	Outdoor Sports	2.79	1.24	1.1	-0.14
Population: 2,243	Play Space	0.36	0.16	0.3	0.14
<b>Yelverton</b>	Outdoor Sports	3.22	2.19	1.1	-1.09
Population: 1,469	Play Space	0.24	0.16	0.3	0.14

- 3.91 Whilst each of the local centres largely has a provision of most of the open space categories, the rural centres largely lack that diversity. Most rural centres have a small provision of cemeteries and churchyards, but a deficit of other open spaces. This includes a lack of allotments, civic spaces and amenity greenspaces. Parks and open spaces are regularly used by Dartmoor residents, with 30% using the facilities at least once a week<sup>114</sup>, however the Access Land of Dartmoor is the most used open space by residents and visitors<sup>115</sup>. Please note that encouraging healthy lifestyles through sustainable transport is addressed in the theme following on Transport & Movement.
- 3.92 **Evolution without the Plan:** Without the Local Plan, current health and equality issues in the National Park may be exacerbated. The identified difference between the different LSOAs in terms of life expectancy and education may continue to increase, with negative effects on local communities. The Local Plan can ensure appropriate housing for all demographics is provided, for example, especially to assist the ageing population and the lower wage locals, with concomitant positive effects for health and well-being. Without a Local Plan, development could result in loss of key areas of open space.

<sup>113</sup> Ibid.

<sup>114</sup> DNPA (2011) Open Space, Sport & Recreation Study

<sup>115</sup> Ibid.

### Key Issues:

- Need for additional open space and play facilities in some settlements, but in the context of limited opportunities for ongoing maintenance and management funding.
- Highlighted differences in IMD scores between different LSOAs, with some LSOAs more deprived than others.
- Promoting access and use of the National Park for different ethnic groups – (also a national issue).
- Ensuring that disabled people can still access and use the National Park.
- Higher levels of fuel poverty than the national average.
- Regional differences in equality, including education and life expectancy discrepancies.

## Economy and Employment

- 3.93 This topic explores the economy of the National Park including the distribution and types of employment.
- 3.94 Dartmoor has a population of 33,600 with 25,000 of working age. The size of the population has remained stable over the last decade<sup>116</sup>, but as in other National Parks the population is ageing and has a much older population than the national average, with over 50% older than 45, with the largest growth since 2001 in 60-74 age group (+31%) and largest decreases in 0-14 and 30-44 age groups. 32% of the population are over 60, an increase of 1.5% from 2008.
- 3.95 The State of the Park report (2017)<sup>117</sup> indicates that 9,580 – 9,700 people are employed in the local economy (2013), with employment growing at around 2.8% per annum and the local economy remaining resilient and benefitting from a diverse economic base. It indicates that more than half of businesses on Dartmoor are in 'Agriculture, forestry and fishing', 'Construction', and 'Professional, scientific and technical' sectors, which is higher than other National Parks and the England average. This is reflected in high levels of employment in agriculture, forestry & fishing (14.2%), construction (8.3%), accommodation and food services (17%) and business administration & support services (9%). The number and % in agriculture is particularly high and above the average for England as a whole (5%)<sup>118</sup>.
- 3.96 The Economic Prospectus<sup>119</sup> indicates that 31% of employment is in farming, food and tourism. In 2015, over 2.3 million tourists visited the National Park, a 3% decrease from 2009, of which 2.05 million were day visitors and 263,000 were staying visitors (a 17% increase on 2009 indicating a growing trend). Total annual visitor spend was £139.5m in 2015. In 2011 2,172 FTEs were

<sup>116</sup> ONS (2013) 2011 Census: Characteristics of National Parks

<sup>117</sup> Dartmoor State of the Park Report (2017) Draft

<sup>118</sup> Valuing England's National Parks – Final Report (2013)

<sup>119</sup> Dartmoor and Exmoor National Parks – Economic Prospectus 2015

employed in tourism within the National Park, and 3,014 in total including within the 'area of influence'<sup>120</sup>.

- 3.97 The National Park hosts 2,065 businesses with turnover of £605m with GVA per employee of £41,420. Turnover per employee is high at £76,000, and concentrated in small businesses (47% within businesses of 0-9 employees)<sup>121</sup>. 79% of premises have superfast broadband in January 2017, with >90% expected by end 2017<sup>122</sup>. The National Park is seen as a beneficiary for businesses located within its boundaries. Being located within a National Park means businesses can provide premium goods linked to the National Park, but the location can also attract workers and new businesses who can benefit from the special qualities of the area. Studies have shown that over 50% of business located within National Parks believe their location has improved their business performance<sup>123</sup>.
- 3.98 ONS census data<sup>124</sup> indicates that in 2011 just over 16,000 residents of the National Park were in employment. 29.5% of those in employment are full time employees, 15% part-time and 19% self-employed<sup>125</sup> which is higher than the England average of 10%. 19% of residents are retired. The local rate of economic activity is 68% which is slightly lower than the average for England (70%). There is a low rate of long-term unemployment at 0.8%, with unemployment of economically active residents at 2.2%. Key sectors for employment include 'Health & social work' (14.2%), Education (11.4%), Wholesale & retail motor trade and repair (12.9%), and construction (8.4%) with only 4.7% employed in agriculture.
- 3.99 The *Sector Outlooks Report*<sup>126</sup> indicates that 20% of employment is in the public sector, 10% related to tourism accommodation providers, 10% in food and beverage service facilities, and 16% in retail. The largest growth between 2008-11 was in construction, residential care, accommodation and travel agency. Employment in tourism in 2011 totalled 2,200, equal to 20% of total employment in the National Park including in accommodation services (1000) and food/restaurants/cafes/bars (950). It highlights low productivity in the tourism sector and the need to improve the quality of the offer.
- 3.100 The *Demographic Forecasts*<sup>127</sup> indicate that 16,670 workers live in the National Park. A total of 13,394 people work within the National Park – and so there is net out commuting for work from Dartmoor. Of the 13,394 people who work within the National Park 63% also live in the National Park, with 22% of the rest coming from surrounding districts. Of the 16,760 workers resident in the National Park, 50% work within the National Park, and 23% outside and in neighbouring districts.

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<sup>120</sup> Valuing England's National Parks – Final Report (2013)

<sup>121</sup> Valuing England's National Parks – Final Report (2013)

<sup>122</sup> Dartmoor State of the Park Report (2017) Draft

<sup>123</sup> DEFRA (2016) 8 point plan for England's National Parks

<sup>124</sup> Dartmoor State of the Park Report 2017

<sup>125</sup> ONS Census data 2011

<sup>126</sup> Dartmoor's Sector Outlooks – Final Report to DNPA (2013)

<sup>127</sup> Dartmoor National Park Demographic Forecasts (2016) Edge Analytics (CONFIDENTIAL)

- 3.101 The average gross household income in 2010 was £33,039 (1.8% lower than SW average)<sup>128</sup>, with average house prices in 2015 £303,129, up 3.8% from 2012 and 27% higher than the national average<sup>129</sup>.
- 3.102 Increases in employment of between 1,060 and 2,400 between 2015 and 2040 (10-24%) have been forecast<sup>130</sup>. The largest rises are forecast to be in construction, accommodation & food services, and business services, with the largest falls in agriculture, forestry and fishing, mining & quarrying. The largest rise in use class is forecast as being home based working or that not needing provision of space e.g. itinerant workers. Additional floorspace requirements are forecast to be largest in A3-5, B1a, A1, B1b uses. Access to superfast broadband in the National Park has improved from 50% of dwellings in 2015 to 79% (provisional) in 2017.
- 3.103 The delivery of superfast broadband is being conducted in 2 phases, and over 90% of Dartmoor premises will have superfast broadband by the end of 2017<sup>131</sup>. DNPA are committed to reaching those areas not connected to superfast broadband, and continuing the improvement and ensuring reliability remains a key issue – as does appropriate design and installation of the necessary communications infrastructure for the character of the National Park.
- 3.104 **Evolution without the Plan:** Without the new Plan, there would not be a coordinated approach to the delivery of new employment, housing and infrastructure where it is required and acceptable, and a likely failure to support economic growth and benefits to the National Park's communities.

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<sup>128</sup> Valuing England's National Parks – Final Report (2013)

<sup>129</sup> Dartmoor State of the Park Report 2017

<sup>130</sup> Dartmoor National Park Forecasting Results (Appx 8)

<sup>131</sup> Dartmoor State of the Park Report 2017

### Key Issues:

- Aging population and therefore a decreasing proportion of those who are economically active – (also national issue).
- Net out-commuting for work, which may increase as peripheral towns and cities grow.
- Relatively low wages and high house prices which may deter/prohibit young workers living in the National Park.
- Almost half of businesses are small or micro, and there is a high level of self-employment, with relatively small demand for new floorspace space forecast.
- Existing employment land and business units are poor to medium quality and small scale, with limited appetite for investment or speculative builds.
- Relatively high employment in agriculture, but this is forecast to fall while other sectors (construction, businesses services, accommodation and food) are forecast to grow
- 20-30% of employment is in tourism, with large-scale expenditure in the local economy by tourists
- Tourism is dominated by day visitors, although the number of staying visitors is growing suggesting an opportunity to expand and realise greater benefits
- Much of the economy depends on the quality of the natural and built environment, and overall natural capital, through encouraging tourism, visitors, and location of businesses.

## Transport & Movement

3.105 This topic explores existing and any planned transport infrastructure, existing local transport constraints, and patterns of movement across the plan area. Dartmoor is bordered to the north by the A30, to the south by the A38 and to the west by the A386. The A30 and A38 to the east provide access to the M5 at Exeter. Within the National Park, there are 2 main roads which cross east to west, the B3212 and the B3357. In the east of Dartmoor, the A382 runs from Bovey Tracey through Moretonhampstead and up to the northern boundary. Across the moor there are smaller roads which provide access to settlements and dwellings, however the central upland area has fewer roads than in the east and west.

3.106 A 40mph speed limit has been enforced on Dartmoor due to the presence of grazing cattle, sheep and ponies. Overall there are 3 speed visors which record speed times, these are located at Haytor, Bennet's Cross and Sharpitor. The speed visor recordings reveal that the average speed in these 3 locations is below the 40mph limit, however at Bennet's Cross or Sharpitor approximately 40% of vehicles exceeded the speed limit, whereas at Haytor only 14% of vehicles exceeded the speed limit<sup>132</sup>.

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<sup>132</sup> DNPA (2017) State of the Park Report



- 3.107 Overall the number of road traffic collisions which occur on the roads within the National Park (excluding the A382 and the A386) have been found to fluctuate yearly, with no apparent overall trend of increase or decline. Overall there were 43 reported incidents in 2011, 57 in 2014 and 44 in 2015<sup>133</sup>. Traffic on Dartmoor is not a serious problem, as the main roads crossing the moor are not generally used by commuters, whilst the main settlements on the periphery of the moor use the A roads which skirt the edges of the moor to access commuter destinations such as Plymouth and Exeter. Traffic increases during holiday times and in the summer as visitor numbers increase. Some of the local centres, such as Ashburton, do experience traffic problems within town centres due to narrow streets and lack of parking.
- 3.108 The main A roads such as the A386 do suffer from congestion as commuters travel to destinations such as Plymouth and Exeter. The main mode of transport for locals is private vehicles such as cars and vans<sup>134</sup>, with public transport being a much less used form of transport in rural areas. There is the potential for development on the outskirts of Dartmoor to result in an increase in traffic on the local road network, due to an increase in traffic as residents use the moors for recreational purposes. Although there are already a higher number of residents in rural areas who work from home than in the urban areas of Devon<sup>135</sup>, an increase in residents working from home across Dartmoor could result in a decrease in vehicles on the roads, and a decrease in traffic. However, this is largely reliable on houses having connection to fast internet speeds for remote working.
- 3.109 There are no train stations within the National Park. However, Ivybridge has a train station which is located on the Exeter to Plymouth line and is on the edge of the National Park to the south. From Ivybridge, direct trains are available to Plymouth and direct trains to Newton Abbott, where passengers can catch a second train to Exeter. Services are not hourly, although they are more frequent at peak commuter times. On the border to the north of the National Park is Okehampton station. Few national rail services run from the station, with services largely limited to a Saturday service to Exeter.
- 3.110 Bus services in Dartmoor are limited. However, there are services between settlements in the National Park with over 40 services in and around Dartmoor currently running<sup>136</sup>. Most bus services are located in the east and west, and on the periphery of the National Park as this is where the majority of settlements are located. Some services in the west provide access to Plymouth, whereas in the east services are available to Newton Abbot, Totnes, and Exeter. Services are notably less frequent for settlements within the centre of the National Park<sup>137</sup>.
- 3.111 The Haytor Hoppa service operates on Saturdays in the eastern area of Dartmoor which starts and finishes in Newton Abbott via Bovey Tracey. The service is popular for walkers and tourists. However, the service has suffered

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<sup>133</sup> DNPA (2017) State of the Park Report

<sup>134</sup> Office for National Statistics (2017) 2011 census data

<sup>135</sup> Ibid.

<sup>136</sup> <http://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/enjoy-dartmoor/planning-your-visit/travel-information>

<sup>137</sup> [http://www.cartogold.co.uk/Devon\\_Transport/Devon.htm](http://www.cartogold.co.uk/Devon_Transport/Devon.htm)

from a 57% drop in passenger numbers since 2011 (2606 down to 1111) due to a reduction of the service, running for only 16 Saturdays compared to the 38-31 services that were running up until 2015<sup>138</sup>.

3.112 The Public Rights of Way Network (PRoW) on Dartmoor is extensive, with 733km of footpaths, bridleways and byways located across the National Park. 79% of this is considered to be 'easy to use' (relating to obstruction, interference and inconvenience), which is a decrease of 16% since 2010/11. A decrease in funding and staffing has resulted in some paths falling into disrepair and therefore failing their assessment. There is the potential for the PRoW network to suffer further disrepair as a result of climate change, with increased rainfall causing erosion and vegetation intrusion as a result of a climate with a longer growing season. There are several long-distance footpaths on Dartmoor, including the Two Moors Way, the Traka Trail and the Two Castles Trail. Overall there is 308km of long distance walking routes<sup>139</sup>. Dartmoor is an extremely popular walking destination, but the Prow network is also used for mountain biking and horse riding. The Rights of Way network is primarily used for recreation and tourism, although some of the cycle routes into the settlements and surrounding centres are used for commuting. Promoting such sustainable transport networks has secondary positive effects for health and well-being.

3.113 The National Park also contains National Cycle Routes. Route 27, known as the Devon Coast to Coast cycle route, a 100 mile route from Ilfracombe to Plymouth that borders Dartmoor to the west. Route 274 is a short ride in the west of Dartmoor, Route 272 is a longer route to the south and east of the moor, and Route 279 is to the north<sup>140</sup>. National cycle routes are located on the outskirts of the National Park. However, there are also undesignated cycle routes such as the Dartmoor Way, Wray Valley Trail and the Granite Way.

3.114 The Devon and Torbay Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP, 2011) sets out 5 key objectives for the Devon and Torbay area as follows:

- Deliver and support new development and economic growth
- Make best use of the transport network and protect the existing transport asset by prioritising maintenance
- Work with communities to provide safe, sustainable and low carbon transport choices
- Strengthen and improve the public transport network
- Make Devon the 'Place to be naturally active'

3.115 The Transport Plan proposes to increase the reliability and resilience of Devon and Torbay's strategic transport network, including strategic rail, road and air links. The LTP outlines the need for rural Devon, including market towns in the National Park such as Moretonhampstead and Buckfastleigh to become better connected to local urban centres whilst maintaining their distinct nature, and to make the most of the existing transport network and promote active lifestyles. However, there are no planned infrastructure projects relating

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<sup>138</sup> DNPA (2017) State of the Park Report

<sup>139</sup> Ibid.

<sup>140</sup> [http://www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map?qclid=CMWy\\_ta\\_qdQCFRmGwodW8IHfQ](http://www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map?qclid=CMWy_ta_qdQCFRmGwodW8IHfQ)

to the transport network within Dartmoor. The LTP highlights potential infrastructure development relating to the main urban settlements such as Exeter and Plymouth, improvements to the strategic road network including the M5 and some improvements to rail services.

- 3.116 There are no Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA)<sup>141</sup> within Dartmoor, however there are 2 AQMAs located in the surrounding area, including a small AQMA in Ivybridge and a small AQMA in Dean Prior. Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), a prominent atmospheric pollutant that is associated with vehicle emissions, has been steadily decreasing within Dartmoor, and are considered to be below the critical level where gaseous concentrations of NO<sub>2</sub> have negative effects on biodiversity. Settlements such as Ashburton and Buckfastleigh, which are closer to the A38, have higher levels of NO<sub>2</sub> than settlements such as Chagford and Yelverton which are not located near to the A38.
- 3.117 The LTP aims to increase sustainable transport use by improving bus and rail networks, and promoting car sharing schemes. This should therefore reduce the dependence on private vehicle use which is a common feature in rural Devon, and reduce traffic and air pollution.
- 3.118 Nitrogen deposition, which can result in damage to ecosystems and habitats through acidification, eutrophication and toxicity, is currently exceeding critical levels for several habitats. The Dartmoor, South Dartmoor Woods and South Hams SACs all have nitrogen deposition above the critical load for the habitat. Nitrogen deposition on Dartmoor is not dominated by road traffic, which accounts for approximately 5% of deposition on the Dartmoor SAC. The main sources of nitrogen deposition on the Dartmoor SAC are livestock emissions through ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>), European imported emissions and international shipping<sup>142</sup>, showing the diversity of sources for nitrogen deposition.
- 3.119 **Evolution without the Plan:** Without the Local Plan, development could occur within the National Park that may not be appropriately located with regards to the road network and already congested roads. The high dependency of private vehicle use will persist, and there could be a reduction in sustainable transport use. However, the implementation of a Local Plan would allow for policies that can guide development to areas where there is existing road network capacity, and avoid congested areas. The Local Plan can also be used to promote sustainable transport on Dartmoor, encouraging development to be located near to areas which have good public transport links, which would act against air pollution and congestion issues. Policies to encourage new developments with reliable faster broadband speeds could promote working from home, which would have benefits by reducing commuter traffic.

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<sup>141</sup> <https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/aqma/maps>

<sup>142</sup> DNPA (2017) State of the Park Report

### Key Issues:

- High dependence on private vehicle use with poor and infrequent public transport services – a common feature in rural Devon
- Risk of congesting road network in vicinity of new major developments on outskirts of National Park area.
- Reduce levels of atmospheric pollution, specifically NO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and their adverse effects on habitats.
- The availability of parking is an identified issue in several settlements in the National Park – with potential adverse effects for accessibility to services and facilities.
- Supporting working from home in rural communities to help ease congestion.
- Guiding development to areas that have good transport infrastructure and public transport connections.
- Investing in the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network to address declining rate of PRoW that is categorised as in 'easy to use' condition.
- Promote sustainable transport in the National Park, improving existing public transport & supporting cycling and walking routes – with potential for secondary positive effects on health and well-being.

## Energy & Climate Change

3.120 Within the National Park transport accounts for 45% of all energy consumption, 34% is for domestic purposes and 20% for business<sup>143</sup>. Transport is the highest source of energy consumption due to the rural nature of the area, which requires individuals to rely on private vehicles for mobility and to access services/facilities. Older buildings on Dartmoor also require more energy to heat in the winter, due to poor insulation and the lack of double glazing. The Dartmoor National Park Management Plan outlines the need for Dartmoor to move towards more renewable energy sources and to encourage a reduction in energy consumption. This includes ensuring new developments have high energy efficiency standards, improving the energy efficiency of older buildings and promoting sustainable transport such as walking, cycling and public transport<sup>144</sup>.

3.121 There is the potential to use different renewable energy sources within the National Park, such as wind power, solar power and hydro power. However, renewable energy developments can have negative effects on the special qualities of the National Park. Guidance has been published on accommodating wind and solar power in Devon's Landscape<sup>145</sup>. The most used renewable energy source on Dartmoor is photovoltaic cells<sup>146</sup>.

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<sup>143</sup> DNPA (2014) Dartmoor National Park Management Plan

<sup>144</sup> Ibid.

<sup>145</sup> Land Use Consultants (2013) Accommodating Wind and Solar PV Developments in Devon's Landscape

<sup>146</sup> DNPA (2017) State of the Park Report

3.122 In Dartmoor there has been a 0.5 degree increase in temperature from the baseline temperature between 1961-1990. The increase in temperature has been seen in all 4 seasons, with the highest increase occurring in winter and the lowest in autumn. Dartmoor has also seen a 15% increase in average monthly precipitation, and a 13% increase in the average number of days with more than 10mm of rain. Overall the climate of Dartmoor is changing, becoming warmer and wetter with a longer growing season. The changes occurring as a result of climate change will have an impact on the agricultural industry. A longer plant growing season can be beneficial for the agricultural industry, however climate change is likely to put pressure on agricultural production and exacerbate existing issues such as the degradation of public footpaths and flooding. The change in climate is also likely to affect the ecology of the National Park. This has already been seen in some examples, such as the Pied Flycatcher advancing its egg laying by 2 weeks because of an increase in spring temperatures.

3.123 **Evolution without the Plan:** There is national policy relating to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, which would likely result in reduced energy consumption within the National Park. However, specific policies within the Local Plan could promote new development with a high level of energy efficiencies and stronger sustainability. The Local Plan can also encourage the use of appropriate renewable energy and guide development to locations where residents would not be so reliant on private vehicles, and can use sustainable transport.

**Key Issues:**

- Reducing energy consumption, with a focus on transport which accounts for almost 50% of the National Park's energy consumption.
- Increasing the energy efficiency of older dwellings, and ensuring new buildings have high energy efficiency standards.
- Promoting sustainable transport such as walking, cycling and public transport.
- Mitigating against Climate Change effects, including flood risk and damage to local habitats and wildlife.
- Adapting to the effects of Climate Change through appropriate design, appropriate siting of development, and considering the availability of water resources.
- Constraints of national standards for energy whilst the National Park Authority may wish to promote higher sustainability standards.

## Waste

- 3.124 In 2014, almost 50% of waste within Dartmoor was sent to reuse, recycling or compost, which is higher than the national average<sup>147</sup>. However, improvements could be made to increase recycling rates, and to encourage less waste.
- 3.125 During the summer months, rubbish at beauty spots has been known to become an issue as a result of increased visitor numbers. The adopted Dartmoor Plan acknowledges previous strategic planning guidance that waste management facilities should avoid National Parks and AONBs, and within these areas smaller proposals to meet local needs may be appropriate. Within the National Park these will likely be limited to sorting facilities, compost making areas, and small community operations.
- 3.126 **Evolution without the Plan:** The Local Plan can encourage recycling, by ensuring new developments provide appropriate waste facilities, including possibilities for composting, and areas where recycling boxes can be stored, and promote sustainable waste management.

### Key Issues:

- Promote recycling, reuse, and composting to improve sustainable waste management.
- Ensure new developments have appropriate storage for recycling boxes/bins.
- Avoid inappropriate waste management or waste disposal facilities in the National Park.

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<sup>147</sup> DNPA (2014) Local Plan Annual Monitoring Report



## 4.0 KEY SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES & SA FRAMEWORKS

### Key Sustainability Issues

- 4.1 The key sustainability issues, problems and opportunities are derived from the analysis of the identified baseline conditions and characteristics of the plan area, and taking into account the objectives of other relevant plans and programmes. The SA Objectives are then developed and aim to resolve such identified issues. The key sustainability issues identified are summarised in the Table 4.1 as follows:

**Table 4.1: Key Sustainability Issues**

Topic	Key Issue for Sustainable Development
Landscape & Settlement Character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ New development has the potential for an unacceptable effect on the landscape or settlement character &amp; their settings.</li> <li>■ High quality design needs to be promoted to make positive contributions to the landscape and townscape in the National Park.</li> <li>■ Identification of appropriate standards and aspirations for sustainable construction and operation.</li> <li>■ Deterioration of the Valued Attributes of key Landscape Character Types that may be at risk should be prevented.</li> <li>■ Farming practises and forestry activities should not result in landscape deterioration through new access ways such as tracks, new buildings and changes in practises.</li> <li>■ The impact of light pollution from peripheral towns and cities, and development within the National Park, which threatens the dark night skies of Dartmoor, should be minimised.</li> <li>■ Change of farmsteads to residential or holiday lets can harm the integration of farmsteads with the landscape through additional buildings and suburban gardens.</li> <li>■ New infrastructure relating to tourism, including signage can damage landscape character, and infrastructure such as telephone masts, could affect the special characteristics of the landscape.</li> </ul>
Biodiversity, Geodiversity & Green Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Dartmoor has internationally, nationally and locally designated biodiversity and geodiversity which cover a large area of the National Park, most of which are in good condition, and need to be protected from effects of development.</li> <li>■ Managing access so that designated sites, priority habitat and priority species are not negatively affected by recreational activities.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Encouraging sustainable farming practises, and engaging farmers to ensure agricultural methods and development arising from agricultural practises do not result in negative effects on biodiversity.</li> <li>■ Increasing stepping stones and habitat linkages to promote wildlife movement within Dartmoor.</li> <li>■ Dartmoor has a higher than national average of SSSIs in 'Favourable' or 'Unfavourable recovering' condition, with an aim to improve sites which are currently in an 'unfavourable' condition.</li> <li>■ Need to ensure that development does not result in the loss or damage of key habitats and wildlife.</li> <li>■ Climate change will threaten Dartmoor's varied habitats and wide range of species.</li> <li>■ Awareness of currently undesignated areas of biodiversity which may have the potential for designation, and which are still important for local biodiversity and require protecting.</li> <li>■ Ensuring forestry activities are sustainable and do not degrade or result in the loss of key habitats or biodiversity.</li> </ul>
Historic Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Within the National Park there is a range of historical and archaeological features, both designated and undesignated, most of which are in good condition.</li> <li>■ The setting of designated heritage assets such as Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments should be protected from development.</li> <li>■ Taking active measure to conserve and improve heritage assets which are considered to be 'At Risk'.</li> <li>■ Protecting historic farmsteads and farm buildings, and promoting the reuse of derelict or abandoned buildings without adverse effects on the character and cultural heritage of the National Park.</li> <li>■ Increasing knowledge and identifying undesignated local archaeological and historical features.</li> <li>■ The character of designated Conservation Areas may be adversely affected from poorly designed new development and modifications to vernacular buildings.</li> </ul>
Soils, Land & Minerals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The Park area does not include any best and most versatile agricultural land (Grade 1-3a) but it is important that soil resources are not degraded or lost - this is a national issue.</li> <li>■ Guarantee any new proposals for mining or quarrying operations do not negatively affect the special qualities of the National Park.</li> <li>■ Promoting the use of previously developed land for development.</li> <li>■ Avoiding development in Mineral Safeguarded Areas which would sterilise resources.</li> </ul>

<p>Water-Resources, Quality and Flooding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Contributing to water quality improvement throughout the National Park so that at least 60% of water bodies and monitored water length meet good status by 2021 - as required by the Water Framework Regulations through the Environment Agency.</li> <li>■ Possibilities for promoting sustainable management of water resources in new and existing developments.</li> <li>■ Avoiding development in areas of flood risk.</li> <li>■ Investigating opportunities to manage flood risk in upper catchments through changed habitats and land use practices.</li> </ul>
<p>Communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ An ageing population which will result in increased pressure on local health facilities, and a higher old age dependency ratio (this is also a national issue).</li> <li>■ The decline of some rural settlements due to limited opportunities for appropriate full time employment.</li> <li>■ Need to allow opportunities for new sustainable uses for rural barns, whilst avoiding conversion to inappropriate uses.</li> <li>■ Cooperation needed where settlements adjoin or are split between Local Planning Authority areas, including Ashburton, Buckfastleigh, Cheriton Bishop and Yelverton.</li> <li>■ New development should be focussed in areas that are the most sustainable and have the capacity for change.</li> </ul>
<p>Housing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A need for affordable housing for local and young people, and appropriate housing for older people who may be looking to downsize.</li> <li>■ Meeting the housing need for the different demographics within the National Park.</li> <li>■ A high average house price which greatly exceeds the average wage for the area, making access to the property market unattainable for many.</li> <li>■ Special circumstances for succession farm dwellings to enable people to continue to undertake traditional and sustainable farming and woodland management</li> <li>■ Increasing prevalence of second homes and holiday homes</li> </ul>
<p>Health &amp; Equalities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Need for additional open space and play facilities in some settlements, but in the context of limited opportunities for ongoing maintenance and management funding.</li> <li>■ Highlighted differences in IMD scores between different LSOAs, with some LSOAs more deprived than others.</li> <li>■ Promoting access and use of the National Park for different ethnic groups – (also a national issue).</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Ensuring that disabled people can still access and use the National Park.</li> <li>■ Higher levels of fuel poverty than the national average.</li> <li>■ Regional differences in equality, including education and life expectancy discrepancies.</li> </ul>
Economy & Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Aging population and therefore a decreasing proportion of those who are economically active – (also national issue).</li> <li>■ Net out-commuting for work, which may increase as peripheral towns and cities grow.</li> <li>■ Relatively low wages and high house prices which may deter/prohibit young workers living in the National Park.</li> <li>■ Almost half of businesses are small or micro, and there is a high level of self-employment, with relatively small demand for new floorspace space forecast.</li> <li>■ Existing employment land and business units are poor to medium quality and small scale, with limited appetite for investment or speculative builds.</li> <li>■ Relatively high employment in agriculture, but this is forecast to fall while other sectors (construction, businesses services, accommodation and food) are forecast to grow</li> <li>■ 20-30% of employment is in tourism, with large-scale expenditure in the local economy by tourists</li> <li>■ Tourism is dominated by day visitors, although the number of staying visitors is growing suggesting an opportunity to expand and realise greater benefits</li> <li>■ Much of the economy depends on the quality of the natural and built environment, and overall natural capital, through encouraging tourism, visitors, and location of businesses.</li> </ul>
Transport, Movement & Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ High dependence on private vehicle use with poor and infrequent public transport services – a common feature in rural Devon</li> <li>■ Risk of congesting road network in vicinity of new major developments on outskirts of National Park area.</li> <li>■ Reduce levels of atmospheric pollution, specifically NO2 emissions, and their adverse effects on habitats.</li> <li>■ The availability of parking is an identified issue in several settlements in the National Park – with potential adverse effects for accessibility to services and facilities.</li> <li>■ Supporting working from home in rural communities to help ease congestion.</li> <li>■ Guiding development to areas that have good transport infrastructure and public transport connections.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Investing in the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network to address declining rate of PRoW that is categorised as in 'easy to use' condition.</li> <li>■ Promote sustainable transport in the National Park, improving existing public transport &amp; supporting cycling and walking routes – with potential for secondary positive effects on health and well-being.</li> </ul>
Energy & Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Reducing energy consumption, with a focus on transport which accounts for almost 50% of the National Park's energy consumption.</li> <li>■ Increasing the energy efficiency of older dwellings, and ensuring new buildings have high energy efficiency standards.</li> <li>■ Promoting sustainable transport such as walking, cycling and public transport.</li> <li>■ Mitigating against Climate Change effects, including flood risk and damage to local habitats and wildlife.</li> <li>■ Adapting to the effects of Climate Change through appropriate design, appropriate siting of development, and considering the availability of water resources.</li> <li>■ Constraints of national standards for energy whilst the National Park may wish to promote higher sustainability standards.</li> </ul>
Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Promote recycling, reuse, and composting to improve sustainable waste management.</li> <li>■ Ensure new developments have appropriate storage for recycling boxes/bins.</li> <li>■ Avoid inappropriate waste management or waste disposal facilities in the National Park.</li> </ul>

### SA Frameworks

4.2 The SA Framework provides the basis by which the sustainability effects of the Dartmoor National Park Local Plan Review will be described, evaluated, and options compared. It comprises a number of objectives, elaborated by decision-aiding questions, that are relevant to the objectives of the Local Plan and its' areas of influence and sustainable development. These SA objectives have been developed through identifying issues, problems and opportunities from the information analysed through the baseline information and plans/programmes review.

4.3 The Strategic SA Framework comprises an overarching framework to test strategic options, policies, and the likely effects of the emerging Local Plan as a whole. A second SA Framework provides a more spatially specific framework that includes identified thresholds of significance, both quantitative and qualitative, to provide a more meaningful assessment for site allocation options. The proposed Strategic and Sites SA Frameworks are presented in the Tables 4.2 and 4.3 following:

**Table 4.2: Strategic SA Framework**

Key Sustainability Issues	SA Objectives	Decision-Aiding Questions Are the proposals in the Plan likely to...?	Potential Indicators <sup>148</sup>
<b>Theme: Landscape and Settlement Character</b> SEA Directive Topic(s): Landscape NPPF Paragraphs: 109-125			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ New development has the potential for an unacceptable effect on the landscape or settlement character &amp; their settings.</li> <li>■ High quality design needs to be promoted to make positive contributions to the landscape and townscape in the National Park.</li> <li>■ Identification of appropriate standards and aspirations for sustainable construction and operation.</li> <li>■ Deterioration of the Valued Attributes of key Landscape Character Types that may be at risk should be prevented.</li> <li>■ Farming practises and forestry activities should not result in landscape deterioration through new access ways such as tracks, new buildings and changes in practises.</li> <li>■ The impact of light pollution from peripheral towns and cities, and development within the National Park, which threatens the dark night skies of Dartmoor, should be minimised.</li> <li>■ Change of farmsteads to residential or holiday lets can harm the integration of farmsteads with the landscape through additional buildings and suburban gardens.</li> </ul>	<p><b>1.</b> To conserve and enhance the landscape and settlement character of Dartmoor National Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Have an effect on the special landscapes, valued attributes, townscapes &amp; their settings?</li> <li>■ Reduce the impacts of large structures &amp; development that are visible from or within the National Park?</li> <li>■ Reduce the adverse effects of agricultural change (land use change, equestrian use, building conversions) on the landscape?</li> <li>■ Contribute to the wild, remote &amp; tranquil characteristics of Dartmoor, including minimising light and noise pollution?</li> </ul>	<p>Number of conversions of agricultural buildings to dwellings/holiday lets</p> <p>Loss or damage to key landscape features as a result of development</p>
	<p><b>2.</b> To conserve &amp; enhance the character, safety, accessibility, adaptability, and sustainability, including energy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Encourage the use of local and traditional building materials?</li> <li>■ Promote a high standard of quality in design, construction &amp; operation to promote</li> </ul>	<p>Use of local and/or traditional building materials</p> <p>National technical standards for Building Regulations and consideration of more</p>

<sup>148</sup> Indicators will be developed as the SA progresses and to align with indicators in Monitoring Report for the Local Plan as recommended by Government guidance



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New infrastructure relating to tourism, including signage can damage landscape character, and infrastructure such as telephone masts, could affect the special characteristics of the landscape.</li> </ul>	<p>efficiency, of the built environment by raising the quality of design and construction</p>	<p>sustainable management of resources<sup>149</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Enhance the distinctiveness &amp; diversity of the local built environment and community spaces?</li> <li>▪ Promote a high standard of access and adaptability?</li> </ul>	<p>aspirational standards such as BRE Home Quality Mark</p>
<p><b>Theme: Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Green Infrastructure</b> SEA Directive Topic(s): Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna NPPF Paragraphs: 109-125</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dartmoor has internationally, nationally and locally designated biodiversity and geodiversity which cover a large area of the National Park, most of which are in good or recovering condition, and need to be protected from effects of development.</li> <li>▪ Managing access so that designated sites, priority habitat and priority species are not negatively affected by recreational activities.</li> <li>▪ Encouraging sustainable farming practises, and engaging farmers to ensure agricultural methods and development arising from agricultural practises do not result in negative effects on biodiversity.</li> <li>▪ Increasing stepping stones and habitat linkages to promote wildlife movement within Dartmoor.</li> <li>▪ Dartmoor has a higher than national average of SSSIs in 'Favourable' or 'Unfavourable recovering' condition, with an aim to improve</li> </ul>	<p><b>3.</b> To protect, enhance and manage biodiversity and geodiversity for net gain, where possible<sup>150</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Have any effects on internationally or nationally designated biodiversity or geodiversity?</li> <li>▪ Have any effects on local biodiversity or geodiversity?</li> <li>▪ Contribute to enhancement of the Green Infrastructure network</li> <li>▪ Contribute to enhanced understanding through provision of further studies/surveys</li> <li>▪ Enable good farming practice</li> <li>▪ Enable good woodland management</li> </ul>	<p>Number of SACs &amp; SSSIs in favourable or unfavourable condition</p> <p>Area of new BAP habitats created/restored</p> <p>Proportion of Local Wildlife Sites where positive conservation management is being implemented</p> <p>Contributions towards aims for GI Strategies</p>

<sup>149</sup> Please note that sustainable resources management is primarily addressed under Soils, Water, & Transport; here for design criteria this relates to attractiveness, safety & energy to avoid duplication at the SA assessment stages

<sup>150</sup> DCLG NPPF (2012) paragraphs 9 and 11 refer

<p>sites which are currently in an 'unfavourable' condition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Need to ensure that development does not result in the loss or damage of key habitats and wildlife.</li> <li>■ Climate change will threaten Dartmoor's varied habitats and wide range of species.</li> <li>■ Awareness of currently undesignated areas of biodiversity which may have the potential for designation, and which are still important for local biodiversity and require protecting.</li> <li>■ Ensuring forestry activities are sustainable and do not degrade or result in the loss of key habitats or biodiversity.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Theme: Historic Environment</b> SEA Directive Topic(s): Cultural Heritage NPPF Paragraphs: 126-141</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Within the National Park there is a range of historical and archaeological features, both designated and undesignated, most of which are in good condition.</li> <li>■ The setting of designated heritage assets such as Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments should be protected from development.</li> <li>■ Taking active measure to conserve and improve heritage assets which are considered to be 'At Risk'.</li> <li>■ Protect historic farmsteads and farm buildings, and promote the reuse of derelict or abandoned buildings without adverse effects on the character and cultural heritage of the National Park.</li> <li>■ Increase knowledge and identify undesignated local archaeological and historical features.</li> </ul>	<p><b>4.</b> To protect, conserve, and enhance the historic environment and its setting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Protect, conserve &amp; enhance designated and non-designated heritage assets and their settings?</li> <li>■ Conserve the character of historic environment?</li> <li>■ Improve access to and understanding of heritage?</li> <li>■ Provide opportunities to enhance knowledge on the archaeological resource?</li> </ul>	<p>Number of Listed Buildings Number of heritage assets on the 'At Risk' register Conservation Area enhancement projects Restoration of archaeological assets Archaeological surveys conducted</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid the character of designated Conservation Areas being affected from poorly designed new development and modifications to vernacular buildings.</li> </ul>			
<b>Theme: Soils, Land &amp; Minerals</b> SEA Directive Topic(s): Soil NPPF Paragraphs: 79-92, 109-125			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid development which leads to the loss of the best agricultural land, and ensure important soil resources are not degraded or lost - this is a national issue.</li> <li>Helping to ensure that any new proposals for mining or quarrying operations do not negatively affect the special qualities of the National Park.</li> <li>Promote use of previously developed land for development.</li> <li>Avoid development in Mineral Safeguarded Areas which would sterilise resources.</li> </ul>	<b>5.</b> To protect and conserve soil, land and minerals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Result in the loss of soils and agricultural land?</li> <li>Make the best use of brownfield land?</li> <li>Promote sustainable mineral extraction?</li> <li>Protect future mineral resources?</li> <li>Minimise the risk of contaminating soils?</li> </ul>	Loss of agricultural land Number of planning permissions built on previously developed land Loss of greenfield/brownfield
<b>Theme: Water - Resources, Quality and Flooding</b> SEA Directive Topic(s): Water NPPF Paragraphs: 99-125			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To improve water quality throughout the National Park, helping to ensure that at least 60% of water bodies and monitored water length meet good status by 2021 as required by WFD through the Environment Agency (EA).</li> <li>Promote sustainable management of water resources in new and existing developments.</li> <li>Avoid development in areas of flood risk.</li> <li>Investigate opportunities to manage flood risk in upper catchments through changed habitats and land use practices</li> </ul>	<b>6.</b> To promote efficient water use and improve water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote sustainable water management and water use efficiencies?</li> <li>Result in any loss of quality or quantity that could affect WFD objectives for good ecological status?</li> </ul>	Quality of waterbodies meeting WFD objectives
	<b>7.</b> To reduce the risk of flooding from all sources and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Propose development in the flood plain, Critical Drainage Area, or put properties at risk of flooding?</li> </ul>	Number of planning permissions granted contrary to EA advice

	manage flood risk more sustainably	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide opportunities for addressing flood risk?</li> <li>Promote sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDs)?</li> <li>Provide any opportunities for progressing more sustainable management of habitats and flood risk management in upper catchments (resolving existing problems)?</li> </ul>	
<b>Theme: Communities</b> SEA Directive Topic(s): Population and Human Health NPPF Paragraphs: 47-78			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An ageing population which will result in increased pressure on local health facilities, and a higher old age dependency ratio (this is also a national issue).</li> <li>The decline of some rural settlements due to limited opportunities for appropriate full time employment.</li> <li>Need to allow opportunities for new sustainable uses for rural barns, whilst avoiding conversion to inappropriate uses.</li> <li>Cooperation needed where settlements adjoin or are split between Local Planning Authority areas, including Ashburton, Buckfastleigh, Cheriton Bishop and Yelverton.</li> <li>New development should be focussed in areas that are the most sustainable and have the capacity for change.</li> </ul>	<b>8.</b> To maintain and enhance community and settlement identities distinctive to Dartmoor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have an effect on the identity of any communities or settlements, including those split with other Local Plan boundaries?</li> <li>Likely to affect rural community vitality?</li> <li>Likely to strengthen the role of local &amp; rural centres?</li> </ul>	Number of services/facilities available in local centres Issues highlighted within the settlement Employment opportunities
	<b>9.</b> To support the provision & accessibility of services & facilities <sup>151</sup> ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support sufficient services &amp; facilities for existing communities &amp; new development?</li> </ul>	Key services/facilities available Creation and loss of community services/facilities

<sup>151</sup> Please note that capacity of access routes and parking is covered by SA Objective Nos 13 & 14 on transport

<b>Theme: Housing</b>			
SEA Directive Topic(s): Population and Human Health NPPF Paragraphs: 47-78			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A need for affordable housing for local and young people, and appropriate housing for older people who may be looking to downsize.</li> <li>■ Meeting the housing need for the different demographics within the National Park.</li> <li>■ A high average house price which greatly exceeds the average wage for the area, making access to the property market unattainable for many.</li> <li>■ Special circumstances for succession farm dwellings to enable people to continue to undertake traditional and sustainable farming and woodland management</li> <li>■ Increasing prevalence of second homes and holiday homes</li> </ul>	<p><b>10.</b> To ensure that the housing needs of all National Park residents are met</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Provide sufficient quality housing to meet the identified needs of all communities within the National Park?</li> <li>■ Provide an appropriate mix of types of housing, including affordable &amp; adaptable?</li> <li>■ Provide for those whose work is important to the National Park, including agricultural &amp; forestry?</li> </ul>	<p>Proportion &amp; type of affordable dwellings approved &amp; constructed Mix of type of dwellings Number of empty &amp; second homes Ratio of average house prices to average household income</p>
<b>Theme: Health and Equalities</b>			
SEA Directive Topic(s): Population and Human Health NPPF Paragraphs: 69-78			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Need for additional open space and play facilities in some settlements, but in the context of limited opportunities for ongoing maintenance and management funding</li> <li>■ Highlighted differences in IMD scores between different LSOAs, with some LSOAs more deprived than others.</li> <li>■ Promoting access and use of the National Park for different ethnic groups – national issue.</li> </ul>	<p><b>11.</b> To improve the health and wellbeing of communities and reduce inequalities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Have an effect that results in the loss or gain of any significant areas of Green Infrastructure, open space, leisure or recreation for people?</li> <li>■ Encourage healthy lifestyles<sup>152</sup>?</li> </ul>	<p>Indices of Deprivation Public Open Space Provision per settlement Number of leisure facilities available Green Infrastructure categories and mapping</p>

<sup>152</sup> Please note that encouraging healthy lifestyles through sustainable transport is addressed in the theme following on Transport & Movement

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Ensuring that disabled people can access and use the National Park.</li> <li>■ Higher levels of fuel poverty than the national average.</li> <li>■ Regional differences in equality, including education and life expectancy discrepancies.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Promote access &amp; use of the National Park for different ethnic groups?</li> <li>■ Promote access &amp; use of the National Park for disabled people?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Theme: Economy and Employment</b> SEA Directive Topic(s): Population and Human Health NPPF Paragraphs: 18-22</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Aging population and therefore a decreasing proportion of those who are economically active – (also national issue).</li> <li>■ Net out-commuting for work, which may increase as peripheral towns and cities grow.</li> <li>■ Relatively low wages and high house prices which may deter/prohibit young workers living in the National Park.</li> <li>■ Almost half of businesses are small or micro, and there is a high level of self-employment, with relatively small demand for new floorspace space forecast.</li> <li>■ Existing employment land and business units are poor to medium quality and small scale, with limited appetite for investment or speculative builds.</li> <li>■ Relatively high employment in agriculture, but this is forecast to fall while other sectors (construction, businesses services, accommodation and food) are forecast to grow</li> <li>■ 20-30% of employment is in tourism, with large-scale expenditure in the local economy by tourists</li> </ul>	<p><b>12.</b> To promote and support the economy, especially key business sectors of tourism, agriculture, leisure/recreation and small businesses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Promote &amp; support key areas of tourism, leisure/recreation, agriculture/forestry, or small businesses appropriate to character of Dartmoor?</li> <li>■ Promote flexibility, including home-working?</li> <li>■ Encourage the use of local products and services?</li> <li>■ Maintain progress with faster broadband &amp; mobile technologies appropriate for the character of the National Park?</li> </ul>	<p>VAT registrations Business turnover &amp; number of employees Number of claimants on job seekers allowance Proportion of working age population in full-time employment Broadband access</p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tourism is dominated by day visitors, although the number of staying visitors is growing suggesting an opportunity to expand and realise greater benefits</li> <li>Much of the economy depends on the quality of the natural and built environment, and overall natural capital, through encouraging tourism, visitors, and location of businesses.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Theme: Transport and Movement; Air Quality<sup>153</sup></b> SEA Directive Topic(s): Population and Human Health NPPF Paragraphs: 29-41</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High dependence on private vehicle use and poor and infrequent public transport services – a common feature in rural Devon</li> <li>Risk of congesting road network in vicinity of new major developments on outskirts of National Park area</li> <li>The availability of parking is an identified issue in several settlements in the National Park.</li> <li>Road transport is one of the main sources of nitrogen oxides for the National Park. [Please note that flooding is dealt with separately under the Water: Resources, Quality and Flooding topic]</li> </ul>	<p><b>13.</b> To help reduce congestion, particularly on the outskirts of National Park, and reduce associated indirect impacts on air quality and greenhouse gas emissions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Help in reducing identified congestion?</li> <li>Exacerbate existing parking issues?</li> <li>Result in an increase in congestion with a negative effect on air quality?</li> </ul>	<p>Incidences of congestion AQMA designations- reason and location</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring that new development is in accessible locations that minimises the need to travel by private vehicle</li> </ul>	<p><b>14.</b> To encourage a change to sustainable transport modes and to reduce the need to travel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve access to, and quality of, sustainable transport modes?</li> </ul>	<p>Public transport routes &amp; use PRoWs Increase in cycleways &amp; footpaths PRoW which are 'easy' to use</p>

<sup>153</sup> Given the close relationship between traffic and air quality, it is not considered necessary to have a separate SA Objective specifically relating to air quality.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Promoting sustainable transport in the National Park, improving existing public transport &amp; supporting cycling and walking routes.</li> <li>■ Reduce levels of atmospheric pollution, specifically NO<sub>2</sub> emissions.</li> <li>■ Promote working from home for rural communities to help ease congestion on busy A roads.</li> <li>■ Invest in Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network to address declining number of PRoW that are categorised as in 'easy to use' condition.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Provide opportunities to enhance the cycling &amp; footpath network?</li> <li>■ Encourage a reduction in the need to travel by car</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Theme: Energy &amp; Climate Change</b> SEA Directive Topic(s): Climatic Factors NPPF Paragraphs: 93-104</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Reducing energy consumption, with a focus on transport which accounts for almost 50% of the National Park's energy consumption.</li> <li>■ Increasing the energy efficiency of older dwellings, and ensuring new buildings have high energy efficiency standards.</li> <li>■ Promoting sustainable transport such as walking, cycling and public transport.</li> <li>■ Mitigating against Climate Change effects, including flood risk and damage to local habitats and wildlife.</li> <li>■ Adapting to the effects of Climate Change through appropriate design, appropriate siting of development, and considering the availability of water resources.</li> <li>■ Constraints of national standards for energy whilst the National Park may wish to promote higher sustainability standards.</li> </ul>	<p>The promotion of public transport and the reduction of private vehicle use is addressed in SA Objective No 12 Transport &amp; Movement.</p> <p>Improving energy efficiency in development is addressed in SA Objective No 1 Landscape &amp; Settlement Character.</p> <p>Flood risk &amp; climate change mitigation is considered in the SA Objectives Nos 6 &amp; 7 Water – Resources &amp; Quality; Flooding.</p>		

<b>Theme: Waste</b> SEA Directive Topic(s): Material Assets NPPF Paragraphs: 5, 142-149			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Promote recycling, reuse and composting to improve sustainable waste management.</li> <li>■ Ensure new developments have appropriate storage for recycling boxes/bins.</li> <li>■ Avoid inappropriate waste management or waste disposal facilities in the National Park</li> </ul>	<p><b>15.</b> To reduce waste &amp; promote reuse and recycling</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Reduce waste?</li> <li>■ Promote reuse, recycling or composting?</li> </ul>	<p>% waste reused/recycled</p>

**Table 4.3: Sites SA Framework**

SA Objectives	Decision-Aiding Questions Are the proposals in the Plan likely to...?	Evidence	Thresholds of Significance for Likely Effects from Development Site Options	
<b>Theme: Landscape and Settlement Character</b> SEA Directive Topic(s): Landscape NPPF Paragraphs: 109-125				
<b>1.</b> To conserve and enhance the landscape and settlement character of Dartmoor National Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Have an effect on the special landscapes, valued attributes townscapes &amp; their settings?</li> <li>■ Reduce the impacts of large structures &amp; development that are visible from or within the National Park?</li> <li>■ Reduce the adverse effects of agricultural change (land use change, equestrian use, building conversions) on the landscape?</li> <li>■ Contribute to the wild, remote &amp; tranquil characteristics of Dartmoor, including minimising light and noise pollution?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Landscape Sensitivity Study (2017)</li> <li>■ Magic Map</li> <li>■ Landscape Character Assessment (2017)</li> <li>■ Parish Profiles (2017)</li> <li>■ DNPA GIS layers</li> </ul>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <span style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 2px 5px;">++</span>  <span style="background-color: #92d050; color: black; padding: 2px 5px;">+</span>  <span style="background-color: #0000ff; color: white; padding: 2px 5px;">0</span>  <span style="background-color: #ffff00; color: black; padding: 2px 5px;">?</span>  <span style="background-color: #ffff00; color: black; padding: 2px 5px;">-</span>  <span style="background-color: #ffa500; color: black; padding: 2px 5px;">--</span> </div>	<p>Development will restore and enhance currently degraded landscapes or Valued Attributes, and/or address an existing settlement character issue, with a major positive effect.</p> <p>Development will increase tranquillity, reduce light pollution, will positively enhance the landscape. Development will positively contribute to the existing character of the settlement.</p> <p>Development will not enhance or degrade the landscape of the National Park or the settlement character/townscape, with a residual neutral effect.</p> <p>There is some uncertainty about the potential effect of development on the landscape/townscape; gaps in information.</p> <p>Development has the potential to effect Valued Attributes of the landscape, reduce tranquillity, increase light pollution, create large create large intrusive structures and/or the site option has the potential to negatively affect the settlement character, with mitigation possible.</p> <p>Development has the potential to result in the loss of key landscape features, reduce tranquillity, increase light pollution, create large intrusive structures and/or the site option will degrade the settlement character, with mitigation difficult and/or expensive</p>

<p><b>2.</b> To conserve &amp; enhance the character, safety, accessibility, adaptability, and sustainability, including energy efficiency, of the built environment by raising the quality of design and construction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Encourage the use of local and traditional building materials?</li> <li>■ Promote a high standard of quality in design, construction &amp; operation to promote sustainable management of resources<sup>154</sup></li> <li>■ Enhance the distinctiveness &amp; diversity of the local built environment and community spaces?</li> <li>■ Promote a high standard of access and adaptability?</li> </ul>	<p><i>This topic has been scoped out of the SA site assessments as all site options have the potential to provide sustainable design and energy efficiency in accordance with draft DNPA Policies and the Design Guidance.</i></p>		
<p><b>Theme: Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Green Infrastructure</b> SEA Directive Topic(s): Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna NPPF Paragraphs: 109-125</p>				
<p><b>3.</b> To protect, enhance and manage biodiversity &amp; geodiversity for net gain, where possible</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Have any effects on internationally or nationally designated biodiversity or geodiversity?</li> <li>■ Have any effects on local biodiversity or geodiversity?</li> <li>■ Contribute to enhancement of the Green Infrastructure network</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Magic Map</li> <li>■ DNPA GIS Layers</li> <li>■ State of the Environment Paper (2017)</li> <li>■ Living Dartmoor</li> <li>■ South West Nature Map</li> <li>■ Natural England Site Information</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>++</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>+</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>0</b></p>	<p>The site option will provide enhancements to Key Wildlife Areas and will help resolve an existing biodiversity issue/problem in the area, or will create new green infrastructure, with a major positive effect.</p> <p>No negative effect on biodiversity or geodiversity, and has the opportunity to provide enhancements to biodiversity and green infrastructure with a minor positive effect.</p> <p>The site option will not result in negative effects on biodiversity/geodiversity but will not enhance biodiversity/geodiversity either, with a residual neutral effect.</p>

<sup>154</sup> Please note that sustainable resources management is primarily addressed under Soils, Water, & Transport; here for design criteria this relates to attractiveness, safety & energy to avoid duplication at the SA assessment stages

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to enhanced understanding through provision of further studies/surveys</li> <li>Enable good farming practice</li> <li>Enable good woodland management</li> <li>Increase nitrogen deposition on susceptible habitats?</li> </ul>		?	There is uncertainty on the effect of development on biodiversity or geodiversity in the area; gaps in information.
			-	The site option will have minor negative effects on locally designated biodiversity, will result in the loss or fragmentation of priority habitat and/or green infrastructure, or may disrupt species targeted for conservation; mitigation possible.
			--	The site option will negatively affect a European or nationally designated biodiversity site, with mitigation difficult or expensive.
<b>Theme: Historic Environment</b> SEA Directive Topic(s): Cultural Heritage NPPF Paragraphs: 126-141				
<b>4.</b> To protect, conserve, and enhance the historic environment and its setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect, conserve &amp; enhance designated and non-designated heritage assets and their settings?</li> <li>Conserve the character of historic environment?</li> <li>Improve access to and understanding of heritage?</li> <li>Provide opportunities to enhance knowledge on the archaeological resource?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Magic Map</li> <li>DNPA GIS Layers</li> <li>Historic Environment Paper (2017)</li> <li>At Risk Register</li> <li>Conservation Area Appraisals</li> <li>Neighbourhood Plans</li> <li>Google Maps</li> </ul>	++	The site option will have a major positive effect on heritage assets and their settings; will help resolve an existing issue/problem in the area.
			+	Development may improve access to heritage assets and/or may enhance heritage assets such as a Listed Building; provides additional survey information.
			0	Development will not negatively or positively affect any heritage assets, with a residual neutral effect.
			?	There is uncertainty to the effect of development on designated or undesignated heritage features; gaps in information.
			-	Development has the potential for a minor negative effect on a Listed Building, Conservation Area, Scheduled Monument, Premier Archaeological Landscapes (PAL) or undesignated heritage assets; mitigation possible.



			--	The site option has the potential for a major negative effect on a Listed Building/ Conservation Area, Scheduled Monument, PAL; mitigation difficult or expensive.
<b>Theme: Soils, Land &amp; Minerals</b>				
SEA Directive Topic(s): Soil NPPF Paragraphs: 79-92, 109-125				
5. To protect and conserve soil, land and minerals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Result in the loss of soils and agricultural land?</li> <li>Make the best use of brownfield land?</li> <li>Promote sustainable mineral extraction?</li> <li>Protect future mineral resources?</li> <li>Minimise the risk of contaminating soils?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Magic Map</li> <li>DNPA GIS Layers</li> <li>Google Maps</li> <li>Dartmoor Minerals Paper (2017)</li> <li>Landscape Character Study (2017)</li> </ul>	++	The site option is entirely brownfield land and includes no greenfield land.
			+	The site option is partially brownfield land.
			0	No negative or positive effect on soils, overall neutral effect.
			?	There is uncertainty as to the effect of the site option on soils; gaps in information.
			-	The site option will result in the loss of agricultural land and/or is partially within a mineral safeguarded area. Potential for minor negative effect.
			--	The site option will result in the loss of agricultural land and is entirely within a mineral safeguarded area, with a residual major negative effect.
<b>Theme: Water - Resources, Quality and Flooding</b>				
SEA Directive Topic(s): Water NPPF Paragraphs: 99-125				
6. To promote efficient water use and		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Magic Map</li> <li>DNPA GIS Layers</li> </ul>	++	Not Applicable

improve water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote sustainable water management and water use efficiencies?</li> <li>Result in any loss of quality or quantity that could affect WFD objectives for good ecological status?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South West River Basin Management Plan</li> <li>Environment Agency Online Maps</li> <li>Catchment Data Explorer</li> </ul>	+	There is the potential for minor positive effect on the status of waterbodies.
			0	The site option will not negatively affect the status of waterbodies with a residual neutral effect.
			?	There is uncertainty with regards to the effect of the site option on the water environment; gaps in information.
			-	The site option will have a minor negative effect on the chemical or ecological status of a water body; and/or is within a designated water protection zone mitigation possible.
			--	Not Applicable
7. To reduce the risk of flooding from all sources and manage flood risk more sustainably	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Propose development in a flood zone, Critical Drainage Area, or put properties at risk of flooding?</li> <li>Provide opportunities for addressing flood risk?</li> <li>Promote sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDs)?</li> <li>Provide any opportunities for progressing more sustainable management of habitats and flood risk management in upper catchments (resolving existing problems)?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DNPA GIS Layers</li> <li>Environment Agency Online Flood Zone Maps</li> <li>DNPA Strategic Flood Risk Assessment</li> </ul>	++	The site option can contribute to the reduction of flood risk in the local area, helping resolve and existing problem; possibilities for SUDs and/or upper catchment habitats for flood risk mitigation.
			+	Potential for the site option to accommodate SUDs, with a minor positive effect.
			0	The site option is not located in a flood zone and will not contribute to alleviating flood risk, with a neutral effect.
			?	There is some uncertainty as to the effect of the site option on flooding; gaps in information.
			-	The site option is partially located within a flood zone (2-3) or a Critical Drainage Area; however, mitigation may be possible through development avoiding this part of the site.

			--	Site option is entirely located within a designated flood zone, with a major negative effect.
<b>Theme: Communities</b>				
SEA Directive Topic(s): Population and Human Health NPPF Paragraphs: 47-78				
<b>8.</b> To maintain and enhance community and settlement identities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have an effect on the identity of any communities or settlements, including those split with other Local Plan boundaries?</li> <li>Likely to affect rural community vitality?</li> <li>Likely to strengthen the role of local &amp; rural centres?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Google Maps</li> <li>Neighbourhood Plans</li> <li>Parish Profiles</li> <li>Parish Workshops &amp; Meetings</li> </ul>	++	There is identified community support for new development and development will strengthen the role of the Local Centres or rural vitality
			+	The site option has the potential to strengthen the role of Local Centres & rural vitality, and will have a positive effect on the settlements identity and/or community
			0	The site option will have no negative or positive effects on the local community, overall neutral effect.
			?	There is some uncertainty as to the effect of the site option on the community and settlement identity.
			-	The site option would have a minor negative effect on the settlement's identity and/or community.
			--	The site option would have a major negative effect on the settlement's identity and/or community.
<b>9.</b> To support the provision & accessibility of services & facilities <sup>155</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support sufficient services &amp; facilities for existing communities &amp; new development?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Google Maps</li> <li>Neighbourhood Plans</li> <li>Parish Profiles</li> </ul>	++	Development could help improve services & facilities resolving an existing sustainability issue or problem.
			+	Development could help maintain current services & facilities by supporting vitality of Local Centres, and/or the site option has good access to a range of services/facilities

<sup>155</sup> Please note that capacity of access routes and parking is covered by SA Objective Nos 13 & 14 on transport

			0	A neutral effect is not considered possible
			?	There is some uncertainty as to the effect of the site option on local services/facilities.
			-	The site option has no access to services/facilities, or there are limited services/facilities in the settlement
			--	The site option does not have access to any services/facilities and will have a negative effect on the local services/facilities
<b>Theme: Housing</b>				
SEA Directive Topic(s): Population and Human Health NPPF Paragraphs: 47-78				
<b>10.</b> To ensure that the housing needs of all National Park residents are met	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide sufficient quality housing to meet the identified needs of all communities within the National Park?</li> <li>Provide an appropriate mix of types of housing, including affordable &amp; adaptable?</li> <li>Provide for those whose work is important to the National Park, including agricultural &amp; forestry?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OAN</li> <li>LAA</li> <li>Paper (2017)</li> </ul>	++	Site option will provide housing to meet the needs of all in the National Park, including affordable, adaptable & for key workers
			+	Provides housing but not necessarily for all
			0	Site option is providing employment land with no housing identified, with a residual neutral effect.
			?	Not Applicable
			-	Not Applicable
			--	Not Applicable

<b>Theme: Health and Equalities</b>				
SEA Directive Topic(s): Population and Human Health NPPF Paragraphs: 69-78				
<b>11.</b> To improve the health and wellbeing of communities and reduce inequalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Have an effect that results in the loss or gain of any significant areas of Green Infrastructure, open space, leisure, or recreation for people?</li> <li>■ Encourage healthy lifestyles<sup>156</sup>?</li> <li>■ Promote access &amp; use of the National Park for different ethnic groups?</li> <li>■ Promote access &amp; use of the National Park for disabled people?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Indices of Deprivation</li> <li>■ Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study</li> <li>■ Parish Profiles</li> <li>■ DNPA GIS Layers</li> <li>■ Magic Map</li> <li>■ Google Maps</li> </ul>	++	The site option will provide new areas of green infrastructure and/or public open space, and/or help sustain a local health centre- with a major positive effect.
			+	The site option will enhance existing green infrastructure and/or has good access to public open space and may promote better access to existing green infrastructure and public open space.
			0	There will be no loss or enhancement of green infrastructure or public open space.
			?	There is uncertainty around the effect of the site option on public open space and green infrastructure; gaps in information.
			-	The site option is located in an area with no easily accessible green infrastructure or public open space facilities.
			--	There will be a loss of Public Open Space or leisure/recreation facilities where there is already an existing deficit identified for major effects.
<b>Theme: Economy and Employment</b>				
SEA Directive Topic(s): Population and Human Health NPPF Paragraphs: 18-22				
<b>12.</b> To promote & support the economy, especially key business sectors of tourism,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Promote &amp; support key areas of tourism, leisure/recreation, agriculture/forestry, or small businesses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Employment Land Review</li> </ul>	++	The site option will provide new, or safeguard existing, employment land that will support a key area of the economy on Dartmoor.
			+	The site option will provide new, or safeguard, employment land.

<sup>156</sup> Please note that encouraging healthy lifestyles through sustainable transport is addressed in the theme following on Transport & Movement

agriculture, leisure/recreation & small businesses	<p>appropriate to character of Dartmoor?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote flexibility, including home-working?</li> <li>Encourage the use of local products and services?</li> <li>Maintain progress with faster broadband &amp; mobile technologies appropriate for the character of the National Park?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic Development Needs Assessment</li> <li>Parish Profiles</li> <li>Neighbourhood Plans</li> </ul>	0	The site option is not proposing any employment land and will not result in the loss of employment land.
			?	There is uncertainty as to the effect of the site option on employment; gaps in information.
			-	The site option will result in the loss of employment land.
			--	N/A
<p><b>Theme: Transport and Movement; Air Quality<sup>157</sup></b> SEA Directive Topic(s): Population and Human Health NPPF Paragraphs: 29-41</p>				
<p><b>13.</b> To help reduce congestion, particularly on outskirts of the National Park, and reduce associated indirect impacts on air quality and greenhouse gas emissions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Help in reducing identified congestion?</li> <li>Exacerbate existing parking issues?</li> <li>Result in an increase in congestion with a negative effect on air quality?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Google Maps</li> <li>Devon and Torbay Local Transport Plan (2014)</li> <li>Magic Map</li> <li>AQMA Boundary Map</li> <li>Parish Profiles</li> <li>Neighbourhood Plans</li> </ul>	++	The site option will actively reduce traffic in an area with identified congestion issues and/or provide additional parking, with a major positive effect.
			+	The site option will not result in an increase in traffic with a minor positive effect.
			0	The site option will have an increase in traffic however the increase will not be significant and is not in a congested area or AQMA, with a residual neutral effect.
			?	

<sup>157</sup> Given the close relationship between traffic and air quality, it is not considered necessary to have a separate SA Objective specifically relating to air quality.



				There is uncertainty with regards to the effect of the site option on congestion and air quality; gaps in information.
			-	The site option will result in an increase in traffic in an area with identified congestion issues and/or may have an urbanising effect on the rural character of local roads.
			--	The site option will significantly increase traffic in a congested area and/or a nearby AQMA, and will exacerbate an existing parking issue within the settlement, with a major negative effect.
<p><b>14.</b> To encourage a change to sustainable transport modes and to reduce the need to travel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Improve access to, and quality of, sustainable transport modes?</li> <li>■ Provide opportunities to enhance the cycling &amp; footpath network?</li> <li>■ Encourage a reduction in the need to travel by car?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Google Maps</li> <li>■ Devon and Torbay Local Transport Plan (2014)</li> <li>■ Bus Timetables</li> <li>■ Magic Map</li> <li>■ Parish Profiles</li> <li>■ Neighbourhood Plans</li> </ul>	++	The site option has good access to footpaths, sustainable transport links, the PRow network and cycle routes, and public transport services run regularly throughout the year.
			+	The site option has good access to either footpaths, sustainable transport links, the PRow network or cycle routes.
			0	Not Applicable
			?	There is uncertainty with regards to the effect of the site option on sustainable transport.
			-	The site has poor access to footpaths, sustainable transport links, the PRow network or cycle routes, and the public transport links are infrequent.
			--	The site option has no access to footpaths, sustainable transport links, the PRow network or cycle routes.

<b>Theme: Waste</b> SEA Directive Topic(s): Material Assets NPPF Paragraphs: 5, 142-149			
<b>15.</b> To reduce waste & promote reuse and recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Reduce waste?</li> <li>■ Promote reuse, recycling or composting?</li> </ul>		This topic has been scoped out of the SA site assessments as all site options have the potential to provide sustainable design and waste management – as guided by other core policies.

## 5.0 PROPOSED METHODS

### Introduction

- 5.1 This section explains the proposed approach and methods for the SA (incorporating SEA, Health & EqIA) of the Dartmoor National Park Local Plan Review. The DNPA published an Issues Paper for consultation in October 2016 and summarised the responses received with the publication of the Issues Consultation Report in April 2017. They are now collecting evidence to inform the preparation of the new plan and are likely to consider strategic options for distributing the identified need for new development and strategic policy approaches to guide and manage such development within the National Park.
- 5.2 The SA will use the Frameworks of SA Objectives with their decision-aiding questions to guide the appraisal in the determination of the nature and significance of the effects. The categories of significance are set out in the key below.

**Table 5.1: SA Significance Key**

Categories of Significance		
	Meaning	Sustainability Effect
++	Major Positive	Proposed policy or development encouraged as would resolve existing sustainability problem
+	Minor Positive	No sustainability constraints and proposed policy or development acceptable
0	Neutral	Neutral effect
?	Uncertain	Uncertain or Unknown Effects
-	Minor Negative	Potential sustainability issues: mitigation and/or negotiation possible
--	Major Negative	Problematical, improbable because of known sustainability issues; mitigation likely to be difficult and/or expensive

- 5.3 The nature of the likely sustainability effects (including positive/negative, duration (short, medium or long term), permanent/ temporary, secondary<sup>158</sup>, cumulative<sup>159</sup> and synergistic<sup>160</sup>) will be described in the appraisal commentary, together with any assumptions or uncertainties, such as information gaps. Where necessary, the SA will make suggestions and recommendations to mitigate negative effects or promote opportunities for enhancement. The appraisal will be undertaken using professional judgment,

<sup>158</sup> Any aspect of a plan that may have an impact (positive or negative), but that is not a direct result of the proposed plan.

<sup>159</sup> Incremental effects resulting from a combination of two or more individual effects, or from an interaction between individual effects – which may lead to a synergistic effect (i.e. greater than the sum of individual effects), or any progressive effect likely to emerge over time.

<sup>160</sup> These arise from the interaction of a number of impacts so that their combined effects are greater than the sum of their individual impacts.

supported by the baseline information and wider Plan evidence base. A summary appraisal commentary will be provided to set out any significant effects identified, together with suggestions for mitigation or enhancement to be made where relevant.

## SA of Alternatives

- 5.4 The DNPA is limited in the strategic options possible to investigate since it must comply with the requirements of its statutory designation as a National Park. Each reasonable strategic option will be subject to assessment using the full Strategic SA Framework (Table 4.1) and recorded in a matrix similar to that presented in Table 5.2 as follows:

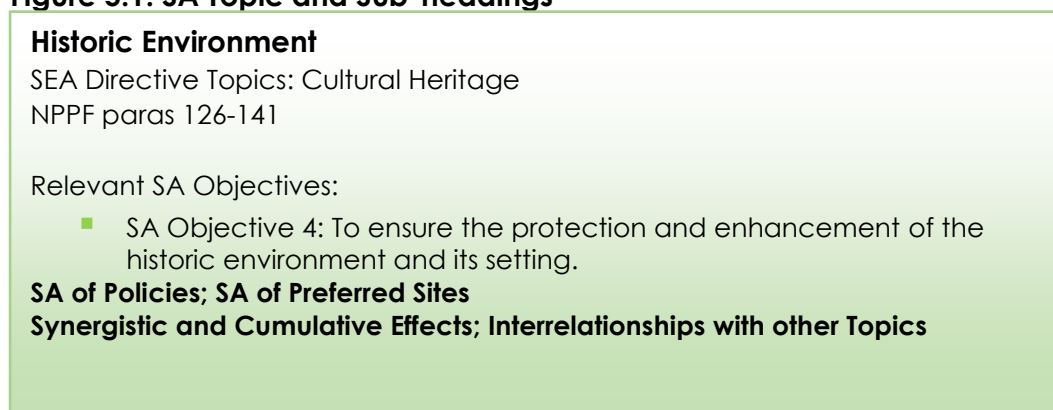
**Table 5.2: Example SA Matrix for Strategic Options**

SA Objective	Assessment of Effects  Nature of the likely sustainability effect (including positive/negative, short - medium term (5-10 years)/long term (10 - 20 years plus), permanent/temporary, secondary, cumulative and synergistic); Uncertainty	Option		
		Description of Option		
<b>1</b>	Narrative describing likely significant effects; possibilities for mitigating negative effects & enhancing positive effects; residual effects; comparative assessment; supported by baseline evidence where available; uncertainty and any key gaps in information; and any recommendations for plan-making.	+	?	-
<b>2</b>				

- 5.5 Each option that passes the Sites Assessment Method used by the DNPA to investigate suitability and potential deliverability of sites for possible allocation will be subject to SA using the Sites SA Framework – and using the same matrix and significance key as described above. Detailed assessments will be reported in technical appendices and summary findings provided in the main SA Report. The SA, alongside a range of other studies and evidence base documents, will inform the Authority’s decision regarding which site options are progressed or rejected into the emerging Local Plan as proposed allocations for development.
- 5.6 Any reasonable policy options will be considered using the Strategic SA Framework. A comparative appraisal narrative will be produced for each policy topic or area to set out any significant effects for individual policy options, along with suggestions for mitigation or enhancement.
- 5.7 The draft Vision and Local Plan Objectives will be subject to SA using the Strategic SA Framework; the Vision by narrative and sustainability themes, the Objectives through compatibility analysis.

- 5.8 The SA is required to consider the likely significant effects of the implementation of a plan as a whole, ie the strategic approach, policies, and proposed site allocations. The SA will be structured under topic headings, that have been linked to Objectives in the SA Framework as well as topics in the SEA Directive and paragraphs in the NPPF. This provides a structure to evaluate the likely significant effects of the Local Plan against these key topics, including health and equality. The appraisal of each topic will be considered within sub-headings, as relevant, to ensure that each aspect of the emerging Plan is considered as well as the interrelationships between topics and the cumulative effects of the Plan as a whole. This method allows the SA to focus on the policies and preferred sites that are likely to have significant effects. It also allows for the consideration of mitigation that may be provided through policies in the Plan. An example of a topic and sub-headings is provided below in Figure 5.1 below.

**Figure 5.1: SA Topic and Sub-headings**



### **Health and Equalities Impact Assessment**

- 5.9 The Equality Act (2010) recognises nine protected characteristics as follows: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation. The Local Plan is limited in what protected characteristics may be influenced; however, consideration of effects on equality and health will be made throughout the SA process. The SA Frameworks (Tables 4.2 and 4.3) and sustainability topics contain several direct and indirect links to health and equality, especially SA Objective No 9 Accessibility to Services & Facilities, and SA Objective No 11 Health & Equality. In order to demonstrate compliance with the Equality Act 2010, a separate detailed screening will be carried out and presented as technical appendix to the SA Report; each element of the Local Plan Review will be assessed against each of the protected characteristics. An EqIA demonstrates how the Authority has met with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) as set out under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.

### **Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)**

- 5.10 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (as amended) (2010) [the Habitats Regulations] require that HRA is applied to all statutory land use plans in England and Wales. The aim of the HRA process is to assess the

potential effects arising from a plan against the nature conservation objectives of any site designated for its nature conservation importance. The HRA of the DNPA Local Plan Review will be undertaken alongside the SA with the findings of the HRA informing the SA. The methods and findings of the HRA process will be reported separately and be sent to the statutory consultee (Natural England) and placed on consultation for the wider public alongside the SA and the emerging Local Plan.

### **How Will the SA Inform the Decision-Making Process?**

- 5.11 SA is an assessment tool that helps to inform decision-making. The DNPA will consider the findings of the SA alongside the wider evidence base to inform decision-making in relation to the selection or rejection of alternatives and development of policy for the Local Plan Review. SA is an iterative and ongoing process that will be undertaken at each stage of plan-making. SA Reports will accompany the Local Plan on consultation at various stages and set out the method and findings of the SA as well as reasons for the selection or rejection of alternatives in plan-making.

## **6.0 CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 This draft SA Scoping Report sets out the process that will be undertaken and will be published on the DNPA website for public consultation in August 2017 for 5 weeks. The Report will be subject to consultation with the SEA statutory bodies: the Environment Agency, Historic England, and Natural England - as well as stakeholders and the public. The consultation responses received will be considered and taken into account in the assessments and recorded in a Final SA Scoping Report.