

E Farming and land management on Exmoor



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“By 2020 profitable and competitive farming, forestry and land management enterprises in Exmoor National Park are playing a lead role in conserving and enhancing Exmoor’s landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage, and are making a major contribution to achieving a carbon-neutral National Park”

E. Farming and land management on Exmoor

- 6.1 It cannot be over-stressed that the Exmoor landscape that is so valued today has been created and maintained by grazing animals – particularly cattle and sheep – managed primarily for food production. While geology and geography have determined the essential landform of Exmoor – its climate, hills, valleys, rivers and streams and coastal features – it is agriculture that has had the major influence on the mosaic of vegetation cover, the wildlife it supports and the pattern and character of Exmoor's farmsteads, hamlets, villages and towns.
- 6.2 Over thousands of years, farmers cleared the original wildwood cover and formed the intimate pattern of fields, moor and woods. Moorland vegetation now dominates the poorer, more lightly-grazed soils and more nutritious grasses are grown on the richer, flatter land. Steep slopes typically support woodland that provided fuel, timber, and shelter for the farms and until recently, provided other products like charcoal and tan bark. The distinctive farmsteads were created as the hub of farming activity while hamlets and villages grew up to meet the requirements of the farms, providing homes for farm workers, markets, services, shops, and meeting religious and social needs. Much of the land of Exmoor was in the ownership of a few large estates and the farms contributed to other aspirations of their owners – meeting sporting, recreation, social and aesthetic objectives.

The national and regional significance of farming and land management on Exmoor

- 6.3 Exmoor is one of three upland areas in the South West of England – Exmoor, Dartmoor and Bodmin Moor. Traditional hill farming is essential to the maintenance of the character of the National Park, upon which its economy depends, and to the livelihood and social life of many of its residents. It is the skill and commitment of the farming community that maintains the landscape that is the essence of the National Park. The benefits extend well beyond the National Park to the wider regional economy as Exmoor represents an important 'attractor' to the region.
- 6.4 The relatively harsh climate has favoured livestock farming and, historically, Exmoor has contributed to regional livestock farming by raising store lambs and suckled calves that are sold on for fattening to lowland farms. In recent years, however, more farms are now finishing lamb and beef, particularly those that are selling to specialist or local produce markets.
- 6.5 Forestry and timber production on Exmoor developed through the 18th and 19th centuries as entrepreneurial estate owners experimented with planting exotic species such that by the early 20th century, and with the formation of the Forestry Commission, estate owners and foresters had a good understanding of the outstanding timber growing potential of the area. With its long growing season, clean air, sheltered aspect and good soils, Exmoor provides model conditions for timber growing and extensive conifer plantations were planted especially across the eastern hills.
- 6.6 Exmoor now boasts some of the most high yielding and extensive plantations in the South West and some of the tallest trees in England (Douglas fir at Broadwood). With the careful redesigning, restructuring and development of continuous cover silvicultural systems, sustainable production of high quality softwood will continue to be an important land use and part of the economy.
- 6.7 Recently, the growth in game bird shooting, principally pheasant and partridge, has increased in importance for land management and the economy of the National Park and surrounding area. A study by Public and Corporate Economic Consultants (PACCEC)^[12] in 2006 tracked £21m shoot-related expenditure by participants to first time suppliers with £2.6m going to staff; a further £3.3m spent in Exmoor, and £9.4m spent in the rest of the South West.

Trends and issues affecting farming and land management on Exmoor

The agricultural economy

- 6.8 The agricultural economy of Exmoor is dominated by hill farming although on the better land to the north and east of the National Park – in the Porlock Vale and on the Brendon Hills – arable crops are grown and there are a few dairy farms on the perimeter of the area. The typical upland farms have access to a combination of moorland for grazing and enclosed pasture and improved land where silage, hay and root crops can be grown for winter feed. They are typically larger than the lowland farms with 9% being over 500 ha compared with 2% of non-moorland farms. They are more likely to have been in the hands of the current operator for a long period of time, are more likely to be operated by a farmer over 65 years of age and are considerably more likely to have been in the same family since before the 20th century^[17].

- 6.9 The extended length of both current management and family occupancy of moorland farms means that present moorland farmers hold a significant store of land management knowledge and skills and that they and their family's attachment to the land is an important facet of Exmoor's upland farming cultural history. Continued family occupancy and management of moorland farms is a key to providing continuity of management during changes and uncertainties in the farming economy.
- 6.10 The latest figures available (for 2005) show a total of 864 registered farm holdings managing just under 53,000 ha, of which approximately 22.5% is classed as rough grazing (11,919 ha). In 2000, Exmoor farms provided direct employment for 1387 people, of whom only 41% were full-time. By 2005 the number of people employed on Exmoor farms had fallen by just 1% to 1374. That said, the number of full-time jobs has continued to decline with just 38% now in full-time farm employment. Some 60% of all farm employment and 70% of full-time farm employment on Exmoor is accounted for by 'Less Favoured Area' (LFA) farms.
- 6.11 The structure of agricultural employment has changed in recent years with a decrease in full-time and hired workers and an increase in part-time farmers. However, the figures do not reflect the true value of primary industries to the local economy because of the spin-off to support and service industries. There also appears to be a considerable net import of labour from areas outside of the National Park that does not show in the census returns.
- 6.12 Farming is, to a large extent, at the mercy of economic factors affecting the market for farm products and European Union and Government policy. The total value of farming output on Exmoor is estimated to be £18.5 million in 2004/05, of which subsidy payments, including agri-environmental payments, was £11,105,763. In the financial year ending 2005, the Net Farm Income for Exmoor farms was £5.27 million. In the same year, total subsidy payments (excluding agri-environmental payments) amounted to £8.05 million. In other words, the subsidies accounted for 153% of Net farm Income and in their absence Exmoor farming would have been in deficit by some £2.78 million.
- 6.13 The BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalitis) crisis in the 1980's and foot & mouth disease outbreak in 2001 hit the livestock industries on Exmoor extremely hard. International exchange rates and relatively cheap imports continue to depress the prices for farm commodities so that prices received for some UK products are lower than the cost of production. As an example, in autumn 2005 a 10 month old suckled calf reared on Exmoor would be expected to obtain about £290 at market compared to £342 in 1981^[18] – a huge reduction in value when inflation rates are taken into account.
- 6.14 In addition, public funding for agriculture is changing as the changes arising from the review of the European Community Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) take effect. Public funding support is being 'decoupled' from production and in England this has led to the introduction of the Single Payment Scheme. Even without the major problems and delays in payment that greeted the introduction of the new scheme, the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) represents a reduction in overall funding for farming in Exmoor as it is based on land area rather than farm productivity. The forthcoming review of special hill farming support is also likely to mean a reduction of income from this source. The decision to limit Hill Farm Allowance (HFA) payments (and future upland support) to only 'Severely Disadvantaged Area' (SDA) land will mean a reduction of income from this source although most of the Less Favoured Area land within the boundaries of the National Park is Severely Disadvantaged Area.
- 6.15 For many farms on Exmoor the Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) scheme has provided important income linked to environmental management by farmers. This scheme is also being phased out and is moving towards a new Environmental Stewardship scheme. While this new scheme is likely to benefit many Exmoor farms, it is no longer constrained, as ESA funding was, to specific geographical areas but Higher Level funds have to be bid for on a competitive basis.

Other challenges to farming on Exmoor

- 6.16 As well as the changing economic conditions there are many other factors that have an impact on the viability of farming on Exmoor. One of the most serious challenges is the increase in the incidence of bovine tuberculosis (TB) in cattle. Detection of this disease in a herd leads to loss of the infected animals, restrictions on the movement of animals and a regular testing regime for remaining stock until the herd is determined as being free of the disease. The recent increase in the disease means that all Exmoor cattle are now being tested for bovine TB every 2, 6 or 12 months, depending on the severity of the problem on the particular farm.
- 6.17 Some wildlife species are susceptible to bovine TB, particularly the badger, and there is concern about the level of this disease in the local badger population. Whilst cattle-to-cattle transmission of the disease is a primary route for the spread of the disease, the majority of cattle farmers and

farming organisations believe that infected badgers are an important vector and there are strong calls for a reduction in badger numbers. Disagreement about the best way to deal with the disease in badger populations means that no official disease control programmes have yet been implemented. Bovine TB has also been detected in a small number of red deer on Exmoor but is not thought to be a major problem in this species.

- 6.18 Other important livestock diseases include several that are transmitted by ticks. The most important of these are red water fever in cattle and louping ill affecting sheep. Locally bred stock tends to build up natural immunity to these diseases but they can result in serious losses of animals new to a tick infested area and exposed to the diseases for the first time. Whilst livestock vaccines are available, these diseases provide a disincentive to graze livestock in areas where they are likely to be exposed to high numbers of ticks. Moreover, in moorland and other habitats where locally bred livestock with natural immunity have been removed, these diseases make the reintroduction of grazing animals more difficult.
- 6.19 Whilst reliable survey information is not available, there is considerable anecdotal evidence that the populations of ticks have increased markedly on Exmoor in recent years. Changes in land management, particularly reduction in the scale and frequency of moorland and grassland burning, is often cited as the reason for the increase in tick numbers although, in fact, tick numbers are often low in heather and higher in other habitats, especially bracken and woodland. Moreover, tick numbers have increased in many other parts of the UK implying that more general climatic changes are likely to be a primary factor. Whatever the causes of the increase in ticks, programmes to reduce their numbers are expensive, complex and have little chance of success long-term. Awareness of the disease risks and support for treatments such as inoculation are likely to be the best that can be done to adapt to the tick problem.

Options for the future

- 6.20 The cumulative impact of the changes outlined above is likely to be an overall drop in income for agriculture on Exmoor in the next five years. The pressure on those involved in agriculture “to get bigger, get different or get out” could lead to major changes including:
- A reduction in the number of farm animals on Exmoor, particularly cattle, leading to less grazing of moorland, a consequent increase in scrub and the loss of moorland species and of the open character of moorland areas, as well as a reduction in the need for farm labour
 - Many farms will need to develop other sources of income to survive leading to pressure for non agricultural development which could impact on the character of the National Park
 - Pressure to move to new farm products, such as energy crops, which could impact on landscape and ecology
 - An increase in the development of commercial recreation, such as equestrian and motor sports, and game shooting on farms
 - A loss of many middle sized farms leading to a smaller number of large farms covering larger areas and requiring new farm buildings and other infrastructure
 - Some farms becoming more intensive with effects on the farmed landscape including, for example, more large agricultural buildings and piles of silage bales
 - Loss of employment in farming and subsequent loss of rural skills and reduced maintenance of landscape feature such as hedgebanks
 - Better prospects for farms that develop and market high quality local products and local goods
- 6.21 As farm support based on production continues to decline, farmers in the National Park are likely to be faced with stark decisions about their future business strategy. Increasing stock numbers, cutting the cost of inputs and relinquishing the more marginal land is an option for some livestock producers seeking to compete with world commodity prices. This strategy will have important implications for the maintenance of the character and special features of the Exmoor landscape and there are already signs of the potential consequences
- 6.22 There is already a trend away from keeping stock that are well adapted to grazing the moorlands in favour of stock better suited to more productive in-bye ground. In part, this has been in response to the requirement of the past 12 years not to graze any cattle at all (particularly dry cows) on moorland in winter. Whilst this policy has had benefits in reducing damage to habitats it has also contributed to the spread of gorse and bracken, replacing heather and all other vegetation; a change in breed of cattle, from hill breeds, to less hardy breeds (such as Limousin X cows) that generally fare better than traditional breeds in winter housing, and the need to put up large winter housing sheds.

- 6.23 Smaller scale production, supplying higher value niche markets is an option for some, perhaps capitalising on the upsurge in interest in locally-distinctive, locally-sourced produce, marketed directly from the producer to the consumer. However, benefiting from this demand requires value to be added to farm produce through improved finishing of stock, processing, packaging and advertising, and the development of expertise in a range of areas, including information technology and dealing with the public. This approach provides a real opportunity for farms in greater Exmoor, West Somerset and North Devon.
- 6.24 However, the distance of Exmoor from large populations that provide the demand for specialist produce is likely to mean that relatively few Exmoor farms will be able to benefit from a niche market approach. Another constraint arises from the relatively harder conditions on Exmoor so that, currently, over 80% of all beef cattle and 50% of all lambs from upland Exmoor farms have to be sent to lowland farms for finishing (in the case of cattle for between 4 months and 20 months, often on arable by-products). Other farms will continue to diversify their business, particularly into tourism related activities. Inevitably, some farms will be sold and new farms formed by aggregating the land released when farms are sold as smaller holdings and move away from farm production.
- 6.25 Exmoor National Park Authority has an approach to planning that looks for solutions to meet the needs of local communities while conserving the special qualities of the National Park. This includes provision of more-affordable housing to meet local needs in rural settlements; the provision of new agricultural buildings for new agricultural enterprises wherever appropriate; the conversion of existing farm buildings to new uses, and the provision of new infrastructure such as small scale renewable energy generation.
- 6.26 Most farms on Exmoor rely on bought-in feed, fertiliser and straw. Those farms finishing stock also usually have to buy in 'concentrate' feed and by-products such as brewers' grains and off-spec potatoes. Until recently, farm payments have encouraged an increase in stock numbers leading to a change from a more self sufficient mixed farming system to pastoral agriculture and this has been reinforced by Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) requirements that discourage the ploughing of grass fields for arable crops. These changes have had a profound effect on farmland wildlife with declines in farmland birds, invertebrates and many wild plants, especially arable weeds.
- 6.27 A move towards less intensive and more self-reliant farming systems would be better for the environment and even a modest proportion of farms reverting to a more mixed regime could help to reverse the decline in farmland wildlife. However, much depends upon the intensity of the farming and replacement of pasture by intensive cereal crop production with higher fertiliser and pesticide inputs and without winter stubble is not likely to be beneficial.
- 6.28 Organic farming is one way in which a more sustainable approach can be adopted and some Exmoor farms are benefiting from a national grant system for organic conversion. However, whilst the market for organic produce is growing it is still very much a niche market nationally and the current levels of demand would not provide a viable return if a substantial proportion of the traditional producers of suckled calves and store cattle, and store lambs (a large majority of Exmoor farms) converted at this time.
- 6.29 Many farms are likely to consider sustainable energy systems generating energy from farm slurries and manures; making better use of wood fuel from farm woodlands and hedgerows, as well as greater use of wind, water and solar power. Energy crops such as elephant grass (*Miscanthus*) are also being encouraged by government support although there are concerns on Exmoor about the impact on the landscape. In addition, the benefits of these crops as a means to tackle climate change are unproven. Carbon dioxide is emitted through the cultivation, planting, and harvesting of these crops and there is no locally based market for these biofuel crops so they have to be transported long distances by road. The National Park Authority will work farmers and landowners to help ensure that use of new crops and techniques minimises any adverse impacts on landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage in the National Park.

Farming and environmental quality

- 6.30 More than 80% of the land area of the National Park is farmed and farmers make the most important contribution to environmental management on Exmoor. Over the next ten years public funding support for agriculture will shift towards a greater emphasis on public benefits achieved through maintenance of high quality landscapes, increasing biodiversity and improving public access. Those farms on Exmoor with higher quality environmental assets will be well placed to benefit from this shift in emphasis although there are concerns that many Exmoor farms that have benefited from the Exmoor Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) scheme will not qualify for higher level agri-environment schemes in future. The National Park Authority and other organisations such as the National Farmers Union (NFU) and Country Land & Business Association (CLA) wish to see

greater recognition of the environmental management role played by farming with grant regimes that are commensurate with the benefits provided by farming.

- 6.31 The water environment is particularly sensitive to inadvertent pollution and incidents involving slurries and manures from livestock farming and run-off of fertilisers, sheep dips and silage stores can cause serious problems in streams and rivers. Observance by the majority of farms of the 'Codes of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Air, Land & Water Quality'^[19] published by Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), means that serious incidents are rare in the National Park.

Woodland management and forestry

- 6.32 While most land on Exmoor is used in food production by grazing animals some 8,400 ha is covered by woodland. Historically these were broadleaved woodlands dominated by oak and were on the steeper sloping land within the farm and estate structure. They provided a range of products and benefits including firewood, timber, shelter for stock, charcoal and tanbark.
- 6.33 During the 20th century more extensive areas, particularly on heathland, were planted with conifers for timber production. There are now about 3,000 hectares of forestry plantations in the National Park about a third of which is on former heathland, a third on former broadleaved woodland sites and a third on former farmland. Little of the timber grown on Exmoor is utilised locally and most is transported out of the area for processing. The South West region has relatively little processing capacity and the markets for locally grown timber and forest products are prone to considerable fluctuation due to competition from imports, including from regions across the world where forests are not being managed in a sustainable way.
- 6.34 There are exceptions to this general picture with high quality oak board being manufactured locally and a small number of craft and furniture-making businesses that use locally grown wood products. The National Park Authority produces all of its rights of way signs and other countryside furniture, like gates, fence posts, stiles and bridges, from timber grown in its own woodlands and extracted as part of the conservation management of these woodlands.
- 6.35 The National Park Authority and its partners have been actively encouraging the sustainable management of Exmoor's woodland resources, promoting the development and marketing of woodland products and encouraging planting schemes. The Authority is working with forestry owners in several locations to recreate semi-natural habitat on former conifer plantations to enhance their wildlife conservation, amenity and recreation value. Sustainable management of Exmoor woodlands can also supply wood fuel for heating to help off-set fossil fuel use.
- 6.36 There is the potential for new woodland planting on improved farmland in areas where this can enhance the landscape and diversity of habitats and form a viable alternative to agriculture. One such area is the Brendon Hills region of the National Park.
- 6.37 Forestry is by its nature a long-term investment, however, and the economic benefits of woodland products are likely to change in the time newly planted trees take to grow. The South West Regional Woodland and Forestry Framework^[20] includes an objective to "increase the volume, quality and sustainability of wood and wood products consumed and grown within the region" and Exmoor can make a contribution. Indeed, there are early signs that the growth of the Indian and Chinese economies, together with a greater emphasis globally on retention of the world's natural forests for conservation reasons and to help tackle climate change, will help to create a more buoyant market for domestic timber.

Game bird shooting

- 6.38 Managing land for game bird shooting – pheasant and partridge – has become an increasingly significant activity on Exmoor and generates considerable economic benefits. A recent study^[12] commissioned by the National Park Authority indicated that £9.6 million is spent on game bird shooting each season in the greater Exmoor area. Of this, £4 million remains in the local economy and supports 1600 jobs locally (many seasonal and part-time – equivalent to 240 full time jobs). People shooting game birds on Exmoor spent 16,800 visitor nights locally in the low season months for general tourism.
- 6.39 The quality of the Exmoor landscape setting is one of the factors that attracts people to the area and the management of the woodland and other habitats controlled by the shoots can make a significant contribution to landscape and wildlife conservation. The study indicates that shoot management has a significant influence on 37% of the land area in the National Park and a direct impact on 1700 ha managed for game crops and release pens etc. These activities can have

conservation benefits and game crops can provide important winter feeding areas for farmland birds, many of which have suffered substantial declines since the 1970s.

- 6.40 However, high densities of reared game birds can damage hedges, unimproved grassland and the ground flora and invertebrate fauna of woodland. Their droppings can change vegetation and wildlife can be affected by vermin control and chemicals used in management of game birds, such as disinfectants and the antibiotics added to their food. Pens and feeding areas can also be unsightly and their siting affects vegetation, as does the creation of tracks and planting of conifers for roosting and shelter. Game crops can also have an impact on the beauty of the landscape if their siting, shape and composition are not designed to fit in with existing field patterns.
- 6.41 The freshwater environment is particularly sensitive to pollution and soil run off can lead to siltation in local rivers and streams. Where siltation takes place in salmon and trout spawning gravels the result can be a decline in fish stocks and loss of good conditions for angling. To avoid causing these problems, managers of shoots are encouraged to site pheasant holding pens so that they are well away from water courses – ideally at least 7 metres. Shooting should not be carried out over rivers and streams to prevent spent shot from entering watercourses
- 6.42 The National Park Authority is working with the shoot owners and managers to agree a set of management guidelines that are tailored to the particular circumstances in the National Park ^[21]. The aim over the plan period will be to encourage as many local shoots as possible in the National Park to sign up to the guidelines to help ensure good environmental management and help enhance the reputation of Exmoor’s game bird shoots locally and to the wider public.

Desired outcome for farming and land management on Exmoor

“By 2020 profitable and competitive farming, forestry and land management enterprises in Exmoor National Park are playing a lead role in conserving and enhancing Exmoor’s landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage, and are making a major contribution to achieving a carbon-neutral National Park”

Objectives and targets for farming and land management on Exmoor

[Key targets identified for inclusion in the Core Plan are shown in boxes]

Objective E1

To ensure that all farming, forestry and land management enterprises on Exmoor are contributing to the conservation and enhancement of the landscape, wildlife, cultural heritage and natural resources of the National Park

Targets:

- E 1.1 The majority of farms on Exmoor will have a Farm Environment Record, Farm Environment Plan or comparable statement identifying the important environmental and historical features on their land by the end of 2012 and will be taking this into account in their land management. Lead organisation: Exmoor National Park Authority
- E 1.2 At least 80% of the eligible land on Exmoor will be in an agri-environment scheme such as Environmental Stewardship by the end of 2012 to help ensure good conservation management and increase farm incomes. Lead organisation: Natural England
- E 1.3 At least 80% of timber growing forestry businesses will be managing their woodlands according to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) by the end of 2012 to support good conservation management and increase income for woodland owners and managers, e.g. through the Exmoor WoodCert Forest Management or comparable scheme. Lead organisation: Exmoor National Park Authority
- E 1.4 80% of timber processing and marketing businesses will be sourcing the majority of their timber from local woodland managed to the UKWAS standard by the end of 2012 to help increase the value and flow of locally produced woodland products and increase profitability, e.g. through the Exmoor WoodCert Chain of Custody or comparable scheme. Lead organisation: Exmoor National Park Authority

- E 1.5 At least 90% of game bird shoots in the National Park will be managed in line with the Exmoor Game Bird Shoot Guidelines* by the end of October 2010, to help achieve benefits for wildlife and good relationships with local communities and countryside users, and to enhance the reputation of Exmoor shoots amongst the wider public. Lead organisation: Exmoor National Park Authority [* published by Exmoor National Park Authority and available on the website]
- E 1.6 At least 80% of hedgerows will be managed traditionally or retained as landscape features over the period of the plan to optimise their value for farming, wildlife, landscape and archaeology. Lead organisations: Exmoor National Park Authority with Somerset and Devon Hedge Groups

Objective E2

To support measures that assist in the achievement of profitable and competitive farming, forestry and land management in ways that are sustainable and enhance environmental quality

Targets:

- E 2.1 A renewed livestock market will be provided at Cutcombe by the end of 2009 and suitable market facilities will be accessible to farms across the National Park throughout the period of this plan. Lead organisation: Exmoor Farmers Livestock Auctions Ltd
- E 2.2 Enhanced Government support for farming in the uplands will be sought over the period of the plan to help ensure that farming on Exmoor remains viable and that adequate recognition is given to the public benefits that farming provides. Lead organisations: Exmoor National Park Authority with National Farmers Union and Country Land & Business Association
- E 2.3 The majority of Exmoor farms will have a clear strategy for the future development of their business in place by the end of 2010 to help ensure an adequate return on food produced and secure income from a range of sources including environmental management. Lead organisations: National Farmers Union and Country Land & Business Association
- E 2.4 All land managers will have access to a range of relevant training and development opportunities delivered locally over the period of the plan, including locally-distinctive rural skills, environmental management, renewable energy, business development etc. Lead organisations: North Devon District, West Somerset, Devon County and Somerset County Councils

Objective E3

To ensure that land-based businesses and other land managers are working to mitigate the effects of climate change and are making a positive contribution to efforts to reduce carbon emissions and levels of atmospheric carbon

Targets:

- E 3.1 At least 100 Exmoor farms will be meeting 50% or more of their heating and energy needs from woodfuel and/or other non-fossil fuel sources by the end of 2012. Lead organisation: Greater Exmoor Network for Renewable Energy
- E 3.2 A practical demonstration of farm scale 'energy from farm waste' will be in place within the National Park by end of 2009. Lead organisation: Greater Exmoor Network for Renewable Energy

Objective E4

To ensure the continued existence and viability of the Exmoor Pony and Exmoor's three locally-distinctive breeds of livestock* so that all can be seen in the National Park and free-living Exmoor Ponies remain easily visible in moorland areas
[* i.e. Exmoor Horn and Devon Closewool sheep, and Devon cattle]

Targets:

- E 4.1 Exmoor Ponies will be living free on at least 50% of the moorland blocks by the end of 2010 and the free-living population will not fall below 250 at any time during the plan period. Lead organisation: Exmoor Pony Society
- E 4.2 The number of registered Exmoor Horn and Devon Closewool ewes within the National Park will be maintained at or above 2006 levels over the period of the plan. Lead organisations: Exmoor Horn Sheep Breeders Society; Devon Closewool Sheep Breeders Society