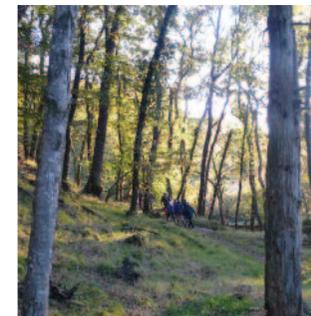
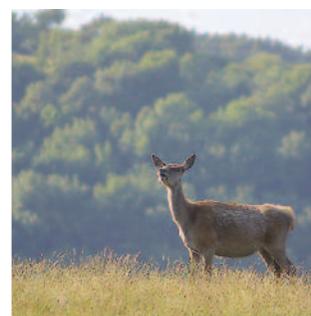
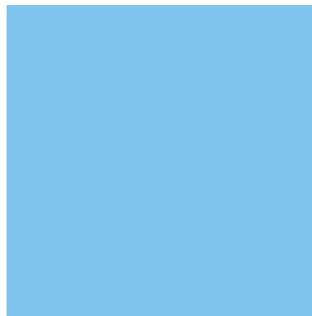
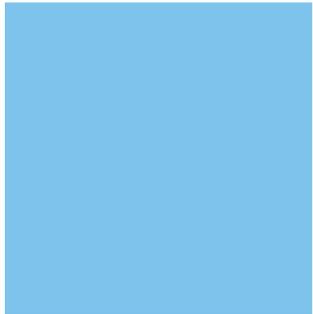


Local Development Framework:
National Park Management Plan/LDF Vision And Objectives,
General Policies And Strategic Options

Habitats Regulations Assessment

November 2011



EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK: NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN/LDF VISION AND OBJECTIVES, GENERAL POLICIES AND STRATEGIC OPTIONS (8 November 2011)

Habitats Regulations Assessment

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A Habitats Regulations Assessment (Appropriate Assessment) is required for all plans under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. To inform the development of policy at this stage the following table gives comments on draft policy options for the Exmoor National Park LDF with regard to likely significant effects arising on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites within its influence.

A priority for the National Park Authority is the provision of affordable housing to meet local needs. It is therefore considered that these developments are likely to be small scale and not large housing developments.

This paper considers the options for the locations of development and delivery of affordable housing.

Location of Development

Policy	Brief Description	Potential Impact on Natura 2000 Sites	Natura 2000 sites Potentially Affected	Comment	Potential Offsetting Measure
Option A	Allow for new build development in all towns and villages listed in the Plan <i>These currently include, Allerford, Barbrook, Bridgetown/Exton, Brendon, Brompton Regis, Challacombe, Dulverton, Dunster, Exford, Luccombe, Luxborough, Lynton and Lynmouth, Monksilver, Parracombe, Porlock, Roadwater, Simonsbath, Timberscombe, Winsford, Withypool, Wheddon Cross/Cutcombe and Wootton Courtenay.</i>				
	Allerford	<p>Barbastelle Bats Potential for severance of flight lines either from habitat loss or change and /or from introduced street lighting</p> <p>Otter Use of the River Aller. Development could result in degradation or loss of bankside habitat and / or result in increased disturbance particularly if there are nearby holts.</p>	Lies with the EZI of the Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC	<p>Barbastelle bats use habitat structures to commute between roost sites and feeding areas, the severance of which could prevent access to feeding territories of individual bats, Barbastelle bats are also averse to artificial lighting.</p> <p>A female otters territory extends to around 15km in Somerset and that a male more. Therefore it is likely that the river through the village is used by otters from the SAC. Although development is unlikely to affect use of the watercourse bank side structure and vegetation should be retained or improved for otters. An increased disturbance is unlikely to be an issue given the scale of any development in the settlement.</p>	<p>The presence of barbastelle bats flight lines and need for maintenance or enhancement should be notified in the Plan.</p> <p>The presence of otter habitat along the river in the settlement and need for maintenance or enhancement should be notified in the Plan.</p> <p>No locations for development have been identified at this stage. Therefore, planning applications would be subject to a 'test of likely significance' under the Habitats Regulations 2010 before planning permission is given.</p>

Policy	Brief Description	Potential Impact on Natura 2000 Sites	Natura 2000 sites Potentially Affected	Comment	Potential Offsetting Measure
		Heath Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use	Exmoor Heaths SAC	The settlement lies within 2 kilometres of the SAC, both to the south and north and is liable to attract walkers and dogs ¹ . Habitat deterioration and loss from trampling of heathland - dwarf shrubs reduced by 50% cover with less than 200 – 400 passages/year; nitrogen enrichment from dog fouling can change heath to grassland. Wet heath plants are more sensitive [Penny Anderson Associates, 2009] However, the scale of development is unlikely to be extensive and the current population of the settlement is unlikely to grow in significant numbers.	None required. No locations for development have been identified at this stage. Therefore, planning applications would be subject to a 'test of likely significance' under the Habitats Regulations 2010 before planning permission is given.
	Barbrook	Otter Use of the West Lynn River and Barbrook. Development could result in degradation or loss of bank side habitat and / or result in increased disturbance particularly if there are nearby holts.	Lies with the EZI of the Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC	A female otters territory extends to around 15km in Somerset and that a male more. Therefore it is likely that the river through the village is used by otters from the SAC. Although development is unlikely to affect use of the watercourse bank side structure and vegetation should be retained or improved for otters. An increased disturbance is unlikely to be an issue given the scale of any development in the settlement.	The presence of otter habitat along the river in the settlement and need for maintenance or enhancement should be notified in the Plan. No locations for development have been identified at this stage. Therefore, planning applications would be subject to a 'test of likely significance' under the Habitats Regulations 2010 before planning permission is given.

¹ In the South West 29% of households own dogs. For the UK as a whole 22% of households own dogs in 2011. (2008/9 statistics, Pet Food Manufacturers Association) Dog walkers on average take 3 walks a day totaling 107 minutes in time, or approximately 36 minutes per walk, at an average speed of 6.44 kilometres per hour (Mail on line, 11/2/2011). The distance walked is therefore likely to be around 3 kilometres.

Policy	Brief Description	Potential Impact on Natura 2000 Sites	Natura 2000 sites Potentially Affected	Comment	Potential Offsetting Measure
		<p>Heath Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use</p> <p>Woodland Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use</p>	<p>Exmoor Heaths SAC</p> <p>Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>The settlement lies within 2 kilometres of component sites of the two Exmoor SACs, both to the south and north and is liable to attract walkers and dogs.</p> <p>Habitat deterioration and loss from trampling of heathland - dwarf shrubs reduced by 50% cover with less than 200 – 400 passages/year; nitrogen enrichment from dog fouling can change heath to grassland. Wet heath plants are more sensitive [Penny Anderson Associates, 2009]</p> <p>In woodland habitat deterioration and loss from trampling (passages as low as 40 - 50/year can eliminate species - species of low productivity, especially ancient woodland flora; lichens and some mosses) [Penny Anderson Associates, 2009]; nitrogen enrichment from dog fouling [Footprint Ecology, 2009]</p> <p>However, the scale of development is unlikely to be extensive and the current population of the settlement is unlikely to grow in significant numbers.</p>	None required.
	Bridgetown/ Exton	<p>Heath Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use</p>	Exmoor Heaths SAC	<p>The settlement lies within 2 kilometres of the SAC to the west and is liable to attract walkers and dogs. Habitat deterioration and loss from trampling of heathland - dwarf shrubs reduced by 50% cover with less than 200 – 400 passages/year; nitrogen enrichment from dog fouling can change heath to grassland. Wet heath plants are more sensitive [Penny Anderson Associates, 2009]</p> <p>However, the scale of development is unlikely to be extensive and the current population of the settlement is unlikely to grow in significant numbers.</p>	None required.

Policy	Brief Description	Potential Impact on Natura 2000 Sites	Natura 2000 sites Potentially Affected	Comment	Potential Offsetting Measure
	Brendon	<p>Otter Use of the River Lynn. Development could result in degradation or loss of bank side habitat and / or result in increased disturbance particularly if there are nearby holts.</p>	Lies with the EZI of the Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC	A female otters territory extends to around 15km in Somerset and that a male more (pers. comm. James Williams, Somerset Otter Group). Therefore it is likely that the river through the village is used by otters from the SAC. Although development is unlikely to affect use of the watercourse bank side structure and vegetation should be retained or improved for otters. An increased disturbance is unlikely to be an issue given the scale of any development in the settlement.	<p>The presence of otter habitat along the river in the settlement and need for maintenance or enhancement should be notified in the Plan.</p> <p>No locations for development have been identified at this stage. Therefore, planning applications would be subject to a 'test of likely significance' under the Habitats Regulations 2010 before planning permission is given.</p>
		<p>Heath Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use</p> <p>Woodland Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use</p>	<p>Exmoor Heaths SAC</p> <p>Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>The settlement lies within 1 kilometres of component sites of the Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SACs to the west and within 3 kilometres of the Exmoor Heaths SAC to the east, both are liable to attract walkers and dogs.</p> <p>Habitat deterioration and loss from trampling of heathland - dwarf shrubs reduced by 50% cover with less than 200 – 400 passages/year; nitrogen enrichment from dog fouling can change heath to grassland. Wet heath plants are more sensitive [Penny Anderson Associates, 2009]</p> <p>In woodland habitat deterioration and loss from trampling (passages as low as 40 - 50/year can eliminate species - species of low productivity, especially ancient woodland flora; lichens and some mosses) [Penny Anderson Associates, 2009]; nitrogen enrichment from dog fouling [Footprint Ecology, 2009]</p> <p>However, the scale of development is unlikely to be extensive and the current population of the settlement is unlikely to grow in significant numbers.</p>	None required.

Policy	Brief Description	Potential Impact on Natura 2000 Sites	Natura 2000 sites Potentially Affected	Comment	Potential Offsetting Measure
	Brompton Regis	None likely.	None	Although a component site of the Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands lies about 3 kilometres to the south it is not considered that it is readily accessible from the settlement.	None required
	Challacombe	No data available for otters on the Devon side of the NP.			
		Heath Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use	Exmoor Heaths SAC	A component site of the Exmoor Heath SAC lies within 2 kilometres to the north and is liable to attract walkers and dogs. Habitat deterioration and loss from trampling of heathland - dwarf shrubs reduced by 50% cover with less than 200 – 400 passages/year; nitrogen enrichment from dog fouling can change heath to grassland. Wet heath plants are more sensitive [Penny Anderson Associates, 2009] However, the scale of development is unlikely to be extensive and the current population of the settlement is unlikely to grow in significant numbers.	None required.
	Dulverton	Otter Use of the River Barle. Development could result in degradation or loss of bank side habitat and / or result in increased disturbance particularly if there are nearby holts.	Lies with the EZI of the Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC	A female otters territory extends to around 15km in Somerset and that a male more. Therefore it is likely that the river through the village is used by otters from the SAC. Although development is unlikely to affect use of the watercourse bank side structure and vegetation should be retained or improved for otters. An increased disturbance is unlikely to be an issue given the scale of any development in the settlement.	The presence of otter habitat along the river in the settlement and need for maintenance or enhancement should be notified in the Plan. No locations for development have been identified at this stage. Therefore, planning applications would be subject to a 'test of likely significance' under the Habitats Regulations 2010 before planning permission is given.

Policy	Brief Description	Potential Impact on Natura 2000 Sites	Natura 2000 sites Potentially Affected	Comment	Potential Offsetting Measure
		Woodland Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use	Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC	<p>The settlement lies within 1 kilometres of component sites of the Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SACs to the north and west and are liable to attract walkers and dogs.</p> <p>In woodland habitat deterioration and loss from trampling (passages as low as 40 - 50/year can eliminate species - species of low productivity, especially ancient woodland flora; lichens and some mosses) [Penny Anderson Associates, 2009]; nitrogen enrichment from dog fouling [Footprint Ecology, 2009]</p> <p>However, the scale of development is unlikely to be extensive and the current population of the settlement is unlikely to grow in significant numbers.</p>	None required.
	Exford	Heath Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use	Exmoor Heaths SAC	<p>A component site of the Exmoor Heath SAC lies within 2 kilometres to the north and is liable to attract walkers and dogs. Habitat deterioration and loss from trampling of heathland - dwarf shrubs reduced by 50% cover with less than 200 – 400 passages/year; nitrogen enrichment from dog fouling can change heath to grassland. Wet heath plants are more sensitive [Penny Anderson Associates, 2009]</p> <p>However, the scale of development is unlikely to be extensive and the current population of the settlement is unlikely to grow in significant numbers.</p>	None required.
	Lucombe	Barbastelle Bats Potential for severance of flight lines either from habitat loss or change and /or from introduced street lighting	Lies with the EZI of the Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC	<p>Barbastelle bats use habitat structures to commute between roost sites and feeding areas, the severance of which could prevent access to feeding territories of individual bats, Barbastelle bats are also averse to artificial lighting.</p>	<p>The presence of barbastelle bats flight lines and need for maintenance or enhancement should be notified in the Plan.</p> <p>No locations for development have been identified at this stage. Therefore, planning applications would be subject to a 'test of likely significance' under the Habitats Regulations 2010 before planning permission is given.</p>

Policy	Brief Description	Potential Impact on Natura 2000 Sites	Natura 2000 sites Potentially Affected	Comment	Potential Offsetting Measure
		<p>Heath Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use</p> <p>Woodland Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use</p>	<p>Exmoor Heaths SAC</p> <p>Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>The settlement lies within 1 kilometre of component sites of the Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC and the Exmoor Heaths SAC to the south both are liable to attract walkers and dogs.</p> <p>Habitat deterioration and loss from trampling of heathland - dwarf shrubs reduced by 50% cover with less than 200 – 400 passages/year; nitrogen enrichment from dog fouling can change heath to grassland. Wet heath plants are more sensitive [Penny Anderson Associates, 2009]</p> <p>In woodland habitat deterioration and loss from trampling (passages as low as 40 - 50/year can eliminate species - species of low productivity, especially ancient woodland flora; lichens and some mosses) [Penny Anderson Associates, 2009]; nitrogen enrichment from dog fouling [Footprint Ecology, 2009]</p> <p>However, the scale of development is unlikely to be extensive and the current population of the settlement is unlikely to grow in significant numbers.</p>	None required.
	Luxborough	None predicted	None	The settlement is not within an EZI and is not close to SAC components for casual recreational access	None required
	Lynton and Lynmouth	<p>Otter Use of the West and East Lyn Rivers. Development could result in degradation or loss of bank side habitat and / or result in increased disturbance particularly if there are nearby holts.</p>	Lies with the EZI of the Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC	<p>A female otters territory extends to around 15km in Somerset and that a male more. Therefore it is likely that the river through the village is used by otters from the SAC. Although development is unlikely to affect use of the watercourse bank side structure and vegetation should be retained or improved for otters. An increased disturbance is unlikely to be an issue given the scale of any development in the settlement.</p>	<p>The presence of otter habitat along the river in the settlement and need for maintenance or enhancement should be notified in the Plan.</p> <p>No locations for development have been identified at this stage. Therefore, planning applications would be subject to a 'test of likely significance' under the Habitats Regulations 2010 before planning permission is given.</p>

Policy	Brief Description	Potential Impact on Natura 2000 Sites	Natura 2000 sites Potentially Affected	Comment	Potential Offsetting Measure
		Woodland Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use	Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC	<p>The settlement lies within 1 kilometre of component sites of the Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC to the east which is liable to attract walkers and dogs.</p> <p>In woodland habitat deterioration and loss from trampling (passages as low as 40 - 50/year can eliminate species - species of low productivity, especially ancient woodland flora; lichens and some mosses) [Penny Anderson Associates, 2009]; nitrogen enrichment from dog fouling [Footprint Ecology, 2009]</p> <p>However, the scale of development is unlikely to be extensive and the current population of the settlement is unlikely to grow in significant numbers.</p>	None required.
	Monksilver	None predicted	None	The settlement is not within an EZI and is not close to SAC components for casual recreational access	None required
	Parracombe	Heath Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use	Exmoor Heaths SAC	<p>A component site of the Exmoor Heath SAC lies within 2 kilometres to the north and is liable to attract walkers and dogs. Habitat deterioration and loss from trampling of heathland - dwarf shrubs reduced by 50% cover with less than 200 – 400 passages/year; nitrogen enrichment from dog fouling can change heath to grassland. Wet heath plants are more sensitive [Penny Anderson Associates, 2009]</p> <p>However, the scale of development is unlikely to be extensive and the current population of the settlement is unlikely to grow in significant numbers.</p>	None required.

Policy	Brief Description	Potential Impact on Natura 2000 Sites	Natura 2000 sites Potentially Affected	Comment	Potential Offsetting Measure
	Porlock	<p>Barbastelle Bats Potential for severance of flight lines either from habitat loss or change and /or from introduced street lighting</p> <p>Otter Use of the River. Development could result in degradation or loss of bankside habitat and / or result in increased disturbance particularly if there are nearby holts.</p>	Lies with the EZI of the Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC	<p>Barbastelle bats use habitat structures to commute between roost sites and feeding areas, the severance of which could prevent access to feeding territories of individual bats, Barbastelle bats are also averse to artificial lighting.</p> <p>A female otters territory extends to around 15km in Somerset and that a male more. Therefore it is likely that the river through the village is used by otters from the SAC. Although development is unlikely to affect use of the watercourse bank side structure and vegetation should be retained or improved for otters. An increased disturbance is unlikely to be an issue given the scale of any development in the settlement.</p>	<p>The presence of barbastelle bats flight lines and need for maintenance or enhancement should be notified in the Plan.</p> <p>The presence of otter habitat along the river in the settlement and need for maintenance or enhancement should be notified in the Plan.</p> <p>No locations for development have been identified at this stage. Therefore, planning applications would be subject to a 'test of likely significance' under the Habitats Regulations 2010 before planning permission is given.</p>
		<p>Heath Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use</p> <p>Woodland Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use</p>	<p>Exmoor Heaths SAC</p> <p>Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>The settlement lies within 1 kilometre of component sites of the Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC and the Exmoor Heaths SAC to the south both are liable to attract walkers and dogs.</p> <p>Habitat deterioration and loss from trampling of heathland - dwarf shrubs reduced by 50% cover with less than 200 – 400 passages/year; nitrogen enrichment from dog fouling can change heath to grassland. Wet heath plants are more sensitive [Penny Anderson Associates, 2009]</p> <p>In woodland habitat deterioration and loss from trampling (passages as low as 40 - 50/year can eliminate species - species of low productivity, especially ancient woodland flora; lichens and some mosses) [Penny Anderson Associates, 2009]; nitrogen enrichment from dog fouling [Footprint Ecology, 2009]</p> <p>However, the scale of development is unlikely to be extensive and the current population of the settlement is unlikely to grow in significant numbers.</p>	None required.

Policy	Brief Description	Potential Impact on Natura 2000 Sites	Natura 2000 sites Potentially Affected	Comment	Potential Offsetting Measure
	Roadwater	None predicted	None	The settlement is not within an EZI and is not close to SAC components for casual recreational access	None required
	Simonsbath	Otter Use of the River Barle. Development could result in degradation or loss of bank side habitat and / or result in increased disturbance particularly if there are nearby holts.	Lies with the EZI of the Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC	A female otters territory extends to around 15km in Somerset and that a male more. Therefore it is likely that the river through the village is used by otters from the SAC. Although development is unlikely to affect use of the watercourse bank side structure and vegetation should be retained or improved for otters. An increased disturbance is unlikely to be an issue given the scale of any development in the settlement.	The presence of otter habitat along the river in the settlement and need for maintenance or enhancement should be notified in the Plan. No locations for development have been identified at this stage. Therefore, planning applications would be subject to a 'test of likely significance' under the Habitats Regulations 2010 before planning permission is given.
	Timberscombe	None predicted	None	The settlement is not within an EZI and is not close to SAC components for casual recreational access. Exmoor Heaths SAC lies just less than 3 kilometres to the west.	None required
	Winsford	Heath Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use	Exmoor Heaths SAC	A component site of the Exmoor Heath SAC lies within 1 kilometre to the south and is liable to attract walkers and dogs. Habitat deterioration and loss from trampling of heathland - dwarf shrubs reduced by 50% cover with less than 200 – 400 passages/year; nitrogen enrichment from dog fouling can change heath to grassland. Wet heath plants are more sensitive [Penny Anderson Associates, 2009] However, the scale of development is unlikely to be extensive and the current population of the settlement is unlikely to grow in significant numbers.	None required.

Policy	Brief Description	Potential Impact on Natura 2000 Sites	Natura 2000 sites Potentially Affected	Comment	Potential Offsetting Measure
	Withypool	<p>Otter Use of the River Barle and Pennycombe Water. Development could result in degradation or loss of bank side habitat and / or result in increased disturbance particularly if there are nearby holts.</p>	Lies with the EZI of the Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC	A female otters territory extends to around 15km in Somerset and that a male more. Therefore it is likely that the river through the village is used by otters from the SAC. Although development is unlikely to affect use of the watercourse bank side structure and vegetation should be retained or improved for otters. An increased disturbance is unlikely to be an issue given the scale of any development in the settlement.	<p>The presence of otter habitat along the river in the settlement and need for maintenance or enhancement should be notified in the Plan.</p> <p>No locations for development have been identified at this stage. Therefore, planning applications would be subject to a 'test of likely significance' under the Habitats Regulations 2010 before planning permission is given.</p>
		<p>Heath Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use</p> <p>Woodland Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use</p>	<p>Exmoor Heaths SAC</p> <p>Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>The settlement lies within 1 kilometre of component sites of the Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC to the south and to that of the Exmoor Heaths SAC to the east and west all of which are liable to attract walkers and dogs.</p> <p>Habitat deterioration and loss from trampling of heathland - dwarf shrubs reduced by 50% cover with less than 200 – 400 passages/year; nitrogen enrichment from dog fouling can change heath to grassland. Wet heath plants are more sensitive [Penny Anderson Associates, 2009]</p> <p>In woodland habitat deterioration and loss from trampling (passages as low as 40 - 50/year can eliminate species - species of low productivity, especially ancient woodland flora; lichens and some mosses) [Penny Anderson Associates, 2009]; nitrogen enrichment from dog fouling [Footprint Ecology, 2009]</p> <p>However, the scale of development is unlikely to be extensive and the current population of the settlement is unlikely to grow in significant numbers.</p>	None required.
	Wheddon Cross/ Cutcombe	None predicted	None	The settlement is not within an EZI and is not close to SAC components for casual recreational access. Exmoor Heaths SAC lies just less than 3 kilometres to the west.	None required

Policy	Brief Description	Potential Impact on Natura 2000 Sites	Natura 2000 sites Potentially Affected	Comment	Potential Offsetting Measure
Option B	Wootton Courtnay	Barbastelle Bats Potential for severance of flight lines either from habitat loss or change and /or from introduced street lighting	Lies with the EZI of the Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC	Barbastelle bats use habitat structures to commute between roost sites and feeding areas, the severance of which could prevent access to feeding territories of individual bats, Barbastelle bats are also averse to artificial lighting.	The presence of barbastelle bats flight lines and need for maintenance or enhancement should be notified in the Plan. No locations for development have been identified at this stage. Therefore, planning applications would be subject to a 'test of likely significance' under the Habitats Regulations 2010 before planning permission is given.
		Heath Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use	Exmoor Heaths SAC	A component site of the Exmoor Heath SAC lies within 1 kilometre to the south and is liable to attract walkers and dogs. Habitat deterioration and loss from trampling of heathland - dwarf shrubs reduced by 50% cover with less than 200 – 400 passages/year; nitrogen enrichment from dog fouling can change heath to grassland. Wet heath plants are more sensitive [Penny Anderson Associates, 2009] However, the scale of development is unlikely to be extensive and the current population of the settlement is unlikely to grow in significant numbers.	None required.
	Allow for new build development in all towns and villages as above AND settlements with a shop and/or pub and/or village hall.				
	Towns and Villages above see Option A				

Policy	Brief Description	Potential Impact on Natura 2000 Sites	Natura 2000 sites Potentially Affected	Comment	Potential Offsetting Measure
	Hawkridge	<p>Heath Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use</p> <p>Woodland Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use</p>	<p>Exmoor Heaths SAC</p> <p>Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>The settlement lies within 1 kilometre of component sites of the Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC to the east and north, and to that of the Exmoor Heaths SAC to the south all of which are liable to attract walkers and dogs.</p> <p>Habitat deterioration and loss from trampling of heathland - dwarf shrubs reduced by 50% cover with less than 200 – 400 passages/year; nitrogen enrichment from dog fouling can change heath to grassland. Wet heath plants are more sensitive [Penny Anderson Associates, 2009]</p> <p>In woodland habitat deterioration and loss from trampling (passages as low as 40 - 50/year can eliminate species - species of low productivity, especially ancient woodland flora; lichens and some mosses) [Penny Anderson Associates, 2009]; nitrogen enrichment from dog fouling [Footprint Ecology, 2009]</p> <p>However, the scale of development is unlikely to be extensive and the current population of the settlement is unlikely to grow in significant numbers.</p>	None required.
	Twitchen	<p>Heath Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use</p>	<p>Exmoor Heaths SAC</p>	<p>A component site of the Exmoor Heath SAC lies within 1 kilometre to the east and is liable to attract walkers and dogs. Habitat deterioration and loss from trampling of heathland - dwarf shrubs reduced by 50% cover with less than 200 – 400 passages/year; nitrogen enrichment from dog fouling can change heath to grassland. Wet heath plants are more sensitive [Penny Anderson Associates, 2009]</p> <p>However, the scale of development is unlikely to be extensive and the current population of the settlement is unlikely to grow in significant numbers.</p>	None required.

Policy	Brief Description	Potential Impact on Natura 2000 Sites	Natura 2000 sites Potentially Affected	Comment	Potential Offsetting Measure
	Heasley Mill	Heath Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use	Exmoor Heaths SAC	A component site of the Exmoor Heath SAC lies within 2 kilometres to the east and is liable to attract walkers and dogs. Habitat deterioration and loss from trampling of heathland - dwarf shrubs reduced by 50% cover with less than 200 – 400 passages/year; nitrogen enrichment from dog fouling can change heath to grassland. Wet heath plants are more sensitive [Penny Anderson Associates, 2009] However, the scale of development is unlikely to be extensive and the current population of the settlement is unlikely to grow in significant numbers.	None required.
	Martinhoe	Heath Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use Woodland Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use	Exmoor Heaths SAC Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC	The settlement lies within 1 kilometre of component sites of the Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC to the east and north, and to that of the Exmoor Heaths SAC to the west all of which are liable to attract walkers and dogs. Habitat deterioration and loss from trampling of heathland - dwarf shrubs reduced by 50% cover with less than 200 – 400 passages/year; nitrogen enrichment from dog fouling can change heath to grassland. Wet heath plants are more sensitive [Penny Anderson Associates, 2009] In woodland habitat deterioration and loss from trampling (passages as low as 40 - 50/year can eliminate species - species of low productivity, especially ancient woodland flora; lichens and some mosses) [Penny Anderson Associates, 2009]; nitrogen enrichment from dog fouling [Footprint Ecology, 2009] However, the scale of development is unlikely to be extensive and the current population of the settlement is unlikely to grow in significant numbers.	None required.

Policy	Brief Description	Potential Impact on Natura 2000 Sites	Natura 2000 sites Potentially Affected	Comment	Potential Offsetting Measure
	Countisbury	<p>Heath Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use</p> <p>Woodland Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use</p>	<p>Exmoor Heaths SAC</p> <p>Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>The settlement lies within 1 kilometre of component sites of the Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC to the north, and to that of the Exmoor Heaths SAC to the south all of which are liable to attract walkers and dogs.</p> <p>Habitat deterioration and loss from trampling of heathland - dwarf shrubs reduced by 50% cover with less than 200 – 400 passages/year; nitrogen enrichment from dog fouling can change heath to grassland. Wet heath plants are more sensitive [Penny Anderson Associates, 2009]</p> <p>In woodland habitat deterioration and loss from trampling (passages as low as 40 - 50/year can eliminate species - species of low productivity, especially ancient woodland flora; lichens and some mosses) [Penny Anderson Associates, 2009]; nitrogen enrichment from dog fouling [Footprint Ecology, 2009]</p> <p>However, the scale of development is unlikely to be extensive and the current population of the settlement is unlikely to grow in significant numbers.</p>	None required.
	Rockford	<p>Otter Use of the River Barle and Pennycombe Water. Development could result in degradation or loss of bank side habitat and / or result in increased disturbance particularly if there are nearby holts.</p>	<p>Lies with the EZI of the Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>A female otters territory extends to around 15km in Somerset and that a male more. Therefore it is likely that the river through the village is used by otters from the SAC. Although development is unlikely to affect use of the watercourse bank side structure and vegetation should be retained or improved for otters. An increased disturbance is unlikely to be an issue given the scale of any development in the settlement.</p>	<p>The presence of otter habitat along the river in the settlement and need for maintenance or enhancement should be notified in the Plan.</p> <p>No locations for development have been identified at this stage. Therefore, planning applications would be subject to a 'test of likely significance' under the Habitats Regulations 2010 before planning permission is given.</p>

Policy	Brief Description	Potential Impact on Natura 2000 Sites	Natura 2000 sites Potentially Affected	Comment	Potential Offsetting Measure
		<p>Woodland Habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation resulting from the direct impacts of development</p> <p>Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use</p>	Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC	<p>The settlement is located so that its limits are surrounded by the boundary of a component site of the Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC.</p> <p>Landtake for development may directly be on land within the SAC or adjacent to it.</p> <p>New development is liable to attract walkers and dogs into the SAC on the 'doorstep'.</p> <p>In woodland habitat deterioration and loss from trampling (passages as low as 40 - 50/year can eliminate species - species of low productivity, especially ancient woodland flora; lichens and some mosses) [Penny Anderson Associates, 2009]; nitrogen enrichment from dog fouling [Footprint Ecology, 2009]</p> <p>However, the scale of development is unlikely to be extensive and the current population of the settlement is unlikely to grow in significant numbers.</p>	It is recommended that this settlement be excluded from the list of additional settlements. However, as no locations for development have been identified at this stage planning applications would be subject to a 'test of likely significance' under the Habitats Regulations 2010 before planning permission is given.
	Oare	<p>Otter Use of the River Barle. Development could result in degradation or loss of bank side habitat and / or result in increased disturbance particularly if there are nearby holts.</p>	Lies with the EZI of the Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC	<p>A female otters territory extends to around 15km in Somerset and that a male more. Therefore it is likely that the river through the village is used by otters from the SAC. Although development is unlikely to affect use of the watercourse bank side structure and vegetation should be retained or improved for otters. An increased disturbance is unlikely to be an issue given the scale of any development in the settlement.</p>	<p>The presence of otter habitat along the river in the settlement and need for maintenance or enhancement should be notified in the Plan.</p> <p>No locations for development have been identified at this stage. Therefore, planning applications would be subject to a 'test of likely significance' under the Habitats Regulations 2010 before planning permission is given.</p>

Policy	Brief Description	Potential Impact on Natura 2000 Sites	Natura 2000 sites Potentially Affected	Comment	Potential Offsetting Measure
	Porlock Weir	Woodland Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use	Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC	<p>The settlement lies within 500 metres of component sites of the Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC to the north which is liable to attract walkers and dogs.</p> <p>In woodland habitat deterioration and loss from trampling (passages as low as 40 - 50/year can eliminate species - species of low productivity, especially ancient woodland flora; lichens and some mosses) [Penny Anderson Associates, 2009]; nitrogen enrichment from dog fouling [Footprint Ecology, 2009]</p> <p>However, the scale of development is unlikely to be extensive and the current population of the settlement is unlikely to grow in significant numbers.</p>	None required.
		Barbastelle Bats Potential for degradation or loss of habitat to south habitat from introduced street lighting	Lies with the EZI of the Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC	Barbastelle bats are also averse to artificial lighting and could effect woodland edge which may used for feeding	<p>The presence of a potential barbastelle bat feeding area may need for maintenance or enhancement should be notified in the Plan.</p> <p>No locations for development have been identified at this stage. Therefore, planning applications would be subject to a 'test of likely significance' under the Habitats Regulations 2010 before planning permission is given.</p>
		Heath Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use	Exmoor Heaths SAC	A component site of the Exmoor Heath SAC lies within 2 kilometres to the south and is liable to attract walkers and dogs. However, the scale of development is unlikely to be extensive and the current population of the settlement is unlikely to grow in significant numbers. The beech and woodland adjacent to the settlement is also available.	None required.

Policy	Brief Description	Potential Impact on Natura 2000 Sites	Natura 2000 sites Potentially Affected	Comment	Potential Offsetting Measure
	West Porlock	Barbastelle Bats Potential for severance of flight lines either from habitat loss or change and /or from introduced street lighting	Lies with the EZI of the Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC	Barbastelle bats use habitat structures to commute between roost sites and feeding areas, the severance of which could prevent access to feeding territories of individual bats, Barbastelle bats are also averse to artificial lighting.	The presence of barbastelle bats flight lines and need for maintenance or enhancement should be notified in the Plan. No locations for development have been identified at this stage. Therefore, planning applications would be subject to a 'test of likely significance' under the Habitats Regulations 2010 before planning permission is given.
		Heath Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use	Exmoor Heaths SAC	A component site of the Exmoor Heath SAC lies within 2 kilometres to the south and is liable to attract walkers and dogs. However, the scale of development is unlikely to be extensive and the current population of the settlement is unlikely to grow in significant numbers. The coastal area to the north and woodland adjacent to the settlement is also available.	None required.
	Selworthy	Barbastelle Bats Potential for severance of flight lines either from habitat loss or change and /or from introduced street lighting	Lies with the EZI of the Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC	Barbastelle bats use habitat structures to commute between roost sites and feeding areas, the severance of which could prevent access to feeding territories of individual bats, Barbastelle bats are also averse to artificial lighting.	The presence of barbastelle bats flight lines and need for maintenance or enhancement should be notified in the Plan. No locations for development have been identified at this stage. Therefore, planning applications would be subject to a 'test of likely significance' under the Habitats Regulations 2010 before planning permission is given.

Policy	Brief Description	Potential Impact on Natura 2000 Sites	Natura 2000 sites Potentially Affected	Comment	Potential Offsetting Measure
		Heath Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use	Exmoor Heaths SAC	A component site of the Exmoor Heath SAC lies within 2 kilometres to the north and is liable to attract walkers and dogs. Habitat deterioration and loss from trampling of heathland - dwarf shrubs reduced by 50% cover with less than 200 – 400 passages/year; nitrogen enrichment from dog fouling can change heath to grassland. Wet heath plants are more sensitive [Penny Anderson Associates, 2009] However, the scale of development is unlikely to be extensive and the current population of the settlement is unlikely to grow in significant numbers.	None required.
	Withycombe	None predicted	None	The settlement is not within an EZI and is not close to SAC components for casual recreational access.	None required
Option C	Allow for new build development only in those towns and villages where there is a school, a regular bus service which runs 5+ times a week and a shop. This would currently include the following settlements: <i>Cutcombe/Wheddon Cross, Dulverton, Dunster, Exford, Lynton and Lynmouth, Parracombe, Porlock and Timberscombe.</i>				
	Wheddon Cross/ Cutcombe	None predicted	None	The settlement is not within an EZI and is not close to SAC components for casual recreational access. Exmoor Heaths SAC lies just less than 3 kilometres to the west.	None required
	Dulverton	Otter Use of the River Barle. Development could result in degradation or loss of bank side habitat and / or result in increased disturbance particularly if there are nearby holts.	Lies with the EZI of the Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC	A female otters territory extends to around 15km in Somerset and that a male more. Therefore it is likely that the river through the village is used by otters from the SAC. Although development is unlikely to affect use of the watercourse bank side structure and vegetation should be retained or improved for otters. An increased disturbance is unlikely to be an issue given the scale of any development in the settlement.	As for Option A. The presence of otter habitat along the river in the settlement and need for maintenance or enhancement should be notified in the Plan. No locations for development have been identified at this stage. Therefore, planning applications would be subject to a 'test of likely significance' under the Habitats Regulations 2010 before planning permission is given.

Policy	Brief Description	Potential Impact on Natura 2000 Sites	Natura 2000 sites Potentially Affected	Comment	Potential Offsetting Measure
		Woodland Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use	Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC	<p>The settlement lies within 1 kilometre of component sites of the Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SACs to the north and west and are liable to attract walkers and dogs.</p> <p>In woodland habitat deterioration and loss from trampling (passages as low as 40 - 50/year can eliminate species - species of low productivity, especially ancient woodland flora; lichens and some mosses) [Penny Anderson Associates, 2009]; nitrogen enrichment from dog fouling [Footprint Ecology, 2009]</p> <p>The scale of development may not be extensive or the current population of the settlement may not expand significantly. However, numbers are likely to be more than in Option A.</p>	No locations for development have been identified at this stage. Therefore, planning applications would be subject to a 'test of likely significance' under the Habitats Regulations 2010 before planning permission is given.
	Dunster	None predicted	None	The settlement is not within an EZI and is not close to SAC components for casual recreational access. Exmoor Heaths SAC lies over 5 kilometres to the west.	None required
	Exford	Heath Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use	Exmoor Heaths SAC	<p>A component site of the Exmoor Heath SAC lies within 2 kilometres to the north and is liable to attract walkers and dogs. Habitat deterioration and loss from trampling of heathland - dwarf shrubs reduced by 50% cover with less than 200 – 400 passages/year; nitrogen enrichment from dog fouling can change heath to grassland. Wet heath plants are more sensitive [Penny Anderson Associates, 2009]</p> <p>The scale of development may not be extensive or the current population of the settlement may not expand significantly. However, numbers are likely to be more than in Option A.</p>	No locations for development have been identified at this stage. Therefore, planning applications would be subject to a 'test of likely significance' under the Habitats Regulations 2010 before planning permission is given.

Policy	Brief Description	Potential Impact on Natura 2000 Sites	Natura 2000 sites Potentially Affected	Comment	Potential Offsetting Measure
	Lynton and Lynmouth	Otter Use of the West and East Lyn Rivers. Development could result in degradation or loss of bank side habitat and / or result in increased disturbance particularly if there are nearby holts.	Lies with the EZI of the Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC	A female otters territory extends to around 15km in Somerset and that a male more. Therefore it is likely that the river through the village is used by otters from the SAC. Although development is unlikely to affect use of the watercourse bank side structure and vegetation should be retained or improved for otters. An increased disturbance is unlikely to be an issue given the scale of any development in the settlement.	The presence of otter habitat along the river in the settlement and need for maintenance or enhancement should be notified in the Plan. No locations for development have been identified at this stage. Therefore, planning applications would be subject to a 'test of likely significance' under the Habitats Regulations 2010 before planning permission is given.
		Woodland Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use	Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC	The settlement lies within 1 kilometre of component sites of the Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC to the east which is liable to attract walkers and dogs. In woodland habitat deterioration and loss from trampling (passages as low as 40 - 50/year can eliminate species - species of low productivity, especially ancient woodland flora; lichens and some mosses) [Penny Anderson Associates, 2009]; nitrogen enrichment from dog fouling [Footprint Ecology, 2009] The scale of development may not be extensive or the current population of the settlement may not expand significantly. However, numbers are likely to be more than in Option A.	No locations for development have been identified at this stage. Therefore, planning applications would be subject to a 'test of likely significance' under the Habitats Regulations 2010 before planning permission is given.

Policy	Brief Description	Potential Impact on Natura 2000 Sites	Natura 2000 sites Potentially Affected	Comment	Potential Offsetting Measure
	Parracombe	Heath Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use	Exmoor Heaths SAC	A component site of the Exmoor Heath SAC lies within 2 kilometres to the north and is liable to attract walkers and dogs. Habitat deterioration and loss from trampling of heathland - dwarf shrubs reduced by 50% cover with less than 200 – 400 passages/year; nitrogen enrichment from dog fouling can change heath to grassland. Wet heath plants are more sensitive [Penny Anderson Associates, 2009] The scale of development may not be extensive or the current population of the settlement may not expand significantly. However, numbers are likely to be more than in Option A.	No locations for development have been identified at this stage. Therefore, planning applications would be subject to a 'test of likely significance' under the Habitats Regulations 2010 before planning permission is given.
	Porlock	Barbastelle Bats Potential for severance of flight lines either from habitat loss or change and /or from introduced street lighting Otter Use of the River. Development could result in degradation or loss of bank side habitat and / or result in increased disturbance particularly if there are nearby holts.	Lies with the EZI of the Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC	Barbastelle bats use habitat structures to commute between roost sites and feeding areas, the severance of which could prevent access to feeding territories of individual bats, Barbastelle bats are also averse to artificial lighting. A female otters territory extends to around 15km in Somerset and that a male more. Therefore it is likely that the river through the village is used by otters from the SAC. Although development is unlikely to affect use of the watercourse bank side structure and vegetation should be retained or improved for otters. An increased disturbance is unlikely to be an issue given the scale of any development in the settlement.	The presence of barbastelle bats flight lines and need for maintenance or enhancement should be notified in the Plan. The presence of otter habitat along the river in the settlement and need for maintenance or enhancement should be notified in the Plan. No locations for development have been identified at this stage. Therefore, planning applications would be subject to a 'test of likely significance' under the Habitats Regulations 2010 before planning permission is given.

Policy	Brief Description	Potential Impact on Natura 2000 Sites	Natura 2000 sites Potentially Affected	Comment	Potential Offsetting Measure
		<p>Heath Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use</p> <p>Woodland Habitat degradation and /or loss from increased recreational use</p>	<p>Exmoor Heaths SAC</p> <p>Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>The settlement lies within 1 kilometre of component sites of the Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC and the Exmoor Heaths SAC to the south both are liable to attract walkers and dogs.</p> <p>Habitat deterioration and loss from trampling of heathland - dwarf shrubs reduced by 50% cover with less than 200 – 400 passages/year; nitrogen enrichment from dog fouling can change heath to grassland. Wet heath plants are more sensitive [Penny Anderson Associates, 2009]</p> <p>In woodland habitat deterioration and loss from trampling (passages as low as 40 - 50/year can eliminate species - species of low productivity, especially ancient woodland flora; lichens and some mosses) [Penny Anderson Associates, 2009]; nitrogen enrichment from dog fouling [Footprint Ecology, 2009]</p> <p>The scale of development may not be extensive or the current population of the settlement may not expand significantly. However, numbers are likely to be more than in Option A.</p>	<p>No locations for development have been identified at this stage. Therefore, planning applications would be subject to a 'test of likely significance' under the Habitats Regulations 2010 before planning permission is given.</p>
	Timberscombe	None predicted	None	The settlement is not within an EZI and is not close to SAC components for casual recreational access. Exmoor Heaths SAC lies just less than 3 kilometres to the west.	None required

Delivery of Affordable Housing

Policy	Brief Description	Potential Impact on Natura 2000 Sites	Natura 2000 sites Potentially Affected	Comment	Potential Offsetting Measure
Greenfield Sites Option A	<p>As now, continue to require all new build to be for affordable housing to address local needs.</p> <p>This approach applies to single new affordable homes (e.g. for self builds) as well as for a group of houses on a site (most often built by Housing Associations).</p>	None likely	None	The policy is for the type of housing and its funding only not its location or the amount.	None required
Greenfield Sites Option B	<p>Require all new housing to be affordable housing to address local affordable needs but also where required, allow for local housing to help fund the affordable housing through cross subsidy.</p> <p>This option would allow for local housing in some circumstances as well as affordable local needs housing to help fund the affordable housing.</p>	None likely	None	The policy is for the type of housing and its funding only not its location or the amount.	None required
Greenfield Sites Option C	<p>Require all new housing to be affordable housing to address local affordable needs but also, where required, allow for local housing and open market housing to help fund the affordable housing through cross subsidy.</p> <p>This option would allow for local housing and open market housing in some circumstances as well as affordable local needs housing to help fund the affordable housing.</p>	None likely	None	The policy is for the type of housing and its funding only not its location or the amount.	None required
Greenfield Sites Option D	<p>Require all new housing to be affordable housing to address local affordable needs but also, where required, allow for open market housing to help fund the affordable housing through cross subsidy.</p> <p>This option would allow for open market housing in some circumstances as well as affordable local needs housing (but not local non affordable housing) to help fund the affordable housing.</p>	None likely	None	The policy is for the type of housing and its funding only not its location or the amount.	None required

Policies GP1 – GP4

Policy	Brief Description	Potential Impact on Natura 2000 Sites	Natura 2000 sites Potentially Affected	Comment	Potential Offsetting Measure
<p>GP1 Achieving National Park Purposes and Sustainable Development</p>	<p>Sustainable Development for Exmoor National Park will conserve and enhance the National Park; its natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage and its special qualities; promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities by the public; and, in so doing, foster the social and economic well-being of local communities.</p> <p>In achieving sustainable development, all proposals/development will demonstrate that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is consistent with the National Park’s legal purposes and duty. Where there is irreconcilable conflict between the statutory purposes, the conservation and enhancement of the National Park will prevail consistent with the Sandford Principle; • Proposals to enhance the National Park are consistent with Policy x • It conserves and enhances the special qualities of Exmoor National Park; • It positively supports the achievement of the vision and objectives of the Exmoor National Park Partnership Plan and Local Plan; and • It contributes to the sustainable development of the area in line with the sustainable development management principles set out below. <p>All new development, activities and land uses within Exmoor National Park will conserve and respond to opportunities to enhance the National Park. Opportunities must be taken to contribute to the sustainable development of the area including by demonstrating that development:</p> <p>1) is of a scale, and in terms of its siting, use, layout, form, design, materials and intensity of activity respects and has a favourable impact on the character, local distinctiveness, appearance and historic and cultural features of the site and buildings, settlement, landscape and setting)</p> <p>2) supports the function of individual settlements and their communities, by retaining and strengthening their services and facilities, protecting their safe, attractive public places, providing for a size and type of housing which helps create a balanced community and addresses local affordable housing needs, and enables access to local services and facilities, jobs and technology</p> <p>3) makes efficient use of land, buildings, services and infrastructure and is acceptable in terms of access and traffic levels and which, where appropriate, enables the use of sustainable transport</p>	<p>Both species and habitats may be subject to increased recreational pressure either causing disturbance or degradation including from a decrease in air quality due to increased traffic resulting from development both within the Park and from neighbouring district authorities</p>	<p>Exmoor Heaths SAC</p> <p>Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>However, the vision states that <i>‘There is an increased extent of wildlife habitats and linkages between them, more habitats are in good condition and populations of valued native plants and animals are thriving.’</i></p> <p>The objectives include: <i>‘To protect and enhance Exmoor’s wildlife and habitats and seek to improve the diversity, extent, condition and connectivity of Exmoor’s important and valued habitats.’</i></p> <p><i>‘To maintain or increase populations of native wildlife species on Exmoor that are valued for their conservation status and local distinctiveness...’</i></p> <p>The policy itself states that, <i>‘Sustainable Development for Exmoor National Park will conserve and enhance the National Park; its..., wildlife...’</i>, and that the ‘Sandford Principle’ applies</p>	<p>None required</p>

Policy	Brief Description	Potential Impact on Natura 2000 Sites	Natura 2000 sites Potentially Affected	Comment	Potential Offsetting Measure
GP2 Major Development	<p>In securing National Park purposes, in responding to the National Park duty to foster the social and economic wellbeing of its communities and in accordance with government guidance major development will not take place within Exmoor National Park except in exceptional circumstances following the most rigorous examination and where they can demonstrate that they are in the public interest and raise issues of national significance. Where exceptionally a proposal for major development is of national significance and needs to be located in the National Park then every effort to mitigate potential localised harm and compensate for any residual harm to the area would be expected to be secured.</p> <p>Proposals for major development will need to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the National Park Authority:</p> <p>i) the need for the development, including in terms of any national considerations, and the impact of permitting it, or refusing it, upon the local economy and local communities;</p> <p>(ii) the cost of, and scope for, developing elsewhere outside the National Park, or meeting the need for it in some other way;</p> <p>(iii) any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape, the National Park's special qualities and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which that could be moderated;</p> <p>(iv) the cumulative impact of the development when viewed with other proposals and types of development;</p> <p>(v) the scope for adequate restoration of the land once the use has ceased.</p>	Potentially major development may result in a number of ecological impacts including from renewable energy projects such as wind turbines and hydro electric schemes	Exmoor Heaths SAC Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC	<p>The policy considers that '<i>...every effort to mitigate potential localised harm and compensate for any residual harm to the area would be expected to be secured.</i>' The word 'localised' precludes effects that are remote from a Natura 2000 site that nonetheless could affect its conservation objectives, for example habitat structure used by barbastelle bats can be 9 or more kilometres from the SAC site and otters are known to have territories of up to 20km.</p> <p>In addition impacts need only be 'moderated'. However, where effects on Natura 2000 sites, both within the designated boundary and in areas which support the conservation objectives ecologically, a no likely significant effect would need to be proved.</p>	<p>The text of the policy will need to specifically refer to Natura 2000 sites. It is suggested that the following could be added to the list:</p> <p>There are no significant effects to Natura 2000 sites both within the sites' boundaries and in areas that ecologically support the conservation objectives of the site.</p>
GP3 Settlement Hierarchy	Under consultation	Potential for increased recreational pressure on nearby sites to settlements and possible habitat fragmentation or loss affecting bat flight lines	Exmoor Heaths SAC Exmoor and Quantocks Oak Woodlands SAC	It is assumed that development would be small scale and that such pressure would not be significant at this stage and could be located to avoid impacts to habitat structures	Not known

Policy	Brief Description	Potential Impact on Natura 2000 Sites	Natura 2000 sites Potentially Affected	Comment	Potential Offsetting Measure
GP4 Securing Planning Benefits	In order for development to take place without harm to and that conserves and enhances the National Park and its special qualities, within infrastructure capacity interests, or in accordance with policy, it may be required that development be accompanied by limitations or contributions that go beyond those that can be secured by planning conditions. These may be in the form of planning contributions or a community infrastructure levy if applied and considered appropriate. The need for a levy will be reviewed periodically through the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.	None predicted	None	The policy is concerned with planning obligations only	None required

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