

Exmoor National Park Authority EQUALITY STATEMENT

Working
together
for Exmoor





Connecting People and Places

Working with communities to inform, inspire and engage people with Exmoor's special qualities is a priority within the 2012- 2017 Partnership Plan for Exmoor. Many people already feel able to access and enjoy all Exmoor has to offer but we are keen to understand and help remove as many barriers to access and enjoyment that we can.

In line with the Equality Act 2010 the Authority, working with our partners, will continue to seek opportunities to eliminate discrimination and advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic under the Act and those who do not. We know we are achieving this outcome each time we enable and encourage new audiences to enjoy all that Exmoor has to offer and hear that they are inspired to return. In particular, we understand that a variety of barriers exist making it more difficult for younger people, disabled people and people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds to enjoy Exmoor's special qualities and this is reflected in our work programmes

New Audiences Fund

The Authority's Partnership Fund Panel approved a three year programme worth £30 000 to assist and support groups with travel costs, a major barrier to getting to the National Park, to help people enjoy and understand what is special about the area. Groups are expected to meet at least 20% of the costs with each grant being a maximum of £1000. In addition to the funding assistance, the Authority was able to offer staff support and advice to the groups.

During the first 12 months of this fund being available, 14 groups have visited the national park, most for the first time with another 6 groups planning a visit.

"From the feedback we got from people on the residential they all loved it; taking part in all the activities at the Big Adventure at Haddon Hill; building trust at team building activities at Wimbleball lake. Since our return I've been approached by a lot of people asking me to include them on our next trip to Exmoor...we had a wonderful time"

Zimbabwean Women's Group
– Residential Stay at Pinkery

"We were able to adapt the visit to suit our group..... and the whole family unit was able to enjoy themselves. Thank you for the funding which enabled us to have a very enjoyable visit."

North Devon Forum for Autism and Related Behaviours (pictured below at Watersmeet)



Mosaic: Black and Minority Ethnic Community Champions

Exmoor National Park Authority has been working with the Mosaic Project to support greater participation of black and minority ethnic people and young people in this special place. Individuals representing their communities are recruited, trained and supported by Mosaic so that, in turn as Community Champions, they can involve others and set up a groundswell of support of people who want to use and protect Exmoor and all National Parks.

The Community champions are now firmly established in our volunteer body and they intend to remain active as a south-west forum. Chaz Singh (pictured below) is a member of the Learning and Engagement Strategic Oversight Group working with the Authority and partners to monitor delivery against the Partnership Plan.



Services for disabled users

As an overriding principle, we are seeking to ensure that there is equality of opportunity generally rather than looking to arrange specific events for disabled people.

Access Awareness Events

Working together with our partners, (Compass Disability, Calvert Trust, Living Options) we have held two Access Awareness Days where disabled users have told us what would make their visits to the National Park easier. This is based on commissioned research from the Fieldfare Trust (2007) and feedback from the access awareness events: Create a mix of general events that are accessible and some bespoke accessible 'taster events' for 2012.

Community Champions: disabled users

Building on the Mosaic concept successfully used for BME communities and young people, we are working with the Campaign for National Parks (CNP) to try to secure funding with the aspiration to undertake a national pilot action research project. The Exmoor National Park Partnership Fund has earmarked resources to support CNP if national funding can be secured.

Trampers on Exmoor: Countryside Mobility Southwest

Countryside Mobility Southwest has been key partner in providing more opportunities for people with limited mobility to access the National Park. There are two trumper sites on Exmoor and the scheme has also been providing trampers and accessible scooters for use at Authority events and guided walks.

Phototrails

We are working with representatives of organisations and individual disabled users to develop accessible routes that will be assessed and described by disabled people for disabled people using a national system of descriptions. These routes will be accessible via the Authority's interactive map on the website.

Mental health and learning disabilities

We recognise that disability is not restricted to physical conditions. We work regularly with the local MIND group to enable people to undertake conservation projects. The North Devon Forum for Autism and Related Behaviours have benefitted from the New Audiences Fund. We continue to strive to ensure that all of our services are accessible physically, mentally and intellectually.

Young Champions: National roll-out programme

Following the successful CNP/Mosaic action research project, piloted and completed on Exmoor in partnership with Dartmoor National Park Authority, CNP has secured funding to roll-out the programme in 5 National Parks in England.

We will be supporting this initiative and the Exmoor National Park Partnership Fund has allocated funding for three years for a part time project officer to develop the relationships established through the original project.



Exmoor's Young People

Initiatives have been launched to understand and overcome the barriers faced by young people living and working on Exmoor and to research their aspirations.

Exmoor's Young Voices has been established to act as a forum and sounding board to enable young people to influence and youth proof policies and services and to offer a mechanism for young people to express their views to Members and staff teams at the Authority.

Work has also been commissioned through Plymouth University to research what happens to young people post 18 and what are their longer term aspirations and needs to stay on Exmoor.

The Exmoor National Park Partnership Fund is grant aiding a three year Rural Employment Enabler to manage apprenticeships working through West Somerset Community College. The role of the enabler is to match potential apprentices with potential employers across the National Park area for skills training and development that will ultimately support National Park purposes.

National Citizenship Service

We are working with Young Devon to deliver the first tranche of the Government’s initiative to support young people to access and enjoy the countryside and to develop social and group working skills.

Exmoor Conservation Volunteer Partnership (ECVP)

An easy and popular approach to enable people to get involved in the National Park is through volunteering, either as a regular volunteer or undertaking one off projects. The ECVP offers a range of opportunities ranging from physical practical projects such as scrub bashing and footpath repair to habitat and species surveys (Dormouse, Otter, Heath Fritillary, Nightjar) and visitor surveys. Volunteer workdays completed have risen from 312 in 2007/08 to almost 2500 in 2011/12.



Heart of Exmoor

The Exmoor Moorland Landscape Partnership (EMLP) is a group of organisations, societies, government agencies and voluntary bodies. The Authority as a partner in the scheme hosts the project and the project team work closely with other Authority staff. The Partners came together to devise projects to benefit Exmoor National Park’s moorland landscape heritage. EMLP made successful bids to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and other funders, and this finance enabled its Heart of Exmoor scheme. Community engagement activities are a big part of Heart of Exmoor. The project offer opportunities to experience Exmoor’s moorland for people from under-represented sections of the Devon and Somerset population. More information can be found on the project website www.heartofexmoor.org.uk



What’s Next?

Our Strategic Actions within the 2012-2017 Partnership Plan outline our equality objectives for the next 5 years. These are

Action	Delivery partners	Milestones
Coordinate and publicise a core annual programme of events, walks and activities	ENPA, ETP, ETA, EMLP, NT, ES, RSPB, Tourism Associations, local businesses and communities	Produce Exmoor Visitor newspaper annually Maintain updated website events programme Publish Annual Exmoor Review
Continue to promote engagement with new audiences through the Mosaic Youth Roll Out Programme, Mosaic Disabled Champions Programme, Heart of Exmoor project programme and New Audiences Fund. Undertake research on perceptions of new audiences to inform future engagement	ENPA, EMLP, NT, Mosaic Project, Exeter University	Minimum of 10 new groups pa Complete perceptions research PhD by the end of 2013
Focus on local schools and communities in and near to the National Park to increase their awareness, enjoyment and understanding of Exmoor	GEEEF, EMLP, ES, NT, Calvert Trust	At least 3000 participants pa engaged in activities related to National Park purposes
Support a range of volunteering opportunities for local communities and visitors to the National Park	Exmoor Conservation Volunteer Partnership, NT	Deliver annual programme of opportunities achieving at least 2000 volunteer days pa
Support improved access and facilities for disabled visitors to provide a high quality tourism experience	Calvert Trust, SWLT	Support routes suitable for Trampers at Wimbleball lake, access improvements at Wistlandpound and Wimbleball

Who can you contact about this programme of work?

If you would like any more information about Authority projects past, present or future please contact one of our team:

Name and job title	Contact via phone on 01398 323665 or via email:	Will be able to talk to you about.....:
Tim Braund Head of Information & Communication	tpbraund@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk	Any work programmes or general enquiries, Mosaic Project, Young People.
Dave Gurnett Learning & Outreach Officer	djgurnett@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk	Learning, education, outreach, young people, volunteering, apprenticeships
Jason Ball Exmoor Moorland Landscape Partnership Manager	jpbball@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk	Heart of Exmoor Project (Exmoor Moorland Landscape Partnership Scheme)
Patrick Watts-Mabbott Volunteer & Outreach Officer	pwatts-mabbott@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk	Volunteering, Exmoor Conservation Volunteer Partnership.



You may also be interested in:

Organisation	Website:	Who they are:
Calvert Trust	www.calvert-trust.org.uk/exmoor	Calvert Trust Exmoor is located on the edge of Exmoor National Park, next to Wistlandpound Reservoir. Its centre provides outdoor activity adventures for people with physical, sensory and learning disabilities, together with their families and friends.
Countryside Mobility South West	www.countrysidemobility.org	The Countryside Mobility scheme provides easy access to the South West's countryside for anyone who has difficulty walking through a mobility scooter hire scheme.
Campaign for National Parks (Mosaic)	www.cnp.org.uk www.mosaicnationalparks.org	CNP is the national charity that campaigns to protect and promote the UK's National Parks for the benefit and quiet enjoyment of all Mosaic is a national project, led by the Campaign for National Parks, that aims to build sustainable links between black and minority ethnic (BME) communities and the National Parks and Youth Hostels Association (YHA).
Southwest Lakes Trust	www.swlakestrust.org.uk	South West Lakes Trust (SWLT) is a charitable trust established in 2000 to manage, provide and promote public access, recreation, and conservation on and around inland waters in the South West of England, including Wimbleball Lake on Exmoor.