



An independent statutory advisory body administered by Exmoor National Park Authority, the appointing authority, from its offices at Exmoor House, Dulverton, Somerset TA22 9HL
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10th April 2026

EXMOOR LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

To: The Members of the Exmoor Local Access Forum

A meeting of the Exmoor Local Access Forum will be held **in the Committee Room at Exmoor House, Dulverton TA22 9HL on 21st April 2026 at 10am.**

The meeting will be open to the press and public in accordance with the provisions of reg. 7 of The Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2007 (under s 94 and 95 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000). There is public question time at this meeting when the Chairman will allow members of the public two minutes each in which to ask questions.

(The agenda and papers for this meeting can be downloaded from the Exmoor National Park Authority's website at www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk).

Sue Applegate
Secretary
Exmoor Local Access Forum

MEETING AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. **Declarations of Interest:** Members are asked to declare any direct or indirect personal interests (including financial) in relation to items on the agenda for this meeting and shall disclose the nature of those interests to the meeting.

(NB. The regulations do not prohibit any member having such an interest from remaining in the meeting and participating in the discussion).

3. Minutes

(1) To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 9th December 2025 [Item A].

(2) To consider any Matters Arising from those Minutes which are not elsewhere on the agenda.

(3) Request for items to be raised under AOB

4. **Meet the Community / Public Question Time:** This part of the meeting enables members of the public to engage with the Local Access Forum on issues concerning open access, rights of way and outdoor recreational pursuits in the National Park.

5. Terms of Reference (5 mins)

To review and adopt the Exmoor LAF Terms of Reference [Item B]

6. Reviving Exmoor's Heartlands Landscape Recovery Access Plan (15 mins presentation) + (5 mins questions)

To receive a presentation from James Maben, Access Consultant on the development of this access plan which forms part of the Reviving Exmoor's Heartlands Landscape Recovery Bid

7. ENPA Financial Position 2026/27 and onwards (10 mins)

To receive a brief verbal update (DB)

8. Active Travel – Phase II (10mins)

To receive an update on Phase II of Active Travel England's support for National Parks (DB) [Item C]

9. Access to Rivers (5 mins)

To discuss and agree a statement from the LAF regarding the effects of flea treatment and the risks to human health and the natural environment, as a result of an issue raised by a member of the public at the 9th December 2025 meeting (GC) (Item D)

10. Traffic Speed and Open Moorland (10 mins)

To provide a verbal update on a recent meeting about traffic speed on open moorland (DB)

11. DEFRA Accessibility Funding 2025/26 (10 mins)

To receive a presentation of projects completed last financial year (SA)

12. Review of Signage on Access Land (10 mins)

To discuss the challenges of providing signage for the public on access land in view of public safety, particularly around livestock and responsible behaviour by the public, particularly in relation to dogs (SA).

13. Access & Recreation Highlights December 2025 – April 2026 (10 mins)

To receive a presentation on the work of the Access & Recreation Team since the last meeting (December 2025 – April 2026)

14. Date of next meeting and agenda items:

To agree the date, method (and venue if needed) of the next Forum meeting.

15. Any Other Business of Urgency

For further information about the Exmoor Local Access Forum and its work, please contact the Secretary, Sue Applegate, at the postal address, telephone number, or email address given at the top of this agenda.

EXMOOR LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Minutes of a meeting of the Exmoor Local Access Forum held **on Tuesday 9th December 2025** at 10:00 at Exmoor House, Dulverton.

PRESENT

George Curry (Chair)
Graham Lavender (Vice)
Alison Kent
Jon Richardson
Chris Binnie

Gill Whitehead
Mark Lutyens
Tony Lowe
Mike Dicks
Simon Gibson

Exmoor National Park Staff in Attendance:

Member of the public:

Sue Applegate

1 member of the public attended

Kay Willmott

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Andrew Bray
Rupert Martin
Laura Carew
Nick Thwaite
Dan Barnett (ENPA)

2. WELCOMES, REAPPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

Simon Gibson has agreed to be reappointed as a LAF member for another three-year term.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

4. MINUTES: (1) APPROVAL

The minutes of the meeting held on the 25th June 2025 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chair.

MINUTES: (2) MATTERS ARISING

Update on Hinds Pitt bridge

SA updated on the progress at Hinds' Pitt Bridge – As there is no public right of way across the bridge it makes the process more difficult. ENPA are negotiating with landowners but this is confidential. The proposal is for a diversion of the bridleway (which currently crosses at a deep ford downstream of the bridge) to the current position of bridge - the replacement bridge would be constructed to a bridleway specification (similar to Great Bradley Bridge) with a footpath down to Tarr Steps on the West side of the river.

New more permanent signs will be going up around Tarr Steps explaining the temporary diversion, and implications if the stones of Tarr Steps get swept away over the winter.

Update on Wheal Eliza bridge

SA updated on progress – instruction for works have been given to Peninsula Access, we are waiting for EA licence for works to begin.

Actions – All actions from the previous actions have been completed.

MINUTES: (3) REQUEST FOR ITEMS TO BE RAISED UNDER AOB

None

5. Meet the Community / Public Question Time

A member of the public had emailed the ELAF chair ahead of the meeting and spoke to reiterate his concerns about access to the River Barle by the public. These included the number of dogs and people wild swimming in the River Barle at Tarr Steps with particular emphasis on the harm caused by flea and tick treatments on the river. As the area has SSSI status he believes this should be addressed.

GC – ask for information on tick treatment. These will be sent to SA to be circulated.

SA explained that ENPA have installed information signs in the car park and by the river at Tarr Steps explaining about the site's sensitivity, controlling dogs and to ask people to stop animals going into the water after having flea treatments. ENPA also share information on the website and social media. Rangers visit the area during weekend checks but with only 4 Rangers covering the whole National Park, this is a much of a presence as can be achieved.

Action: SA to circulate links to members.

6. Report (Sept 2025 All Party Parliamentary Group for Outdoor Recreation and Access to Nature

This is an initial report from an all-party group setting out recommendations for policy which includes recommendations for expanding access, improving existing access, accessing blue spaces and promoting health & well-being - it is relevant to the LAF, however it is not a consultation at this stage. All interested parties were asked to contribute, on a short timescale in July 2025 including land managers and owners in the hope to influence future policy - some LAF members responded.

ACTION: No action necessary at this stage, but the LAF could form a working group if it is taken further.

7. ENPA Management Plan (formerly known as the Partnership Plan)

CB, TL and SG went to the launch. SG thought that it was good document and commended the inhouse team for producing such a professional and comprehensive report. The LAF working group felt their recommendations were represented.

Action: SA to pass compliments onto Clare Reid & other staff

8. Active Travel on Exmoor

This project is grant funded by Active Travel England to look at active travel to and within the park.

Village audits in Porlock, Dunster and Dulverton were carried out in November. The three public meetings had around 40 attendees and contributed a lot of ideas which are being collated for the next phase. Consultants WSP have created the reports.

ENPA are in the process of bidding for second round of funding, due in on 12th Jan 2026, for more comprehensive work on the AT plan over the next 12-18 months. This would be for at least £100,000 with possibly of another £100,000 to take at least one project to the implementation stage for possible further funding.

A project officer post is planned to help implement the next stage. Possible projects to be looked at in more depth:

- A39 crossing points all along the A 39 in Exmoor
- Wimbleball routes
- Minehead to Porlock cycling route – problem of gradients.
- Brushford to Dulverton

LAF are still keen to form a working group to advise and contribute to the Active Travel Plans if this would be helpful.

9. Other Externally Funded Projects on Exmoor

- a) DEFRA Accessibility Funding – update on Year 4
- b) Pioneers Royal Forest HLF Funded Access Work (includes Driver Farm access improvements)
- c) Reviving Exmoor's Heartlands Landscape Recovery Access Plan

SA DEFRA funding has been concentrating on improvements to make access easier on existing routes.

Pinkery Path £20,000 improvements between the centre and the chains. Photos were shown. This was to improve the path to be able to use trampers along the path to the pond, altering the line of the existing route back to the original line of the leat and improving gateways which had become difficult to access. Work was managed by Ranger, Richard Eales and carried out by a local contractor. School groups use the pond and it gives people with mobility issues the opportunity to experience the open moor. Other works being considered include linking the laybys at the bottom on A39 and permitted paths on Driver by 2026 (through the Pioneers project)

10. Wild Camping on Exmoor

Members considered the paper previously circulated which questions whether wild camping should be made more widely available on Exmoor, particularly on ENPA owned land. The concept of using an App to make specific locations available to small groups through a company called CampWild was explained. There are benefits to this including controlling numbers, knowing who is using the site and charging. As a landowner of 7% of the National Park, should we provide some places for those less confident about wild camping? It was suggested that there is not a problem with wild camping at present so why do more? Overall, SA explained there were very few issues with wild camping. SG said there were issues at Lee Abbey (since the new section of Coast Path had opened) with people camping around 10 times a year without permission and not being sensitive to the hazards of having open fires and BBQ's when the land is dry. The issue of planning was also raised. Campsites are allowed for a maximum of 56 days without planning permission, for a SSSI it is 28 days. Would those days be collectively park wide, by parish, is that only if people pay? SA will look into these further. It was suggested that volunteers could help monitor sites to make sure they are left in a good state. After careful consideration LAF members supported the idea of looking further into making some areas made available for wild camping.

ACTION: SA will look into planning issues

11. Exmoor Visitor Survey 2025 Results

Members noted that the biggest dissatisfier identified in the survey is the lack of public transport. Discussion about how to improve this possibly speaking to ENPA Members/Chairman.

The idea of ENPA providing some suggested walks with public transport was raised, potentially using the bus and then walking back to the car.

The excellent RoW score was noted by members and LAF Members congratulated the Access & Recreation and Field Services Teams for their work.

ACTION: SA to raise the idea of sustainable walking routes, using public transport for one leg with Dan James, Enterprise and Communications Manager.

12. Livestock and Public Access

All members of the LAF were aware of the incident in October where a dog walker was found unconscious on access land on Winsford Hill; she sadly died later in hospital.. ENPA have been liaising closely with HSE and have been provided ENPA's procedure for animal incidents. The landowner has put up new signs with QR code which when scanned with a phone, show where the cattle are (using GPS collars), to help people make choices where to walk on this access land. Members questioned whether the use of these collars (or similar as there are at least 2 types available) could be encouraged elsewhere in the Park but it was felt that we needed to wait to see how well this works first.

13. Dogs Attacks and Livestock

AK updated on changes in legislation including unlimited fines, more species of animal will be protected. The police powers have been enhanced to include the ability to collect forensic evidence and seizure of animals. Definitions of worrying and attack have been defined, and both are now a criminal offence.

Action: AK to send SA a link to forward to LAF members

14. Definitive Map Review and Modification Order Backlog on Exmoor

Progress on the definitive map review in Devon is doing well and is done on a parish-by-parish basis. In Somerset the review is done on a case-by-case basis and there is a huge backlog of applications. AK updated the members that there are at present 26 on Exmoor, with 100s countywide waiting to be processed. However, recent staff cuts at Somerset Council make it less likely this backlog will be tackled. Members were very concerned the lack of progress being made on the Somerset side of the National Park when compared to Devon. AK is meeting Somerset Council on Thursday about DMMOs.

Action: AK to feedback on meeting on Thursday regarding DMMO, and LAF to proceed from there. The LAF will query the lack of performance DMMO for Somerset.

15. Public Path Orders/Legal Matters

Newcombe Farm work is well underway and will be completed Hopefully by Christmas.
Ford Farm, Cutcombe, tickets are in.
Other orders are pending.

16. Date of next meeting and agenda items:

Date of next meeting will be arranged by Doodlepoll. Members suggested a date in early May and November (rather than December) would be most convenient.

17. Any Other Business of Urgency

The Chair closed the meeting at 12.33



Exmoor Local Access Forum Terms of Reference

Local Access Forum under section 94(4) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

Title: The Forum shall be known as the Exmoor Local Access Forum (ELAF)

Remit of the Exmoor Local Access Forum

The purpose of the Exmoor Local Access Forum (ELAF) shall be to provide advice to Exmoor National Park Authority and other specified bodies on how to improve “public access to land in the area for the purposes of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the area”, (section 94 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act), in ways which address social, economic and environmental interests.

The Exmoor Local Access Forum will have a remit to advise on and identify potential for strategic programmes, projects, policies that may be relevant towards improving and increasing access to increase and improve access to, and enjoyment of, open spaces, public rights of way and the general countryside in Exmoor National Park. The Forum will provide an arena within which to raise strategic issues, exchange ideas and share good practice and experiences.

Specifically, the Exmoor Local Access Forum will:

1. Support and advise the Exmoor National Park Authority on strategic access and recreation issues relevant to Exmoor National Park. This should include specific advice on items discussed at LAF meeting where appropriate.
2. Comment on strategic national, regional and local (county/district) consultations and policies in so far as they impact on access issues affecting Exmoor National Park.
3. Contribute to the development and revision of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) for Exmoor (a chapter within the Devon and Somerset RoWIPs first published in 2005).
4. Act as a consultative body in relation to access restrictions on Open Access Land or to the implementation of Coastal Access.
5. Instigate and develop partnerships with other groups and organisations to influence delivery of recreational/access infrastructure and promotion of recreational/access opportunities.
6. Oversee progress by all partners under the relevant section of the Management Plan for Exmoor.
7. Consider the impact of people on the National Park, in particular, relating to sensitive sites and advise Exmoor National Park Authority accordingly.

ITEM B

In partnership, the Authority (as the Access Authority) is expected to:

- Consult the forum on relevant strategic matters.
- Provide relevant information, reports and background papers.
- Give feedback on advice received from the Forum.
- Raise awareness of the Forum amongst officers and members throughout the Authority.
- Act as secretariat to the Forum.

Review

The terms of reference will be reviewed, as a minimum, every three years.

Date of next review: April/May 2029.

Appendix 1 – Membership

Forum members shall represent one or more fields of interest rather than any particular organisation of which they might also be a member. Where a member wishes to or is requested to represent a particular organisation, this may be permitted at the discretion of the Chairman and the extent of representation should be clearly defined.

Members of the Forum shall be appointed to achieve a reasonable balance of the following interests:

- a) Users of Exmoor's path and access network (for example walkers, horse riders, cyclists, people with limited mobility), and
- b) owners and occupiers of access land or land crossed by local rights of way, and
- c) other interests relevant to Exmoor, such as tourism, sport (including field and country sports), recreation, wildlife conservation, cultural heritage, health, outdoor education, public transport, community safety and local business.

Members shall be appointed by Exmoor National Park Authority following open advertising and a fair and transparent appointment process. The appointment process will include consideration of applicants' interests and attributes (such as age, connections to working with younger people, gender, disability and ethnicity) alongside the interests and the social attributes represented by existing Forum members to ensure balance and diversity is maintained.

Before appointment members shall confirm:

- their commitment to working within the Guidance on Local Access Forums in England, issued by the Secretary of State, (Defra, February 2007) and achieving the purpose of the Forum through constructive working with other members;
- their ability to devote the necessary time to attend Forum meetings;
- their willingness to attend training sessions and to network with a wide range of relevant parties outside meetings.

Members shall be appointed for a term of three years. Members may re-apply for appointment at the end of their term. Membership may be terminated by the Authority where a member is absent from meetings for a year.

The lower and upper limits to the size of the forum (10 and 22) are set out in the Regulations. Exmoor National Park Authority regards a membership of 12 to 18 as an effective working size whilst allowing a wide representation of interests. Authority Members will be allocated to the Forum in line with the relevant regulations.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be appointed by the Exmoor Local Access Forum at its meeting in April/May and shall hold office for one year. Subject to their continuing membership of the Forum, they shall be eligible for re-election annually thereafter. Whilst there is no restriction upon the number of years these offices are held, providing the members remain appointed to the forum, the recommendation is that the position of Chairman is held for no longer than three years.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman should come from different interest groups but may both be from the 'other interest' category if their interests are different.

ITEM B

Members shall disclose the nature of any direct or indirect interest in any matter brought up for consideration at a meeting of the Forum which might “affect a member’s well being, financial position, or business (which would be a ‘direct’ interest, as it impacts on a member directly) or that of a relative or friend (which would be an ‘indirect’ interest) to a greater extent than that of other council tax payers, ratepayers or other inhabitants of the area.” However, members may still participate in the discussion.

Allowances:

Members may claim travelling allowances for attendance at Forum meetings and authorised training events, and where appropriate, a carer’s allowance, at rates in line with the Authority’s policies.

Appendix 2 – Administration

ELAF will identify:

- An annual work programme (with some flexibility to allow for reactive nature of ELAF).
- What input may be required from ENPA staff.
- What it will not do.

Exmoor National Park Authority will be responsible for organising the meetings and the associated administrative tasks such as sending out invitations and circulation of appropriate papers. The officer(s) undertaking these duties shall be titled for the purposes of the Forum the 'Secretary' or 'Joint Secretary'.

Agendas: Any items for the agenda should be submitted at least three weeks prior to each meeting. The agenda will be circulated to members at least 10 days prior to each meeting. The agenda will be made available to the public at least five working days before the meeting via the Authority's website. Meeting agendas shall be agreed between the Chairman and the Secretary.

Minutes: Exmoor National Park Authority will arrange for any minutes/actions from the meeting to be recorded and circulated to members within 14 days of the meeting.

Forum Meetings: The Forum will hold at least 2 public meetings per annum with additional meetings as required and at the discretion of the Chairman. Public meetings held by the Forum will be held at various venues within the National Park to facilitate engagement with local communities.

Working Groups:

- Working groups to complete the agreed work may be held between public meetings as directed by the Chairman.
- Work to be completed will be agreed at the public meetings of ELAF and completed work will be disseminated to ELAF members and ratified at a public meeting of ELAF.
- Members of a Working Group will be agreed at a public meeting but in exceptional circumstances changes to Working Group membership may be approved by the Chairman between public meetings.
- The Chairman may be a member or a Chairman of a Working Group.
- A Working Group may appoint (by vote) a Chairman for the purposes of the Working Group only.
- Meetings of Working Groups will operate without additional secretarial support from the Authority unless specific agreement is made otherwise.

Public Questions: Public questions may be submitted in writing three days before a meeting or taken at the meeting, at the discretion of the Chairman. Where public questions are taken at the public meeting, two minutes shall be allowed per person. Further comments and questions may be taken at the discretion of the Chairman where it is directly relevant to the work of the Forum and productive in executing that work.

Annual Report: An Annual Report will be prepared at the end of each calendar year in the form set out by Natural England.



Active Travel England

Exmoor National Park Capability Fund, Phase Two

Summary of agreed activities for the Exmoor Local Access Forum

Section A: Capability building activities

The mandatory activity that should be delivered using the funding is **the design of at least one active travel scheme to the point of bidding for capital funds by the end of the delivery period**. NPAs should provide details of how they intend to deliver this activity in the boxes below. NPAs will be expected to build upon their phase one work, including further developing their network plan. NPAs should provide details of additional capability building activities from the following list in subsequent activity boxes.

Activity A:

Scheme planning and design

Briefly provide any details related to the development and/or delivery of this activity, and anticipated outputs or outcomes including how you are expecting them to be realised by your activity (max 300 words) *

We want to complete planning and design for the following schemes that were identified as priorities by our Exmoor Active Travel Plan:

1. Dulverton to Brushford Multi-user Route. 3km traffic free route connecting these two settlements in the South of Exmoor, mostly serving utility use. This route could connect these two significant size settlements that share many public resources including shops, medical facilities and a school.
2. Develop at least 6 interventions identified by our studies of Active Travel Infrastructure within Larger Settlements (Lynton and Lynmouth, Dunster, Porlock and Dulverton) to improve utility journey options within these communities. These are relatively simple but important interventions such as better definition of safe walking areas alongside roads and bike parking facilities for example.

This planning and design work will require us to continue working closely with Somerset Council, Devon County Council and our local communities along with other key stakeholders that were engaged during the development of the Exmoor Active Travel Plan. Expert support will also be required along with careful landowner negotiation to ensure we achieve fully bid-ready schemes. Potential funding sources and partners will be investigated for each scheme as part of the process.

Activity B:**Scheme design and feasibility**

Briefly provide any details related to the development and/or delivery of this activity, and anticipated outputs or outcomes including how you are expecting them to be realised by your activity (max 300 words) *

We want to further develop our design and feasibility for the following schemes that were identified as priorities by our Exmoor Active Travel Plan:

1. Coastal Multi-user Route. Up to 15km route combining minor roads with new traffic free paths to better connect Minehead, Bossington, Porlock and Porlock Weir communities along our North Coast. This route could provide for both utility and recreational use. Substantial investigation for the route was carried out by our Family Friendly Cycling Feasibility Study, completed in 2019 and further work was carried out as part of the Exmoor Active Travel Plan. We want to build upon this work to further develop detailed design and costings for the proposal.
2. Tackle Main Road Severance of the Public Rights of Way network on the A39 between Lynton and Parracombe and in the Porlock Vale. Up to 5 potential road crossing schemes have been identified that require feasibility assessment. Each of them has the potential to make the existing public bridleway network safer for all users but they require professional assessment and design work to fully understand their potential and cost estimation.

This work will require us to continue working closely with Somerset Council, Devon County Council and our local communities along with other key stakeholders that were engaged during the development of the Exmoor Active Travel Plan. Expert support will also be required along with careful landowner negotiation.

Activity C:**Further develop the Exmoor Active Travel plan**

Briefly provide any details related to the development and/or delivery of this activity, and anticipated outputs or outcomes including how you are expecting them to be realised by your activity (max 300 words) *

The Exmoor Active Travel Plan Development process identified several areas where further information and study could enhance our network plan and we want to take this opportunity to complete the following work:

1. Extending the network for cycling and horse riding. Carry out a further two 'Active Travel Off Road' studies in the Dulverton and Cutcombe areas.
2. Active Travel Infrastructure in Larger Settlements. Use the methodology we have developed in phase 1 to carry out two further studies in Exford and Combe Martin.

3. Active Travel Routes into the National Park. Carry out audits and outline cost analysis to consider the potential for developing traffic free cycle routes along dismantled railway line routes coming into the National Park from Barnstaple, Tiverton and Washford.

This work will require us to continue working closely with Somerset Council, Devon County Council and our local communities along with other key stakeholders that were engaged during the development of the Exmoor Active Travel Plan. Expert support will be required for more technical aspects and plans will be developed with reference to national technical guidance and good practice including Manual for Streets 1&2, LTN 1/20 and Active Travel England tools and guidance.

Activity D:

Training programme

Briefly provide any details related to the development and/or delivery of this activity, and anticipated outputs or outcomes including how you are expecting them to be realised by your activity (max 300 words) *

A programme of training will be carried out for key staff, stakeholders and members to improve knowledge and skills on latest active travel standards, e.g. RDG, LTN1/20, Manual for Streets, Inclusive Mobility, and engagement standards along with ATE led events and activities.

Activity E:**Pooling of NP resources**

Briefly provide any details related to the development and/or delivery of this activity, and anticipated outputs or outcomes including how you are expecting them to be realised by your activity (max 300 words) *

This activity seeks to make effective use of pooled National Park Authorities (NPA) resources to strengthen capacity, consistency, and expertise across shared active travel and access agendas with all English National Parks.

A collaboration model will build a consistent approach to active travel planning and delivery across National Parks while improving long-term project delivery and knowledge sharing. This could be the development of collating funding bids, marketing and campaigns or further guidance on approach to Active Travel projects in National Parks.

The deliverables and output will be decided amongst the Active Travel officers working group and when the Phase Two project begins and the group reconvenes regular meetings. This could be in collaboration with National Park Partnerships and National Parks England.

Strategic Objectives Statement:

How will these capability building activities (above) support delivery of the objectives of the fund and your strategic objectives? (300 words max) *

The Exmoor National Park Partnership Plan is the statutory document that sets out the vision and key issues that need to be addressed to achieve National Park purposes.

The draft aims of our current plan are:

- A. A cared for landscape and heritage
- B. A nature-rich landscape
- C. A net zero National Park, mitigating and adapting to climate change
- D. A welcoming place for all, that people feel connected to, improving their health and well-being
- E. A sustainable, innovative economy with thriving communities
- F. Sustainable Landscapes, delivering National Park purposes

The programme of projects in this submission will help us achieve a net zero National Park. Along with all 15 UK National Parks we have committed to lead collaborative efforts to pilot new technologies and strategies to reduce carbon emissions and to achieve net-zero as places (including tourism) by 2045. Car travel is the single largest contributor to the overall footprint of Exmoor National Park (35% of the combined footprint of the residents and visitors), so active travel could play a huge role in future to help us achieve our net zero target.

This piece of work will also help with our ambition to improve peoples' health and wellbeing and improve their experience and access to the landscape by 'paving the way' for a funding-ready network of improved walking and cycling opportunities, carefully designed to maximise public benefit and longevity.

ITEM C

For our local community, an improved walking and cycling network will allow more sustainable and safe commuter journeys and provide new business opportunities and increased visitor spend.

The community and visitor consultation activities in this project will increase the likelihood that different groups will be more aware and engaged with our active travel plans and our schemes will be more representative of their needs.

Section B: Working with others

The guidance documentation for the National Parks Capability Fund, Phase Two, specifies that any proposal should include a commitment to work in partnership with relevant local authorities and highway authorities. Are you confident that your NPA will be able to meet this requirement? *

Yes

No

Describe how you aim to ensure that the proposed activities will complement the activities of the local authority, local highway authority and other relevant local organisations? * (e.g. current/planned LCWIPs, LTPs) (max 300 words)

Through our Agency Agreements with Devon County Council and Somerset Council we have delegated responsibility for Public Rights of Way Maintenance. This partnership approach provides us with close working relationships with the Councils and our Highway Authority colleagues.

Both Councils have completed, or are in the process of producing, LCWIPs for various locations and have completed some county wide analysis and strategic work that we can mesh with our own studies. Somerset Council has an ambition to complete a county wide LCWIP. Both Councils are also developing new Local Transport Plans, hopefully to come into effect 2026, so there is some further potential to ensure any further work we carry out is developed in line with these plans.

We will liaise carefully with both local authorities to ensure that any evidence gathering, and consultation activities compliment their own approach and can be useful for county-wide strategy development.

Section C: Public Sector Equality Duty

Please outline how you will meet your public sector equality duty obligations to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people when delivering your activity(s) (300 words max) *

Please refer to the protected characteristics listed where relevant: age; gender reassignment; being married or in a civil partnership; being pregnant or on maternity leave; disability; race including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation.

Exmoor National Park Authority are committed to equality of opportunity in the provision of our services and to ensuring that within the resources available, services are accessible and appropriate to the differing needs of the public, in line with our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy.

We will undertake a specific Equality Impact Assessment for this project.

In particular we will ensure that:

- available equality and deprivation data and impacts are considered as part of any infrastructure intervention cost-benefit analysis.
- our consultation processes will be highly accessible, and we will take extra steps to ensure we engage with a wide variety of individuals and underrepresented groups.
- principles of inclusive mobility will be included in design briefs for any new infrastructure.

Access to Rivers

Following on from the discussion at the December ELAF meeting and subsequent links that were circulated to members (provided by a member of the public), Chairman George Curry is proposing to issue the following statement on the issue on behalf of the ELAF:

The Exmoor Local Access forum (ELAF) is very aware of the damage that dogs recently treated with tick and flea treatments can do to aquatic life when entering a river. We have discussed the problem many times. The nature of Exmoor, however, is such that monitoring and preventing dogs from entering rivers is an impossible task and the ELAF is satisfied that the Exmoor National Park Authority (ENPA) staff are doing what they can with the limited resources at their disposal. The ELAF and ENPA will continue to promote a campaign to educate dog owners as to the risks to Exmoor's ecology. We are hopeful that awareness of the issue is growing nationally and locally.