

Connecting People and Places – update 2017


Working with communities to inform, inspire and engage people with Exmoor's special qualities was a priority within the 2012- 2017 Partnership Plan for Exmoor and the broad themes will continue into the new plan which is being developed for 2018-2022.

More to come on the emerging Partnership Plan later.

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 contributing to this 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.

For an up to date roundup of some of the exciting outcomes so far and other projects and activities planned, read on.....



A wonderful learning and socialising experience with elders and peer group members with humour and interesting diversity

New Audiences Fund

The Authority continues to fund a programme worth £10,000 per annum to assist and support groups with travel, accommodation and activity costs (all major barriers to accessing the National Park) to help people enjoy, learn about 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, our teams provide support and advice to the groups.

To date this fund has enabled 93 groups to visit the National Park, most for the first time.

Mosaic

Exmoor National Park Authority worked 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 were recruited, trained and supported by Mosaic so that, in turn as Community Champions, they could involve others and set up a groundswell of support of people who want to use and protect Exmoor and all National Parks.

Funding for the Mosaic Project, coordinated by Campaign for National Parks, has concluded but the model is still supported and Champions and new groups are making use of the New Audience Fund, for example, to access the National Park independently.

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. Trampers are available at Heddon Valley, Wimbleball Lake and Dunster Castle on Exmoor.

<http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/enjoying/accessible-exmoor>



Moor to Enjoy: a health and wellbeing partnership

Exmoor National Park Authority secured funding from Devon and Somerset Health and Wellbeing Boards in 2014 for a three-year health and wellbeing partnership, the first of its kind funded in this way in England. The project aims to demonstrate the health and wellbeing benefits of visiting Exmoor National Park and experiences in the natural environment. The focus is on physical & mental health and emotional wellbeing taking the 5 Ways to Wellbeing as a starting point:



The project also promotes the Chief Medical Officers guidance for physical activity and seeks to influence behaviours to this end:

- Under 5s: 180 minutes per day
- Children and young people (5-18 years): 60 minutes per day
- Adults and older adults: 150 minutes per week

The project seeks to sustain visits by increasing the capacity and knowledge base of groups or individuals who may not have considered visiting the National Park as one of their everyday opportunities; and showing that small changes in everyday behaviour can result in improved physical and mental health & wellbeing.

The Project has engaged directly with 508 participants who, when surveyed, continue to reflect the health and wellbeing benefits of access to and engagement with Exmoor National Park:

- 96% of them really enjoyed the experience
- 38% were more physically active
- 77% were more sociable
- 74% were more relaxed afterwards
- 87% said it lifted their spirits

“Every experience has had positive and profound impacts on the health and wellbeing of our families.... We have been allowed to explore an area of beauty with security and are now becoming independent users of Exmoor as a school, as individual families and as a community. Thank you!”

www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/living-and-working/moor-to-enjoy-project

GROUPS AND OUTREACH

Our Learning and Outreach Team is available to advise and support formal and informal learning, day visits and residential stays at our Centre for Outdoor learning at Pinkery. Each year we support over 6000 people to visit, learn about and enjoy what is special about Exmoor National Park.

“I learned that if I pushed myself I can achieve great things”

“Highlight of the trip? The incredible landscape and the stars on the night safari”

“As a result of our visits [to Exmoor] we developed more creative ways of communication and have brought that to the drama workshops we delivered with children and adults with learning difficulties.”

www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/learning

Please see the contact details below for who to contact

What's Next?

Our Strategic Actions within the 2012-2017 Partnership Plan outline our equality objectives for the next 5 years. These are currently being reviewed, communities engaged and updated objectives will be published in the next Partnership Plan.

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 and Communication	01398 322241 tpbraund@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk	New Audience Fund http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/living-and-working/grants-and-funding Health and Wellbeing http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/living-and-working/moor-to-enjoy-project
Ben Totterdell Interpretation and Education Manager	01398 322286 btotterdell@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk	Opportunities for schools and education providers/groups. http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/learning
Dave Gurnett Learning and Outreach Officer	07970 099117 djgurnett@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk	Opportunities for schools and education providers/groups. http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/learning
Patrick Watts-Mabbott Volunteer and Outreach Officer	01398 322227 pwatts-mabbott@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk	Conservation volunteering opportunities. http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/get-involved
Sophie Turner Outreach and Engagement Officer	07970 513631 sophietyler@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk	Opportunities for schools and education providers/groups. http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/learning
Jackie Kiberd Get Involved Coordinator Jess Twydall Community Engagement Officer	01398 322227 jkiberd@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk 01598 751065 jtwydall@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk	Get Involved – volunteering opportunities across the Authority and with partner organisations. http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/get-involved
Dave Huxtable Pinkery Centre Manager	01643 831437 dhuxtable@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk	Residential outdoor learning and activities. http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/learning/pinkery-centre

You may also be interested in:

Organisation	Website	Who they are
Calvert Trust	www.calvert-trust.org.uk/exmoor/exmoor	Calvert Trust Exmoor enables people with physical, learning, behavioural and sensory disabilities to experience exciting, challenging and enjoyable outdoor activities.
Countryside Mobility South West	www.countrysidemobility.org.uk	Countryside Mobility provides safe, enjoyable and easy access to the South West's countryside and visitor attractions for anyone who has difficulty walking, through an off road mobility scooter hire scheme.
Campaign for National Parks (Mosaic)	www.cnp.org.uk	We are the only national charity campaigning to protect and promote all of the National Parks in England and Wales
Southwest Lakes Trust	www.swlakestrust.org.uk	Established in April 2000, to manage, provide and promote public access, recreation, and conservation on and around inland waters