



EXMOOR

NATIONAL PARK

EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
EXMOOR HOUSE, DULVERTON
SOMERSET TA22 9HL
TEL: (01398) 323665
FAX: (01398) 323150
E-mail: info@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk
www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

26th March 2026

EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

To: All Members of the Exmoor National Park Authority

A meeting of the Exmoor National Park Authority will be held in the **Committee Room, Exmoor House, Dulverton** on **Tuesday, 7th April at 10.00am.**

The meeting will be open to the press and public subject to the passing of any resolution under s.100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

There is Public Speaking at this meeting, when the Chairperson will allow members of the public two minutes each to ask questions, make statements, or present a petition relating to any item relevant to the business of the Authority or relating to any item on the Agenda. Anyone wishing to ask questions should notify the Corporate Support Officer as soon as possible, or at the latest by 4pm on the working day before the meeting of the agenda item on which they wish to speak, indicating a brief summary of the matter or matters to be raised (contact Committees@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk).

The meeting will be **recorded**. By entering the Authority's Committee Room and speaking during Public Speaking you are consenting to being recorded. We will make the recording available via our website for members of the public to listen to and/or view, within 72 hours of the meeting taking place.

Members of the public may use forms of social media to report on proceedings at this meeting. Anyone wishing to film part or all of the proceedings may do so unless the press and public are excluded for that part of the meeting or there is good reason not to do so. As a matter of courtesy, anyone wishing to film proceedings is asked to advise the Chairperson so that those present may be made aware.

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

Sarah Bryan
Chief Executive

As set out above, the Authority welcomes public engagement with its work and believes that everyone attending a meeting of Exmoor National Park Authority or one of its Committees has the right to be treated with respect and to feel safe at all times, including before, during and after the meeting they attend.

The Authority understands that some situations can be difficult and lead to frustration; however, the Authority is committed to promoting an environment where everyone feels listened to and respected and is not subjected to unacceptable behaviour. Further guidance is provided in our Customer Notice, available on our [website](#).

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare any interests they may have in relation to items on the agenda for this meeting.

3. Chairperson's Announcements

4. **Minutes** (1) To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Authority held on 3rd March 2026 (Item 4).

(2) To consider any Matters Arising from those Minutes.

5. **Business of Urgency:** To introduce any business which by reason of special circumstances the Chairperson, after consultation with the Chief Executive, is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency and to resolve when such business should be ordered on the Agenda.

6. **Public Speaking:** The Chairperson will allow members of the public to ask questions, make statements, or present a petition. Questions of a general nature relevant to the business of the Authority can be asked under this agenda item. Any questions specific to an agenda item can be posed when that item is considered subject to the discretion of the person presiding at the meeting.

7. **Exmoor National Park Authority Corporate Plan 2026 - 2030** – To consider the report of the Chief Executive (Item 7)

8. **Reviving Exmoor's Heartlands Landscape Recovery Scheme** - To consider the report of the Head of Climate, Nature and Communities (Item 8)

9. **Standards Committee Minutes** - To receive and note the draft Minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 2nd December 2025. (Item 9)

10. Personnel Update:

Starters: Bev Jones, 28/3/26 – Seasonal Information Advisor, Dulverton

Leavers: Izzy Burns, 31/3/26 – Exmoor Pioneers Assistant Engagement Ranger

11. **Members' Reports:** To receive any updates and reports on meetings or events attended by Members as representatives of Exmoor National Park Authority.

Further information on any of the reports can be obtained by contacting the National Park Authority at the address and telephone numbers at the top of the agenda. Details of the decisions taken at this meeting will be set out in the formal Minutes which the Committee will be asked to approve as a correct record at its next meeting. In the meantime, details of the decisions can be obtained from the Democratic Support Officer, at Exmoor House.

EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Exmoor National Park Authority held on Tuesday, 3 March 2026 at 10.00am in the Committee Room, Exmoor House, Dulverton.

PRESENT

Miss A V Davis (Chairperson)

Mr R Milton (Deputy Chairperson)

Mr A Bray

Mr M Ellicott

Mr W Geen

Mr J Holtom

Mr R Hopley

Dr M Kelly

Mrs F Nicholson

Mr J Patrinos

Mr S J Pugsley

Mrs F Smith

Miss E Stacey

Miss C Strom

Mr N Thwaites

Miss L Williams

Apologies for absence were received from Mr L Baker, Mr T Butt-Philip, Mrs M Chilcott, Mr D Elson, Mr M Kravis, Dr S Warren.

- 67. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** In relation to Item 9, Internal Audit Report 2025/26 and Plan for 2026/27, Miss A V Davis declared a personal interest as a relative was employed by the Authority's internal auditors, Devon Assurance Partnership.
- 68. CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:** There were none.
- 69. MINUTES**
- i. **Confirmation:** The Minutes of the Authority's meeting held on 2 December 2025 were agreed and signed as a correct record.
 - ii. **Matters arising:** There were none.
- 70. BUSINESS OF URGENCY:** There was none.
- 71. PUBLIC SPEAKING:** See Minute 77 for details of public speaking.
- 72. DISPENSATION TO AUTHORITY MEMBERS:** The Authority considered the report of the Monitoring Officer.

The Authority's consideration

Members noted the exemption was last agreed in November 2021 for a period of four years. To enable the Authority to conduct its business effectively, dispensation needed to be reviewed and granted for another four years. Whilst this expired in November 2025, there were no impacts on Members as the business in December 2025 was for noting only, and no meetings were held in January and February 2026.

The power to grant dispensation was delegated to the Authority's Standards Committee, but the Authority was making the dispensation itself to ensure it was in place.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To grant the dispensation for four years to all Authority Members who are elected Members or co-opted members of another public authority, and who have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in a matter only by virtue of the fact the s/he or his/her spouse is in receipt of an allowance that other authority:
 - i) where the issue is a matter of dispute between the National Park Authority and the other authority, and the matter would affect the financial position of that other authority, the Authority Member may speak on the matter provided s/he immediately withdraws from the meeting room; and
 - ii) in relation to other matters affecting that other authority, the Authority Member may speak and vote.

73. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2026/27 AND BUDGETS 2026/27: The Authority considered the report of the Chief Finance Officer.

The Authority's Consideration

- The Authority was entering into a new three-year Defra settlement period and at the time of writing the report, confirmation from Defra had not been received. Since writing, a Letter of Intent had been received for 2026/27, and it was confirmed that the assumptions for this Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan were indicative.
- This was the eighth year that the National Park Grant (NPG) was at a level of real term cuts.
- The Medium-Term Financial Plan presented a balanced budget for 2026/27, but further savings could be required for 2027/28 onwards.
- This budget setting process continued to be challenging. However, the budget resourced the work of the Authority to further National Park purposes and supported the recently launched Management Plan and delivery of the Corporate Strategy and Actions.
- There was a fall projected in the overall level of reserves, partly due to programmed spending. However, the Chief Finance Officer was content that the reserves were adequate to meet future challenges. The Authority continued to contribute to reserves on an ongoing basis to meet one-off costs that were not consistent or predictable.
- It was anticipated that not all projects in the capital programme would be completed in 2025/26 due to a variety of issues, which could mean that some of the CDEL funding would be unspent.
- Defra gave an indication that further CDEL funding would be allocated in 2026/27; however, at the time of writing, this had not yet been confirmed. If it was to be confirmed, a further update would be brought to Members early in the new financial year.
- The Authority would continue to seek external contributions to support its capital spend.
- Most Fees and Charges increased in line with inflation; however, car parking charges remained the same since they increased last year. It was suggested

to increase the cost of car parking permits as these had not been increased since they were introduced three years ago.

Members raised the following points:

- Given the continuing uncertainty of funding, could the Authority rely on reserves in the future and if not, what were the options?
- There was concern about overspends occurring due to events outside of our budgeted costs, e.g., climate change, recent events in the world impacting on inflation.
- It was suggested that the Authority works with Exmoor Hill Farming Network to access the Collaboration Fund which could provide opportunities to proactively support some of the costs for future schemes.
- The significant cost to the uncertainty of budgeting, staffing and resources (e.g., capital spend in a short period of time) from a more project-based style of working, was highlighted. It would be interesting to know the situation at other National Parks regarding CDEL spend.

In terms of the Medium-Term Financial Plan and Budgets 2026-27 set out in the report, the Chief Finance Officer advised the following:

- The timing between spending and receiving project funds was an issue, particularly on longer-term projects. Funds were predicated against projects using the reserves budget and then readjusted once funding had been received. With reserves being used in this way, the Authority still had a robust budget.
- The use of reserves for contingency in a proactive way worked well and complemented other funding streams. The Authority's finance system would include a project ledger for each project, with a key project officer managing the individual budget. Transparency would be achieved through the provision of project breakdowns of spend and income for each project for reporting purposes.
- The Authority's reserve base was sound for short-term mitigation and anticipated to be sustainable for the next two to three years, depending on changing circumstances. If there were to be future deficits, a business review could be considered.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To note the month 9 budget monitoring position for 2025/26.
- 2) To approve the Core, Capital and Programmes, Partnerships and Contributions to the Reserves Budgets for 2026/27 as summarised in Appendices 2,3 and 4.
- 3) To note the position on reserves as detailed in Appendix 5.
- 4) To adopt the attached Medium-Term Financial Plan at Appendix 6.
- 5) To approve the updated Fees and Charges schedule at Appendix 7.

- 74. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2025/26 AND PLAN FOR 2026/27:** The Authority considered the **report** of the Chief Finance Officer:

The Authority's Consideration

- Mr Lee Elson from Devon Audit Partnership joined the meeting to present the Internal Audit Plan for the year ending 31 March 2026. Substantial assurance was given to the Authority with some minor observations, and the areas for audit next year were confirmed. Members were made aware that this was an agile report where plans could be revisited if necessary.
- Mr Elson thanked the Chief Finance Officer and his team for their support for the audit process.
- Following a query about petty cash, it was confirmed that this was still in use to support 'quick' purchases at different sites across Exmoor National Park Authority and that this was a low risk to the Authority.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To receive the Internal Audit Annual Report 2025/26 and Audit Plan 2026/27 at Appendix 1
- 2) To receive the Internal Audit Key Financial Systems Audit report for 2025/26 at Appendix 2

- 75. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2026-27:** The Authority considered the **report** of the Chief Finance Officer

The Authority's Consideration

RESOLVED:

- 1) To note the report of the Chief Finance Officer.
- 2) To approve the proposed Treasury Management Strategy for 2026-27 as set out in sections 2 and 3 of the report.
- 3) To note the Prudential Indicators for 2026-27 to 2028-29 as set out in section 4 of the report (although some are currently set at zero, all Treasury Management indicators were included for completeness of information and others may well be used in the future).

- 76. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF SCHEME OF MEMBER ALLOWANCES:** The Authority considered the **report** of the Chief Executive.

The Authority's consideration

- Members were reminded that that dispensation was in place for Members under 14.4(a) of the Member Code of Practice.
- Members noted the key recommendations for freezing the level of allowance for two years, changing the level of allowance paid to the Deputy Chairs and introducing a parental leave scheme.
- Mr Patrinos moved the recommendations in the report with the allowance to Members being £2,227.16 (the figure given using the formula set out in paragraph 5.16 of Appendix 4), rather than £3,274.21 as recommended by the remuneration panel, as the reasoning for the higher level recommended (an additional £1000) was not clear. The motion was seconded by Mr Thwaites.

- Dr Kelly was concerned if the outcome of the report was not supported by the evidence.
- Miss Williams felt that cutting £1000 from the allowance would make a significant difference to her ability to attend as a working parent.
- The majority of Members felt there was ample evidence provided in the report and some were surprised that this was being challenged.
- Members felt that combining the roles of Deputy Chair and Chair of Planning Committee was not practical due to the nature of the Planning Committee and the role of the Planning Chair. However, Members were reminded that the report suggested considering this and it was agreed that this should be delegated to the Standards Committee to consider at some point.
- Members were reminded that it was open to any Member to forgo their allowances if they wished to as set out in the Code of Conduct.
- Miss Stacey moved that the motion be amended so that the allowance paid to Members be £3,274.21 rather than £2,227.16. Mrs Nicholson seconded the amendment.
- The amendment in the name of Miss Stacey was then put to the vote and declared carried and subsequently thereafter also carried as the substantive motion.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To adopt the recommendations set out in the review and ask the Chief Finance Officer to incorporate into budget setting, modify the Scheme of Allowances and introduce a parental leave policy.
- 2) To adopt the Member Scheme of Allowances for 2026/27

77. BIODIVERSITY DUTY REPORTING: The Authority considered the report of the Head of Climate, Nature and Communities who stated the following:

PUBLIC SPEAKING: Mr Roger Foxwell raised the following points:

- Mr Foxwell asked where in the report it was mentioned that Exmoor was a farmed, living landscape that works with nature.
- Over the last four years, Exmoor National Park Authority was the main recipient of grant from the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) scheme.
- There should be more engagement with the wider community and help provided for those who found it difficult to fill in the forms.
- The map showed the honeypot areas where a lot of money had been spent, including resurfacing car parks such as at the top of Porlock Hill. How did this fit with farming?
- How were Members going to support farmers? It was suggested that Members visit a small farm to see the issues being experienced.
- Regarding spending on landscape recovery advice, Mr Foxwell questioned why advice was not sought from internal knowledge rather than using external consultants.

The Authority's Consideration

- Members noted that Local authorities and local planning authorities were required to publish a biodiversity report for the period 1 January 2021 and 1 January 2026, by the 26 March 2026. The report explained what must be reported by law and confirmed that policies needed to be in place and that the actions within the biodiversity duty complied.
- Members were informed that subsequent reporting periods would be within 5 years of the end date of the previous reporting period.
- The Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme had substantially funded hedgerow management across Exmoor including creating new hedges and restoring old ones. The opportunity to maintain these hedges would not have been there if it had not been for this funding. However, there was insufficient analysis into the value of the hedges in terms of nature and the contribution to net zero.
- Two new woodlands were created, and a lot of woodland planting was taking place. Consideration should be given to whether deer fencing restricts areas for wildlife.
- Whilst the physical climate was changing, there were also changes in terms of landownership and management and there was a need to ensure that national policy and support programmes considered this.
- The FiPL process was not as simple as the Authority determining where funds should be allocated. Whilst Members would hope to see a greater diversity of awards spread across the landscape, if the project met with Defra's conditions, it was difficult to refuse it. There is a dedicated team employed to help people complete the forms and to provide advice on what could and could not be done.
- Members were confident that the FiPL team were doing a great job, but commented that if there was a perception that things were not quite right, then communication should be reflected on.
- Members were made aware that the FiPL team regularly attended livestock and farming markets and other sites to promote the FiPL scheme as well as engaging with farmers through the Exmoor Hill Farming Network and other groups.
- It was noted that whilst FiPL funding had been awarded for use on the Authority's land, there were also projects that supported farmers more widely and gave wider biodiversity benefits.
- It was felt that Defra was happy with the FiPL programme and delivery which was demonstrated by a three-year extension.
- It was confirmed that the team were working on concluding this year's applications and preparing for next year, including how to communicate with the farming community and other potential applicants. It was asked how planning was contributing to delivery of BNG as this would be interesting in terms of our decision-making.
- Members heard that the contribution of planning to deliver BNG was small due to the levels of development and with most being delivered on site; however, the Authority's planning policies contributed to BNG and would help to enhance decision-making.

- Regarding air quality assessments, it was highlighted that a lot of work was being done to get systems in place to enable planning decisions to be made on livestock barns, which will be of great value to farmers given the concerns over delays caused.
- Members also highlighted the work being done on species reintroductions, and recognized that there a lot of positive elements to this, but also concerns. It is important that there are protocols and mitigation measures in place to deal with any problems. It was also important for the Authority to demonstrate ongoing commitment to the species reintroduction programmes and addressing the challenges.
- Members were reminded that only 7% of the National Park was owned by the Authority, some of the remaining 93% were owned by some significant landowners who would have their own biodiversity plans. Members were interested to know how their plans would impact on what we do and how they fit with the Authority's.
- Members were pleased that the Authority were showing leadership as other authorities were looking at National Parks for guidance as there was no formal guidance from government.
- Kate Lacey, Assistant Ecologist, was unable to attend the meeting and was thanked for her work on this.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To approve the Exmoor National Park Authority Biodiversity Duty Report
- 2) To delegate to the Chief Executive to make amendments to the final Report based on the Member discussion.

78. DEVON AND SOMERSET LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGIES (LNRS):

The Authority considered the [report](#) of the Head of Climate, Nature and Communities.

The Authority's consideration

- Members were reminded that this report followed the two previous reports which sought approval for the consultation phases on draft Strategies for both Devon and Somerset. Following public consultations amendments were made and both Strategies were awaiting the Authority's approval (as a Supporting Authority) before publication.
- Members noted that responses to the consultations from both authorities were mostly positive. Somerset took a brochure approach whilst Devon was more web-based.
- Amendments to the Somerset LRNS included making the report clearer, expanding and refining information for easier use and ensuring it was more accessible to non-specialists by adding a Jargon Buster page.
- The amendments to the Devon LRNS included improvements to the website function and user journey, as well as mapping usability and by adding more information to the mapping content.
- Members questioned why Exmoor was not explicitly mentioned until page 12 of the Somerset LRNS, given that the Authority was a significant landscape in

Somerset. However, Officers felt that Exmoor was mentioned quite prominently and adequately throughout the Strategy.

- It was noted that the complexity of this work was huge and was developed as a useful resource; however, data sets were only valid at the time, so the data was already historical. It was hoped that the Strategies would be updated on a regular basis to give value to schemes in the future.
- It was confirmed that whilst Devon was moving to a unitary authority, Devon County Council were leading on this work, which encompasses those other authorities - we would continue to work with the Council going forward.
- Devon and Somerset Councils were thanked for keeping the Authority informed.

RESOLVED:

To approve both the Devon and Somerset Local Nature Strategies for publication following public consultation.

78. PERSONNEL UPDATE: The Authority noted the recent staff changes.

79. MEMBERS' REPORTS: There were none.

The meeting closed at 11.40am

(Chairperson)

EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

7th April 2026

EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY CORPORATE PLAN 2026 - 2030

Report of the Chief Executive

Purpose of Report: To present to Members the draft Exmoor National Park Authority Corporate Plan for 2026 – 2030 including proposed actions for 2026/27.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Authority is recommended to:

- (1) APPROVE the draft Exmoor National Park Authority Corporate Plan 2026 - 30
- (2) DELEGATE to the Chief Executive and Chairperson of the Authority to agree minor amendments following Member discussion.

Authority Priority: The Corporate Plan outlines the priorities for the Authority for the period to end of March 2030.

Legal and Equality Implications: Section 65(4) Environment Act 1995 – provides powers to the National Park Authority to “do anything which in the opinion of the Authority, is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to:-

- (a) the accomplishment of the purposes mentioned in s. 65 (1) [National Park purposes]
- (b) the carrying out of any functions conferred on it by virtue of any other enactment.”

The equality impact of the recommendations of this report has been assessed as follows:

There are no foreseen adverse impacts on any protected group(s). Engagement through the outreach work within the plan is designed to have a positive impact on protected groups.

Consideration has been given to the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998 and an assessment of the implications of the recommendations of this report is as follows: There are no implications for the Human Rights Act.

Financial and Risk implications: The budget for 2026/27 was approved by Members in March 2026. Defra has since provided an updated indicative settlement for the year which includes a one-off increase of £1.7m in revenue funding alongside the additional £1.4m capital allocation. The Corporate Plan priorities and actions will be used as the basis to target core grant and one-off additional support.

Climate Response: The Corporate plan includes action to respond to the climate emergency.

1. Background

- 1.1 In April 2023 Members approved a three-year Corporate Strategy to March 2026. This has now been completed, and progress has been monitored by Members.
- 1.2 The new Corporate Plan (see Appendix 1) has been drafted to align with and support delivery of the Exmoor National Park Management Plan which was launched in July 2025. The draft Corporate Plan covers the four-year period to the end of the Management Plan cycle. Actions within the Corporate Plan will be updated annually.
- 1.3 The Authority’s priorities continue to be focused on delivering our two statutory purposes of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of Exmoor, and

promoting opportunities for enjoyment and understanding of its special qualities. In fulfilling these purposes, we must also have regard to the social and economic well-being of the local community.

Over recent years, the need to respond to national priorities set out in the Environment Improvement Plan around nature and climate have become more apparent and have been the focus of additional funding from Defra. The Management Plan and Corporate Plan also have a strong focus on enabling people from all parts of society to enjoy the National Park to benefit their health and wellbeing.

In 2025/26 and again in 2026/27 all National Park Authorities were awarded additional capital sums to enable the delivery of projects to restore nature, deliver 30x30, improve access and encourage income generation. It has been indicated that these ring-fenced capital allocations are likely to continue in 2027/28 and 2028/29.

2. Draft Exmoor National Park Authority Corporate Plan 2026 – 2030

Our Priorities for 2026/27 include 10 substantial pieces of work. We will:

- Complete delivery plans for the National Park Management Plan by Dec 2026, and report on progress
- Deliver over £1.4m of capital funding and £1.7m revenue funding in addition to the core grant of £2.9m
- Submit plans for the Reviving Exmoor's Heartlands Landscape Recovery Scheme and progress through assurance and negotiation phases
- Deliver the Lottery funded Exmoor Pioneers programme for 2026-27
- Relaunch the Farming in Protected Landscapes scheme, review delivery over previous 5 years, and deliver funding programme for 2026-27
- Progress plans for Driver including renovation of the farmhouse and west barn
- Undertake feasibility studies for remodelling of modern buildings at Pinkery
- Develop plans for Exmoor House renovation
- If approved, prepare for and begin delivery of the Holnicote Riverlands Landscape Recovery Scheme on the ENPA Estate
- Develop a National Lottery bid for Landscape Connections

2.1 The draft Corporate Plan also sets out in more detail how the NPA will help to deliver against the 6 aims of the National Park Management Plan, namely:

- A nature-rich landscape
- A net zero National Park, mitigating and adapting to climate change
- Healthy natural resources
- A cared for landscape and heritage
- A welcoming place for all, that people feel connected to, improving their health and well-being
- A great place for people to live, work and do business

Under each of these aims the draft Corporate Plan outlines how ENPA will help deliver specific Management Plan targets. The draft Corporate Plan incorporates the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework which Government expects National Parks and National Landscapes to help deliver.

The targets will be pursued alongside continued delivery of high-quality services including management of the rights of way and access network, outreach and education, planning, rural enterprise, and support for visitors and land managers. The Plan includes a number of actions to support service delivery and ensure that the Authority is a highly performing organisation.

In addition, the draft Corporate Plan shows how ENPA will continue to be effective in delivering its priorities through good corporate governance and management of its budget. It signals our commitment to new ways of working and innovation in how we secure funding, and how we operate.

3. Monitoring progress

- 3.1 Progress will be reported to Leadership Team and Delivery Team on a quarterly basis which enables managers to highlight key achievements and any issues regarding delivery. A six-month progress update will be reported to the Authority in December. At the end of each financial year an annual performance review will be completed and reported at the Authority's Annual General Meeting. This provides information about the progress made in delivering the actions in the Corporate Plan, together with achievement against the Authority's performance indicators.

4. Next steps

Once Members have reviewed and agreed the content of the draft Corporate Strategy, amendments will be made and the document will be designed in-house, and it will be available on the Authority website.

Sarah Bryan
Chief Executive
March 2026

Appendix 1 Draft Corporate Strategy 2026 - 2030

Exmoor National Park Authority Corporate Strategy 2026-30 and Actions for 2026/27

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Introduction

Exmoor National Park Authority's role is to further National Park purposes:

- to conserve and enhance natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage; and
- to promote opportunities for people to understand and enjoy its special qualities.

In pursuing these purposes, it has a duty to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the National Park, working closely with partners including the Local Authorities.

In 2025, the Authority adopted an ambitious new five year National Park Management Plan, which sets out how these statutory purposes will be delivered: helping Exmoor to be greener, wilder and more accessible to all; and a home to thriving communities. It includes bold ambitions for nature recovery; for positive action to mitigate and adapt to climate change; to improve the quality of our natural resources; to care for the landscape and heritage; and to ensure that Exmoor is a welcoming place for all; as well as a great place for people to live, work, and do business.

This Corporate Strategy sets out how the Authority will lead delivery of the new National Park Management Plan 2025-2030. It also explains the Authority's corporate values, services and resources, recognising that delivering the ambitions and targets of the Management Plan will be challenging and require clear priorities, new ways of working, and innovation in both how we secure funding for delivery, and how we operate. In particular, it signals a refocus around capital programmes to deliver Government priorities for nature, climate, heritage and access set out in the Environment Improvement Plan and Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework. These priorities will be pursued alongside continued delivery of high quality services including management of the rights of way and access network, outreach and education, planning, rural enterprise, and support for visitors and land managers.

Exmoor Partnership Plan

A nature-rich landscape: Ambitious targets for enhancing, extending, and connecting wildlife habitats to support a greater abundance and diversity of species, contributing to 30 by 30.

A net zero National Park: Mitigating and adapting to climate change, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and increasing carbon sequestration through peatland restoration and temperate rainforest creation.

Healthy natural resources: Ensuring Exmoor's soils, air, and water resources are healthy and resilient, supporting naturally functioning ecosystems.

ITEM 7 – APPENDIX 1

A cared-for landscape and heritage: Conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, tranquillity, openness, wildness, and dark night skies of Exmoor, as well as its rich historic environment and cultural heritage.

A welcoming place for all: Improving accessibility and engagement with Exmoor's special qualities for a broader range of people, enhancing health and well-being; providing well-maintained recreation and access infrastructure; and promoting regenerative tourism.

A great place for people to live, work, and do business: Supporting sustainable communities and a low carbon economy, providing opportunities, skills, and employment.

Place-based delivery: Detailed strategies for managing Exmoor's moorland and farmland; woodland and trees; wetlands rivers and streams; and coast, ensuring integrated and sustainable management and expanding nature friendly farming.

Background

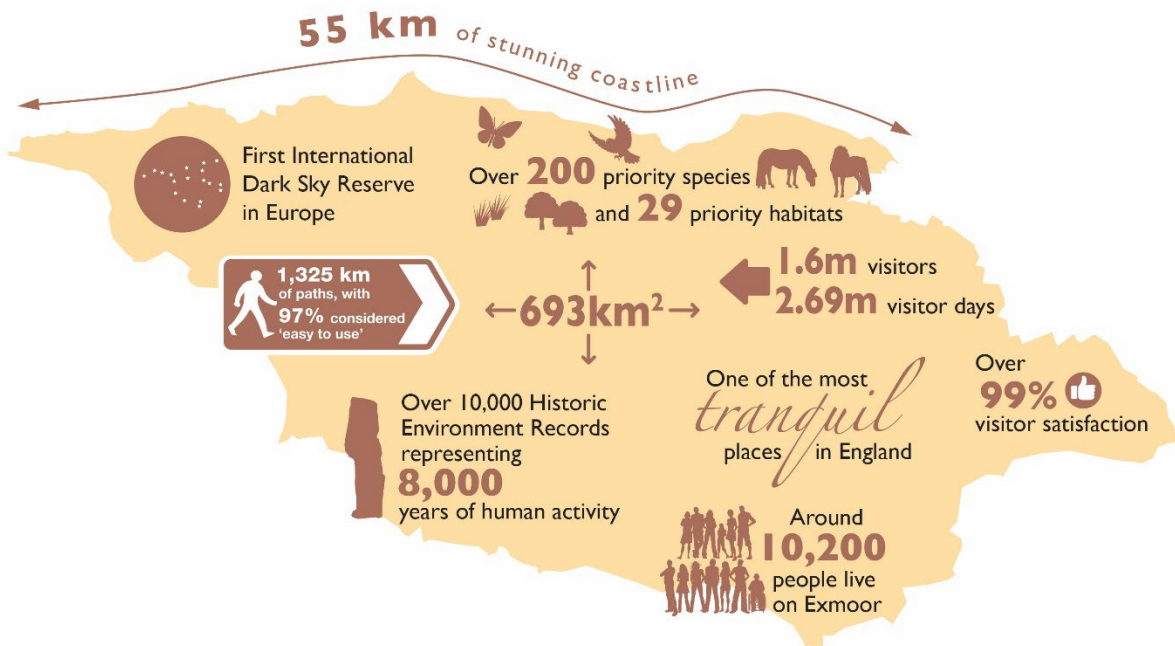
Exmoor was designated as a National Park in 1954 for its:

'spectacular coastline, fine heather, bracken and grass moorland, beautiful, wooded valleys, antiquities in great profusion... including stone circles, barrows, hut circles as well as earthworks... notable wildlife... and is first rate country for motoring, and for walking and riding'

Exmoor is one of 15 National Parks in the UK, the 'nation's breathing spaces'.



Exmoor National Park profile



Exmoor's special qualities



How we work

ENPA is led by a Board of 22 Members who have responsibility for setting the strategic direction of the Authority and ensuring we achieve our objectives through effective use of our resources:

- 12 are appointed by the Unitary, County and District Councils with land within the National Park
- 5 are nominated by and elected from the Parish and Town Councils within the National Park
- 5 are appointed by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

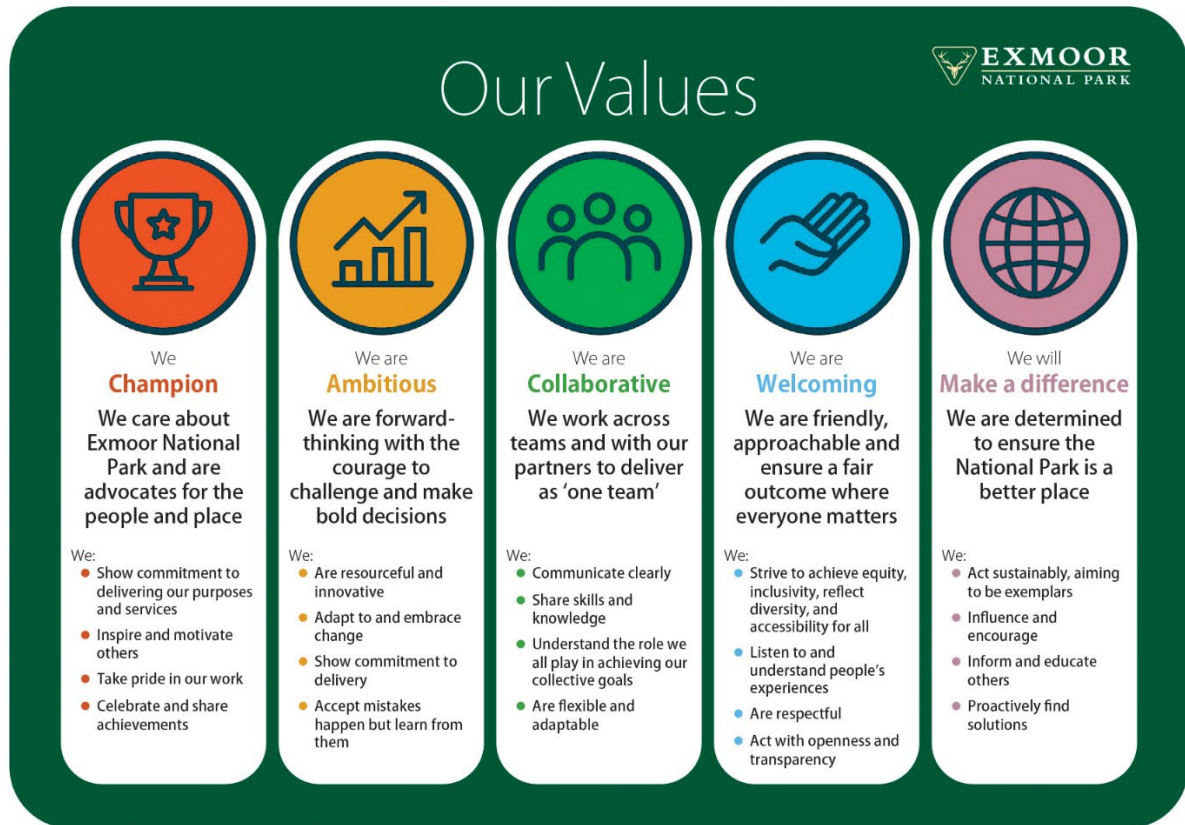
Members consider priorities and make decisions relating to our role as a National Park Authority, including determining planning applications for development on Exmoor. Authority Board meetings and the Planning Committee are public meetings that anyone can attend.

We employ a team of around 80 staff which includes a range of core roles, project and seasonal staff. Our knowledgeable and dedicated staff team are a key resource in ensuring we deliver this Corporate Plan.

The Authority's Organisational Development Strategy sets out a vision to build a strong corporate culture with committed and motivated staff delivering high quality services, exciting projects, and partnerships, fulfilling National Park purposes.

Our Values

A new set of corporate values was developed in 2025 to reflect the changing culture and context within which we operate. These values guide the work of the Authority in championing the National Park, being ambitious in what we seek to achieve, working collaboratively across the organisation and externally, being welcoming to all, and making a difference to the National Park through operating in an environmentally friendly manner and influencing and encouraging others. Embedding these values in all we do is central to enabling us to be a highly performing organisation, delivering high quality services, with effective governance to ensure that the Authority is well run, provides value for money, and meets statutory requirements.



New ways of working

Finance

The Authority is funded primarily by the National Park Grant (NPG) from Defra, alongside income from a range of other sources including the Estate, delivery of services, donations and other grant funding. The financial position has been challenging for several years due to past budget reductions and freezes, and Government has signalled clearly that National Park Authorities should diversify income streams and reduce reliance on NPG. ENPA has therefore reviewed expenditure across the organisation, delivered savings, and produced an Income Generation Strategy to strengthen income generation and external fundraising. As a result, the balance of NPG to other income is now around a 50:50 split. The most recent budget position indicates that ENPA remains financially sustainable in the short term, but continued cost pressures and delivery expectations mean that maintaining this position will rely on tight in-year budget management, maximising income, and securing external funding aligned to our priorities. As with all public bodies, ENPA is required to demonstrate value for money and maintain robust financial governance.

There has also been a significant shift in Government support for National Park Authorities towards capital funding. This provides welcome additional resource, but it also comes with specific rules and processes. Capital budgets are managed within the Departmental Expenditure Limit for capital (CDEL) and must be used for eligible capital works and investment (for example, creating or improving assets on the ground, on ENPA's Estate, or through partner delivery). Accessing and spending

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CDEL typically requires agreed business cases and programme plans, clear profiling across the financial year, and regular monitoring and reporting to Defra to demonstrate delivery and to support any in-year re-profiling where required. ENPA is therefore refocusing aspects of our operating model around capital programmes and robust project management, to ensure we can commit, deliver and evidence capital investment effectively, while continuing to maintain core services funded through revenue budgets (RDEL). A one-off uplift in RDEL in 2026-27 also provides welcome additional funding to support delivery of the capital programme and wider National Park Management Plan objectives, as well as bolster ongoing service delivery.

Working in partnership

Much of what we do would not be possible without our partners, local communities, interest groups and volunteers. We are committed to working closely with others to deliver National Park purposes and protect the special qualities of Exmoor. Working with partners and sharing services not only helps us make the best use of our resources but also benefits all parties through shared learning and understanding. As part of the new National Park Management Plan we are refreshing our partnership groups and will continue to develop close working relationships with our partners and provide opportunities for people to get involved in the delivery of our plans.

Actions for 2026-27

ENPA's focus is to lead delivery of the National Park Management Plan targets and outcomes, alongside ongoing delivery of high-quality National Park services.


Our priorities

1. Complete delivery plans for the National Park Management Plan aims by Dec 2026, and report on progress
2. Deliver CDEL and RDEL funding 2026-27
3. Submit plans for the Reviving Exmoor's Heartlands Landscape Recovery Scheme and progress through assurance and negotiation phases
4. Deliver Exmoor Pioneers programme for 2026-27
5. Relaunch the Farming in Protected Landscapes scheme, review delivery over previous 5 years, and deliver funding programme for 2026-27
6. Progress plans for Driver including renovation of the farmhouse and west barn
7. Undertake feasibility studies for remodelling of modern buildings at Pinkery
8. Develop plans for Exmoor House renovation
9. Prepare for and begin delivery of the Holnicote Riverlands Landscape Recovery Scheme on ENPA Estate, if approved
10. Develop National Lottery Heritage Fund bid for Landscape Connections

Actions to Support Delivery of National Park Management Plan





Objectives and Targets

The sections below set out how ENPA will work with partners to deliver the National Park Management Plan objective and targets.

Targets in green  relate to the national Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework [Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protected-landscapes-targets-and-outcomes-framework) (PLTOF)

A A nature-rich landscape

Exmoor National Park Management Plan Targets and Measures:

- A1 By 2030, at least 50% of the National Park is protected and managed for nature, contributing to national 30 by 30 targets
- A2  **Create or restore an additional 4,500ha of wildlife-rich habitat¹ outside of protected sites by 2030, and 6,500ha by 2042** [*breakdown of this figure covered in other sections – includes species rich grassland, woodland/wood pasture; peatland; hedgerows; wooded corridors*]
- A3  **Bring 80% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes into favourable condition by 2042 and ensure 60% of SSSIs have ‘actions on track’ to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028**
- A4  **Continue favourable management of all existing priority habitat already in favourable condition outside of SSSIs (from a 2022 baseline) and increasing to include all newly restored or created habitat through agri-environment schemes by 2042**
- A5  **By 2030, nature-friendly farming is practised on 50% of enclosed farmland (11,780ha or 17% of the National Park), where land is managed working with nature as part of a sustainable farm business**
- A6 By 2030, there are 7,000 hectares (10% of the National Park) of wilder ‘nature recovery opportunity areas’ where nature and natural processes are allowed to take their course
- A7 Increase the populations of, and areas colonised by, species identified as priorities for Exmoor including threatened species
- A8 Develop and deliver species translocation programmes to bring back and boost native species, enhancing the diversity and richness of Exmoor’s wildlife
- A9 Reduce and control invasive non-native species particularly where they are impacting on the condition of designated wildlife sites
- A10 Increase awareness and action among volunteers, residents and businesses to create more wildlife-friendly environments including in gardens, villages and towns

¹ This target includes actions to establish wildlife-rich habitat on land or water where such habitat is currently absent, outside existing protected sites such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest.
[Environment Act Habitat Target – Definitions and Descriptions - TIN219](#)

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ENPA Actions 2026-27




	Actions	NPMP targets
11.	Work with landowners to promote voluntary sign up to 30 by 30	A1
12.	Work with Natural England, National Trust, and Porlock Manor Estate to develop a super National Nature Reserve around Horner, Hawkcombe and Porlock Manor	A1
13.	<p>Create new and enhanced wildlife rich habitat outside SSSIs through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13.1. Working with partners and landowners to deliver Defra’s wildlife rich habitat funding 2026-27 13.2. Ongoing creation of wildlife rich habitat on ENPA’s Estate through Countryside Stewardship 13.3. Working with landowners across the National Park to create and enhance species rich grassland through the Sowing the Seeds Project. Target for 2026-27: restore 100ha and continue to support 480ha of meadows already under restoration 13.4. Supporting landowners to create or enhance wildlife rich habitat through Farming in Protected Landscapes 13.5. Working with partners to acquire land to create wildlife rich habitat 13.6. Assessing all Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) in the ENPA Woodland Estate (37.4 ha) and completing restoration plans 13.7. Work with forestry owners to identify and assess privately owned PAWS with a view to preparing restoration plans. Target: 10% of privately owned PAWS assessed 	A2, B3 G1.11
14.	<p>Work with Natural England and landowners to bring SSSIs into favourable condition and ensure actions are on track to deliver this though:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14.1. Working with Natural England to undertake condition assessments for the North Exmoor SSSI 14.2. Managing ENPA in-hand land and working with tenants to support positive management of SSSIs on ENPA land 14.3. Work with Natural England and landowners to understand and address pressures on SSSIs to improve condition 	A3
15.	Review and update the ENPA Woodland Estate Strategy, prepare a new Estate 10 year woodland plan (Forestry Commission compliant) and review and revise individual woodland plans including Tarr Steps and Hawkcombe Wood	A3, G2.4, G2.8

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	Actions	NPMP targets
	National Nature Reserve (NNR) for Natural England compliance	
16.	Work with partners to explore potential to support owners to enhance Ancient Semi-Natural Woodlands as wildlife rich habitats	A4
17.	Continue management of Exmoor pony herds and support their role in conservation grazing on ENPA Estate and for Sowing the Seeds project meadow restoration	A3, A4, G1.4
18.	Support farmers and landowners to adopt nature friendly farming practices through Farming in Protected Landscapes	A5
19.	Work with partners to support species reintroduction projects including on ENPA land including scoping a species recovery strategy	A8
20.	Work with partners to deliver Exmoor Non-Native Invasive Species control programme for 2026-27	A9

B A net zero National Park, mitigating and adapting to climate change

Exmoor National Park Management Plan Targets and Measures:

- B1**  **Exmoor National Park is net zero by 2038, leading the response to climate change and delivery of national net zero targets**
- B2**  **Restore 800 ha of deep peat by 2030, and 80% of Exmoor’s deep peat by 2050**
- B3**  **Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of the total area of the National Park (2,080 ha) by 2030, and 10% (6,920 ha) by 2050, to benefit nature and people, ensuring the right trees in the right place**
- B4** Produce a climate change risk assessment and adaptation plan for Exmoor National Park by 2026 and integrate climate adaptation into all actions and activity
- B5** Encourage individuals, communities and businesses to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change

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ENPA Actions 2026-27

	Action	NPMP targets
21.	Work with the Devon and Somerset Climate Partnerships to support actions to reduce emissions, and with the UK National Parks Climate Change group to monitor progress towards the National Park net zero trajectory	B1
22.	Continue our ambitious programme of restoring peatlands, bogs, wetland and valley mires through: 22.1. Working with volunteers to deliver peatland, wetland and valley mire restoration on ENPA’s Estate through Exmoor Pioneers 22.2. Working with landowners and ENPA tenants to identify opportunities for peatland restoration and wetland creation through the Reviving Exmoor’s Heartlands Landscape Recovery Scheme for submission in 2026	B2
23.	Working with Forestry Commission and partners to support landowners to increase tree canopy and woodland cover across the National Park through: 23.1. Producing a Woodland Strategy and visualisations to support engagement and understanding, funded by Estee Lauder 23.2. Continuing to develop and expand capacity of the ENPA Tree Nursery, working with volunteers to grow tree stocks for expanding woodland and tree cover on the ENPA Estate 23.3. Develop a ‘Moor Trees for Exmoor’ outreach project to support small scale community and voluntary conservation projects 23.4. Work with Plastic Free Exmoor to develop a plastic tree tube recycling scheme, promote chemical-free alternatives and promote sustainable planting and trees growing methods	B3
24.	Work with partners to develop a Climate Adaptation Plan for the National Park	B4, D9
25.	Pilot climate adaptive plans for the ENPA Estate	B4, D9
26.	Continue to implement our organisational Climate Emergency Action Plan to ensure that ENPA is carbon neutral by 2030	B5

C Healthy natural resources

Exmoor National Park Management Plan Targets and measures:


- C1 75% of Exmoor’s monitored rivers, waterbodies and coastal or transitional bodies achieve ‘high’ or ‘good’ ecological status (in line with national goals)
- C2 Improve water quality (ecological and chemical) by reducing pollution and sedimentation from agriculture and wastewater treatment in line with national goals
- C3 Increase natural flood management and nature-based solutions to slow the flow, increase water infiltration and storage and reduce flood risk, water stress and drought and to ensure there is sufficient water and flows for nature
- C4 Reduce air pollution (from nitrogen and ammonia) to deliver necessary improvements in air quality within the National Park to achieve the conservation objectives for statutorily designated sites
- C5 Improve soil health through good soil management practices in line with national targets, reduce compaction and increase water retention capacity, protect and improve soil ecosystem services (soil carbon, biodiversity, food production and flood mitigation) and increase resilience to extreme weather impacts

ENPA Actions 2026-27

	Actions	NPMP targets
27.	Support farmers and landowners to improve soil health, increase natural flood management, and implement measures to improve water and air quality through the Farming in Protected Landscapes scheme and other mechanisms	C1-5
28.	Work with partners, landowners and riparian owners to improve understanding of the pressures leading to poor water quality, with a specific focus on chemicals from pet treatments. Seek funding to undertake monitoring	C1, C2
29.	Implement natural flood management measures on ENPA land including as part of Exmoor Pioneers	C3
30.	Publish the Exmoor National Park Air Quality Management Strategy and work with partners to identify measures for implementation. Complete year 1 of the local air quality monitoring	C4
31.	Work with Natural England to explore opportunities for a partnership Catchment Sensitive Farming officer on Exmoor	C1-5

D A cared for landscape and heritage

Exmoor National Park Management Plan Targets and measures:

- D1 Ensure development and land-use change recognises landscape character and enhances natural beauty including impacts on the setting of and views from the National Park
- D2 Conserve and enhance landscape character through management of characteristic features including hedgebanks, hay meadows, stone walls, traditional farm buildings, orchards, ponds, leats and gutter systems
- D3 Reduce light pollution across the whole National Park Dark Sky reserve to conserve and enhance the quality of the night sky
- D4  **Reduce the number of nationally and locally designated heritage assets at risk**
- D5 Improve the protection of heritage assets by designating new national heritage assets (listed buildings and Scheduled Monuments) by 2030 and increasing the local list of heritage assets by 25% by 2030
- D6 Promote engagement with Exmoor’s historic environment through the Historic Environment Record and increase the number of records accessed by 5% by 2030 (from a 2024 baseline)
- D7 Protect the character of Conservation Areas and promote positive management, ensuring all Conservation Areas have up to date appraisals and management plans
- D8 Conserve and enhance historic streetscapes and rural roads through maintenance and repairs to historic fabric including bridges, walls and paving, and reduction of unnecessary highway clutter, lighting, and road markings
- D9 Improve understanding of the impacts of climate change on heritage assets and support adaptation and resilience measures which balance carbon reduction and energy saving with the conservation of their significance

ENPA Actions 2026-27


	Actions	NPMP targets
32.	Progress undergrounding schemes in the current round at Trentishoe, Wilsham, and Porlock Marsh, and identify additional schemes to be assessed including at Countisbury	D1
33.	Finalise and adopt a Design Planning Document to encourage high quality, locally distinctive design	D1

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	Actions	NPMP targets
34.	Continue to restore Ashcombe gardens, working with volunteers and local contractors	D2
35.	Continue the restoration of Ashley Combe designed landscape, working with volunteers and local contractors	D2
36.	Support the conservation and management of characteristic landscape and heritage features through the Farming in Protected Landscape scheme	D2, D8
37.	Support local lighting schemes to reduce light pollution and enhance the Dark Skies Reserve	D3
38.	Establish heritage at risk project including working with Historic England to increase the designation and management of nationally significant sites	D4-5
39.	Work with Forestry Commission to progress a bid to National Heritage Lottery Fund for a programme focused on heritage and engagement within ENPA woodlands and FC owned forests on Exmoor (as part of a national programme).	D6
40.	Deliver the heritage strand of the Exmoor Pioneer's Programme: 40.1. Begin implementation of a Monument Management Scheme (supported by Historic England) to protect 26 individual heritage assets through Exmoor Pioneers 40.2. Work with volunteers to explore and document farming heritage (beginning with two farmsteads in 2026), through Exmoor Pioneers 40.3. Work with volunteers to discover new archaeological features through the Living Landscapes lidar project within Exmoor Pioneer	D4, D6
41.	Work with local communities to identify and add heritage assets to the Local list	D5
42.	Enhance engagement with the Historic Environment Record to increase awareness of Exmoor's history and engage communities and visitors in active interpretation and conservation	D6
43.	Update Conservation Area Appraisals and finalise management plans. Target for 2026-27 is four Conservation Areas	D7

E A welcoming place for all, that people feel connected to, improving their health and well-being

Exmoor National Park Management Plan Targets and measures:

- E1  Improve and promote accessibility to the National Park and engagement with Exmoor’s special qualities for all**
- E2 By 2030 at least 50% of engagement with schools is with those schools that have above the south-west average of children eligible for free school meals or pupil premium.
- E3 Increase the number of days people volunteer to take action for nature and heritage by 10% by 2030 – with 15% of total hours delivered by young people under 25
- E4 Provide a night under the stars for 6,000 children, between 2025-2030
- E5 Deliver and develop a Young Rangers programme that supports young people to engage with Exmoor and develop skills and confidence through volunteering
- E6 Take positive action to support and enable people from a wider range of backgrounds to access and enjoy Exmoor
- E7 Strengthen partnerships with health professionals and communities to promote and enable more people to access the health benefits of connection with Exmoor’s nature
- E8 Increase the diversity of visitors to Exmoor
- E9 Promote engagement with Exmoor’s natural and cultural heritage through art
- E10 At least 80% of Exmoor’s public rights of way are assessed as ‘open and easy to use’
- E11 Improve the public access network by delivering enhancements to cycling, riding and walking opportunities and improving accessibility
- E12 Increase opportunities for green travel and active travel to and within the National Park
- E13 Work with local tourism partners and businesses to promote regenerative tourism principles contributing in a positive way to Exmoor’s special qualities
- E14 Ensure that visitor satisfaction figures remain high (at least 97% consider their experience to be good or very good)

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ENPA Actions 2026-27

	Actions	NPMP targets
44.	Deliver Active Travel England Phase 2 project to design and plan at least one scheme to bid-ready stage (by Oct 2027) and further develop other schemes and the Exmoor Active Travel Plan	E1, E11, E12
45.	Deliver the Removing Barriers Programme for accessibility improvements across public access and recreational facilities	E1, E11
46.	Continue working towards the target of delivering 50% of ENPA's engagement with schools that have above the south-west average of children eligible for free school meals or pupil premium	E2
47.	Develop the Youth Board	E3
48.	Deliver a range of volunteering and engagement activities, including through Exmoor Pioneers audience engagement plan	E3,E6
49.	Deliver residential stays at Pinkery and work with partners to encourage and enable young people to spend a night under the stars on Exmoor	E4, E6
50.	Deliver and develop Young Rangers programme, including residential stays and upskill days	E5
51.	Provide opportunities for people to access the health and well-being benefits of connection with Exmoor's nature through Welcome to Exmoor days, and working with GP surgeries to provide nature-based activities for patients via the Nature Prescriptions initiative. Target audiences for 2026: older people facing social isolation, young families from low income backgrounds, and young people experiencing life challenges	E6, E7, E8
52.	Work with under-represented groups through the Exmoor Pioneers programme. Target audiences for 2026: people from Black and minoritised ethnic backgrounds (including refugees and displaced people) and young people with disabilities	E8
53.	Explore opportunities to fund and deliver a follow on to the Landscapes through Art engagement project	E9
54.	Maintain a safe rights of way and access network with resources focused on the most popular routes to ensure the majority of users enjoy a high-quality experience. Ensure that any works help to make the network more resilient to climate change and to meet the needs of all users. Target: open and easy to use score above 80%	E10
55.	Undertake further preparatory work needed to replace Hinds Pitt Bridge on the Tarr Steps Circuit	E1, E10, E11
56.	Work with partners including Visit Exmoor, the Exmoor Tourism Network and the Somerset / Devon Local Visitor	E12, E13

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	Actions	NPMP targets
	Economy Partnerships to deliver ambitions outlined in the shared Good Tourism Plan for Exmoor.	
57.	Development of a 'Pay with care' scheme to reward visitors for positive actions.	E12, E13
58.	Deliver the Exmoor Dark Skies and Exmoor Nature Festivals.	A10, D3
59.	Produce a series of films highlighting the collection of Exmoor Classic walks.	E14
60.	Assist with visitor management in the National Park (including popular locations and large events) to ensure that visitors are able to enjoy Exmoor responsibly and sustainably	E14
61.	Continue to maximise National Park Centres' contribution to National Park purposes with a focus on developing their role as hubs for events and activities alongside interpretation and high-quality retail linked to Exmoor's special qualities.	E14

F A great place for people to live, work and do business

Exmoor National Park Management Plan Targets and measures:

- F1 Promote and develop skills to support delivery of National Park purposes via internships, apprenticeships and placements and deliver 20 opportunities for these by 2030
- F2 Promote local, sustainable supply chains and buying local to support Exmoor's businesses and create and retain community wealth
- F3 Support the housing needs of local communities and increase the number of affordable homes (conversions and new build) available
- F4 Support the sustainability of settlements and needs of local communities, businesses and visitors through safeguarding and maintaining access to community services and facilities
- F5 Support a sustainable and low carbon economy

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ENPA Actions 2026-27

	Actions	NPMP targets
62.	Deliver a skills and training programme via Exmoor Pioneers, including working with Somerset Council to host a number of supported internships for young people with SEND, providing trainee positions within ENPA and other Exmoor employers, and working with local schools and Somerset and Devon Careers Hubs to deliver a programme of high quality careers education. Targets for 2026-27: 4 ENPA supported interns; 3 new trainee positions	F1
63.	Prepare for review of the Exmoor National Park Local Plan Target for 2026: publish Notice to Commence Plan-making by 31 Dec 2026	F3, F4, F5
64.	Work with partners to support increased use and promotion of local produce including further roll out of Eat Exmoor branding	F2
65.	Support businesses and partners to deliver the Rural Enterprise Exmoor (REE) Vision, including publication of revised edition of the REE business toolkits and ongoing promotion of the REE directory	F1-F5

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A highly performing organisation

ENPA strives to be a highly performing organisation, delivering National Park purposes and high quality services. Service delivery targets and performance measures are set out in the ENPA and Service Delivery section of the Plan. Alongside these, are a number of actions that will be undertaken in 2026-27 to ensure continued delivery and innovation.

ENPA Actions 2026-27

66.	Continue to manage ENPA land and property to deliver National Park purposes and generate income. Update tenancies and licences including if the two Landscape Recovery Scheme bids are successful
67.	Carry out condition surveys, establish an asset management system, and produce a 5-year maintenance plan for ENPA's Estate to ensure ENPA's buildings and facilities are maintained and in good condition
68.	Develop a set of best practice principles for ENPA's Estate, to ensure sustainable design, procurement and management of ENPA's land and buildings. Produce a specific manual for Driver and for other key properties as required
69.	Produce an ecological monitoring system and survey plan for ENPA estate
70.	Work with partners and the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion group to take positive action to support the Authority's commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
71.	Continue to deliver ENPA's Organisational Development Strategy, review and update
72.	Review the ICT Strategy and update
73.	Commission new imagery and video to support ongoing communications work and National Parks UK brand rollout
74.	Implement ENPA Income Generation Strategy including updating project pipeline, and completion of summary business plans for key income areas
75.	Grow and diversify CareMoor for Exmoor to increase income, engagement and support from visitors, businesses and local communities, including completion of a revised CareMoor Strategy and co-promotion of three themed awareness days in conjunction with local businesses. Target 5% growth in CareMoor income

ENPA and Service Delivery

As well as leading on projects and programmes, Exmoor National Park Authority (ENPA) delivers services for visitors, local communities and land managers to help further the purposes of the National Park.

Conservation

We deliver advice and develop projects to conserve and enhance Exmoor's landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage, working with farmers, woodland owners, game shoot managers, conservation organisations, the local community and the general public.

We measure our performance by:

- % SSSI land in favourable and unfavourable but recovering condition in the National Park
- % identified sites treated for invasive species
- Number and % of listed buildings and scheduled monuments at risk & number conserved
- % of Conservation Areas with up-to-date appraisals

Access & recreation

We manage our rights of way and access network to encourage and enable access to the National Park, and manage recreational pressure. ENPA has devolved responsibility from Devon and Somerset Councils for maintenance of our 1,000km of public rights of way. We also have statutory responsibility for the 18,000ha of access land on Exmoor, and maintain many permitted paths alongside improvement works, and care for promoted routes and other work to help everyone enjoy Exmoor.

We measure our performance by:

- % of rights of way open and easy to use (target 80%)
- % reported network faults resolved within 3 months (target 80%)
- Total number of major works completed
- Number of legal orders made (e.g. path diversions and temporary closures)
- Public satisfaction with the rights of way network (from Visitor Surveys completed every 2-3 years)
- Number of consultations relating to recreational events

Outreach, learning & engagement

We provide formal and informal education, training, volunteer opportunities and greater involvement of new audiences, including health and wellbeing initiatives. This includes our Pinkery Outdoor Education Centre providing residential experiences for schools, and also for hire for private groups, we are the only National Park to offer this service. We provide a wide range of educational day visits as well as outreach work within and beyond the National Park.

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We measure our performance by:

- Occupancy levels and number of users at Pinkery Outdoor Education Centre
- Number of Engagement Days (number of young people x amount of engagement) for Residential Stays, Day visits and Outreach.
- Number of volunteers and volunteer days
- Number of volunteer days attended by ‘under-represented groups’
- % of schools
- % of volunteer days delivered by younger (25 and under) people
- Number of people attending events to promote understanding of the National Park
- Number of people actively supported to visit Exmoor through targeted support or intervention (for example transport)

National Park Centres

We run three Centres in Lynmouth, Dulverton and Dunster providing inspiration and information about Exmoor National Park, with interpretive displays, maps, publications and staff with specialist knowledge about the area.

We measure our performance by:

- Number of visitors to National Park Centres
- Net income from National Park Centres and online shop and profit margins
- Spend per visitor in National Park Centres
- Retail Conversion Rate (% visitors spending) and Average Transaction Value
- Average score of customer service reviews (drawn from online reviews and customer feedback surveys)

Communications

We provide information and interpretation of Exmoor’s special qualities through digital and print media, website, social media, display boards.

We measure our performance by:

- Total social media audience (followers across all channels)
- Total website page views and unique users
- Total e-news subscribers (Constant contact)
- Usefulness and quality of publications (from Visitor Surveys completed every 2-3 years)
- Number of press articles and proportion of positive, neutral and negative stories

Planning

ENPA is the local planning authority for the National Park and is responsible for developing and implementing planning policy through the Local Plan, and ensuring that development is of the right scale, directed to appropriate locations and

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conserves and enhances the character and appearance of the National Park. This includes determining applications for planning permission, listed building consent, tree preservation orders, as well as taking enforcement action against planning breaches.

We measure our performance by:

- % major applications determined within 13 weeks (target 60%)
- % minor and other applications determined within 8 weeks (target 70%)
- % planning approval (all determined applications)
- % applications registered within target time
- Number of appeals successfully defended
- Number of enforcement cases recorded and number resolved

Rural Enterprise

We engage with the business sector, local communities and with local authority economic development services to help sustain a thriving economy on Exmoor, while maximising the opportunity for businesses to contribute to keeping Exmoor special. There is a particular focus on working with tourism partners to ensure that Exmoor is a leading visitor destination and tourism is promoted and managed sustainably for the benefit of all.

We measure our performance by:

- Total value of CareMoor donations (£), broken down by % from: businesses, legacies & large gifts (+£1k), personal donations, events & fundraising
- Number of CareMoor champions
- Number of Park Partners
- Number of REE and Tourism Trade e-news subscribers
- Number of businesses engaged in Rural Enterprise events

Estate and Facilities

ENPA owns 4,586 hectares of land (around 7% of the National Park), comprising mostly open moorland, along with 553 hectares of woodland. The estate also includes a number of buildings, including its head office – Exmoor House, National Park Centres, a field services Depot at Exford, an outdoor education centre at Pinkery, an historic farmstead, other historic assets as well as a number of ancillary properties. Such a large estate is unusual amongst National Park Authorities within the UK, but for a small National Park Authority, it is unique. We manage Authority land for landscape, wildlife, historic environment and recreation benefits, which also provides opportunities to demonstrate best practice and emerging land management techniques. We also maintain and improve Authority owned public facilities including picnic sites, toilets and car parks to provide a positive experience for visitors and locals accessing and enjoying the National Park.

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We measure our performance by:

- Condition of SSSIs in ENPA ownership (% in favourable and unfavourable but recovering condition)
- % identified sites in ENPA ownership treated for invasive species
- % of ENPA woodland under appropriate management (with current Forestry Commission approved UK Forestry Standard long-term plan)
- Amount and value of ENPA timber harvested
- Number and % of Scheduled Monuments / Listed Buildings in ENPA ownership at risk and number conserved

Corporate & Governance

The operational running of the organisation is supported through HR, Finance, ICT, GIS, Corporate Planning, Administration and Governance.

We measure our performance by:

- % change in annual GHG emissions from ENPA operations
- Sickness absence levels
- Total number of staff accidents and number reportable to the Health & Safety Executive
- Number of formal complaints received
- % undisputed invoices paid within 30 days
- Average time to respond to ICT help desk queries
- Total amount of external income brought in

Monitoring the Plan

Progress against the actions in the Corporate Plan and the service delivery performance indicators is reported annually to the Authority at the AGM in June. A 6 month update on progress is also reported in December.

Progress against the delivery of the National Park Management Plan will also be reported on. A monitoring framework has been developed setting out the indicators and baseline data that will be used to track progress towards the Plan targets.

EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

7th April 2026

REVIVING EXMOOR'S HEARTLANDS LANDSCAPE RECOVERY SCHEME

Report of the Head of Climate, Nature and Communities

Purpose of Report: To seek Member approval for the inclusion of Exmoor National Park Authority land within the Reviving Exmoor's Heartlands Landscape Recovery Scheme submission and subsequent negotiations with Defra

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Authority is recommended to:

- (i) APPROVE inclusion of Exmoor National Park Authority land within the Reviving Exmoor's Heartlands submission
- (ii) DELEGATE to the Chief Executive to enter into negotiations with Defra over the scheme in relation to Exmoor National Park Authority land, with the final proposals to be brought back for approval
- (iii) DELEGATE to the Chief Executive to agree that ENPA joins the Single Legal Entity and for a member of Leadership Team to be a Director of the company

Authority Priority: The Corporate Plan 2025-26 included the action to '*Complete second year of development phase of the 'Reviving Exmoor's Heartlands' Landscape Recovery programme including land management plan, finance plan, governance arrangements and contracts.'*

Legal and Equality Implications: Section 65(4) Environment Act 1995 – provides powers to the National Park Authority to "*do anything which in the opinion of the Authority, is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to:-*

- (a) *the accomplishment of the purposes mentioned in s. 65 (1) [National Park purposes]*
- (b) *the carrying out of any functions conferred on it by virtue of any other enactment."*

The Landscape Recovery Scheme will include establishment of a private company limited by guarantee as set out in section 7.

The equality impact of the recommendations of this report has been assessed as follows: There are no foreseen adverse impacts on any protected group(s). Access enhancements and engagement through the outreach work within the scheme are designed to have a positive impact on protected groups.

Consideration has been given to the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998 and an assessment of the implications of the recommendations of this report is as follows: There are no implications for the Human Rights Act.

Financial and Risk implications: The scheme will be run by a private company limited by guarantee, which ENPA will be a member of, limiting the financial and other risks associated with the scheme. Specific financial and risk implications for ENPA are set out in sections 8-9.

Climate Response: The proposals include measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

1. Background

- 1.1. In April 2024, Exmoor National Park Authority (ENPA) secured funding for a two-year development phase for the Reviving Exmoor's Heartlands Landscape Recovery Scheme (REH LRS). This development phase is now coming to an end, and Member approval is being sought for inclusion of ENPA land in the submission.

2. The Landscape Recovery Scheme

- 2.1. The Landscape Recovery Scheme (LRS) is one of the Environmental Land Management (ELM) schemes developed following the UK's exit from the European Union, alongside the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) and Countryside Stewardship (CS). They are aimed at restoring nature and improving environmental standards, supporting farmers to deliver clean and plentiful water, thriving plants and wildlife, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and healthy soils. Landscape Recovery is different to SFI and CS, which offer a menu of options that farmers can select, and instead provides the opportunity to work together to design a bespoke scheme across a larger area. LRS projects are expected to contribute to national priorities including legal targets in the Environment Act 2021, wider commitments and objectives for the natural environment set out in the Environment Improvement Plan, the Net Zero Strategy and Green Finance strategy.
- 2.2. There are 4 main distinguishing features of the Landscape Recovery scheme¹:
 - Large-scale projects (at least 500ha): the scheme is designed to deliver outcomes that require collaborative action across a big area, such as restoring ecological or hydrological function across a landscape.
 - Long-term public funding (for example for 20 years or longer): the scheme will support outcomes that take a long time to deliver, such as peatland restoration, woodland management, or habitat restoration.
 - Bespoke agreements: the scheme can fund activities that contribute to priority outcomes but are specific to the locality and so difficult to facilitate through other schemes.
 - Blended funding: the features above and the provision of development funding should enable projects to attract private investment.
- 2.3. Landscape Recovery is a competitive application process, with bids being invited in rounds. Round 1 was launched in February 2023, and focused on species recovery and river restoration. 22 projects were selected from round 1, including the Holnicote River Corridors scheme on Exmoor.
- 2.4. REH is part of LRS round 2, launched in May 2023, which focuses on net zero, protected sites, and wildlife-rich habitat.

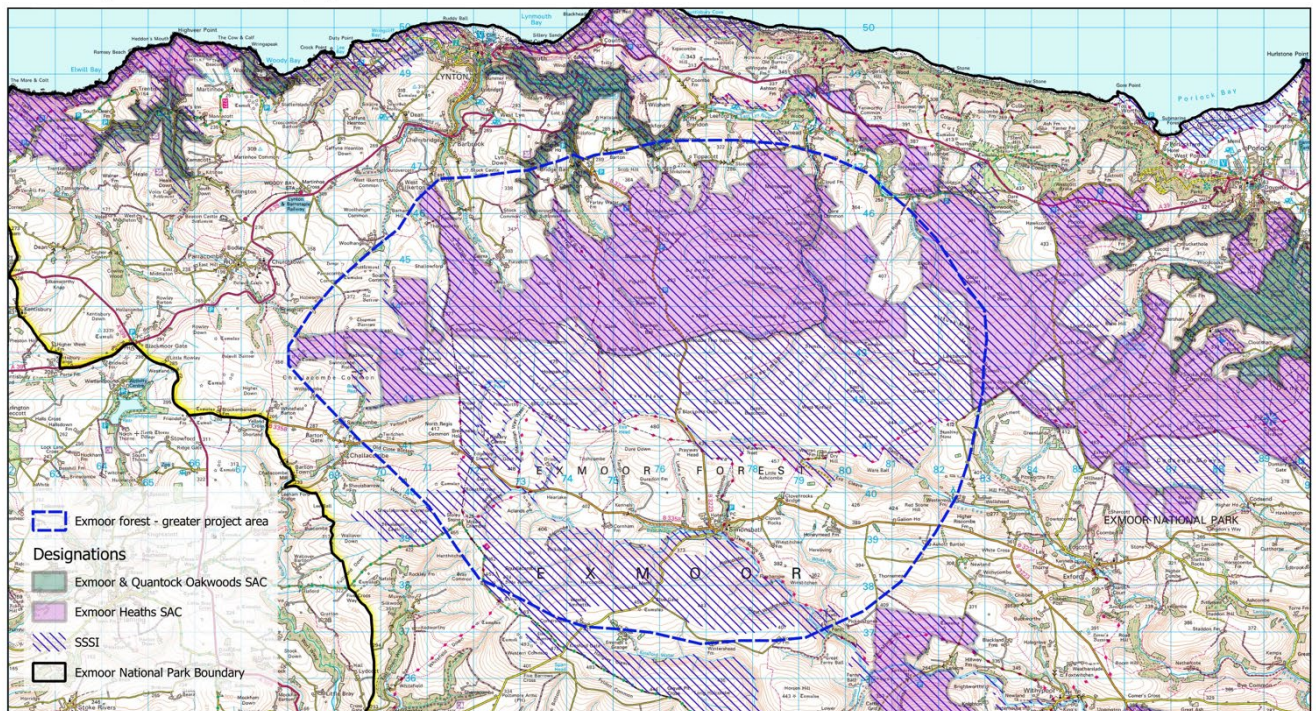
¹ [Landscape Recovery: round two - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/landscape-recovery-round-two)

3. **REH area and participants**

- 3.1. The REH area is focused in the heart of Exmoor, spanning 10,776ha. It comprises some or all of 18 landholdings with 20 different participants, including ENPA. This has resulted in a diverse partnership of farmers, landowners, tenants and common rights holders involved in the project.
- 3.2. Much of the area is moorland Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), designated for its complex mosaic of open upland habitats, blanket bog, and heather moorland incised with steep sided combes and their valley mires. Nearly half of it is also designated as the Exmoor Heaths Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The moorland is grazed by free ranging livestock, herds of wild red deer and Exmoor ponies. It is also the headwater of the river Exe, including its large tributary the Barle as well as the source of the coastal river Lyn, which flows northwards into the Bristol Channel. Much of both the Barle and the Lyn's wooded valleys are also SSSI and SAC. The area is rich in historical interest with hundreds of recorded features, many of which are prehistoric, preserved in the relatively undisturbed moorland and peat.

Exmoor National Park Authority

Reviving Exmoors Heartland - project area



Scale 1:100,000

Compiled by afarris on 3/10/2023

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 © ENPA

Exmoor National Park Authority
 Exmoor House, Dulverton
 Somerset, TA22 9HL
 Tel: 01398 323665
 Fax: 01398 323150
 E-mail: info@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk



Compiled & Printed by Exmoor National Park Authority

Map showing broad project area for Reviving Exmoor's Heartlands plus designated sites. Not all the area shown is in the REH scheme

- 3.3. Around 4,000 ha of ENPA's Estate is within the area, forming a substantial part of the southern block. Some of this land is currently in hand (at Driver and Pinkery) with the remainder subject to various tenancies and grazing agreements.

4. Development of the Reviving Exmoor's Heartlands Landscape Recovery Scheme

- 4.1. ENPA was awarded two-year development funding for REH to plan and complete preparatory work including baseline surveys and assessments, land management planning, identifying necessary consents and permits, designing monitoring and evaluation plans, carrying out stakeholder engagement, and identifying the potential for private funding.
- 4.2. The development of the scheme has been overseen by a Steering Group of participants. A core project team was set up, with two part time project officers, and significant input from various specialist staff including on ecology, woodland, heritage, access, engagement, and GIS. Additional expertise and support has been commissioned including farm liaison, legal advice, blended finance, heritage, access and engagement.
- 4.3. The Steering Group, including ENPA representatives, has met regularly through the development phase and has been part of key decisions around the development of the scheme. A number of workshops and site visits have also been organised to share knowledge and experience both amongst the participants themselves and bringing in external experts. This has been an important part of the overall scheme, to ensure that it is a shared endeavor undertaken in partnership and to build up trust amongst the participants.
- 4.4. The project team is also supported by a project liaison officer from Natural England, who has provided advice and assistance, particularly on procedural matters, and acted as a link to Defra.
- 4.5. There are 34 Round 2 LRSs in development and Defra has supported a 'Community of Practice' to enable shared learning across project teams. These have been very valuable, particularly in enabling lessons learnt from projects further on in the process to be passed on.

5. REH Vision and Aims

- 5.1. As a Round 2 LRS project, REH has been developed around bringing protected sites into favourable condition, creating and enhancing wildlife-rich habitat, and achieving net zero. These are all targets in the Environment Improvement Plan and more specifically the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework², and are reflected in the Exmoor National Park Management Plan (available on ENPA's website [Exmoor National Park Management Plan | Exmoor](#)). The project aims to revitalise the National

² [Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework - GOV.UK](#)

Park's central moorlands and surrounding farmland, transforming a high moorland plateau cut by steep valleys into a thriving, connected mosaic of habitats. By working with farmers to expand woodland and tree cover, restore degraded peatlands and heathlands, create species-rich grasslands, and support the return of lost species such as the marsh fritillary butterfly and water vole, the project seeks to reverse long-term ecological decline and enhance landscape resilience. Its significance lies in restoring one of Exmoor's largest blocks of protected moorland habitats, boosting biodiversity, improving carbon storage and water quality, and strengthening the ecological network that underpins both wildlife and local farming communities.

- 5.2. Enhanced access and engagement are also an important part of the project, with new and improved access routes being identified, and a programme of engagement, skills and training to support implementation of the scheme. As a working upland landscape shaped by farming and long-standing communities, its recovery depends on sustained partnership with those who live in, work in and care for it.
- 5.3. The scheme will run for at least 20 years, and could extend to 30 years, providing long-term funding and security for participants and providing certainty for business planning.

6. Requirements of the Landscape Recovery Scheme

- 6.1. The development phase will result in the submission of the REH proposals to Defra, structured around six key deliverables:
 - **Land management plan** – what we aim to achieve and how
 - **Monitoring plan** - including detailed baseline data and how delivery will be monitored
 - **Governance plan** - including the legal mechanism for managing the scheme and how it will be structured
 - **Stakeholder engagement plan** – including skills development
 - **Access plan** – proposed improvements to public access
 - **Cost plan** - detailed costs of the scheme including private finance
- 6.2. These plans will be submitted at the end of April 2026. This will be followed by an 'assurance' phase by Defra for questions and clarifications and assessing the proposals. If successful, there will then be a period of negotiation with Defra before a final offer is made. It will be a decision for all participants, including ENPA, whether to accept the offer and sign up to the scheme.

7. Governance of the scheme

- 7.1. Defra requires that a Single Legal Entity (SLE) is set up to be the recipient of the funding run and manage the LRS funded project. Legal advice has been sought on the type of SLE most suited to deliver this. A number of options have been explored including:
 - Private Company Limited by Shares
 - Private Company Limited by Guarantee

- Limited Liability Partnership (LLP)
- Trust
- Charity
- Co-operative
- Community Benefit Society (BenCom)
- Community Interest Company (CIC)
- Unincorporated Association

7.2. Following discussion with the participants it was agreed that the private company limited by guarantee was the most appropriate legal structure. This will limit the liability of the Company Directors and the Company will be non-profit making, set up to hold and distribute the public money received to implement the scheme. There is an expectation from Defra that there will be an element of private finance brought in to support implementation, and this would be managed via a subsidiary of the SLE. Further work has been undertaken to prepare for the establishment of the company, but this will not take place until the assurance and negotiation phases have been completed and a final offer accepted.

7.3. The role of the SLE will be to:

- Enter a long-term implementation agreement with Natural England
- Enter into individual land management agreements with participants
- Hold and distribute funds to members
- Monitor land management agreements and overall delivery of the LRS
- Employ staff and commission work

7.4. All participants in the scheme will be members of the SLE, including ENPA. A number of Directors will be appointed from the membership, including an ENPA representative. It is proposed that a member of Leadership Team fulfils this role.

8. Finance

8.1. A Blended Finance Plan is being prepared for submission. This is based on detailed costings for delivery of the scheme prepared by Savills in discussion with participants, and also includes the running costs for the SLE. Defra expects an element of private finance to be included. The main opportunities for private finance initially are likely to be from Biodiversity Net Gain and carbon credits, and potentially with some philanthropic corporate donations. National Parks Partnerships are assisting with this.

8.2. The costings are based on the LRS running over a 30 year period to match the timeframe for delivery of associated green finance options such as Biodiversity Net Gain. It is likely that some land will need to be identified for Biodiversity Net Gain habitat banks, which will not be financed through the LRS as it is expected that private finance will fund the habitat creation and maintenance. This would include some ENPA land.

- 8.3. As the costings will be part of the negotiation process with Defra and therefore will be subject to change, they are not included here. An underlying principle of the scheme is to ensure that participants are appropriately rewarded for the environmental outcomes that will be delivered, above and beyond other Environmental Land Management schemes such as the Sustainable Farming Incentive or Countryside Stewardship. For ENPA, it will be important to ensure that the scheme provides adequate reward for both the NPA and its tenants.

9. Risk implications

- 9.1. A risk register is being prepared covering all the financial, legal, governance, reputational, delivery and operational risks. This will be submitted as part of the LRS documentation. It is important to highlight that the Single Legal Entity will bear primary responsibility for the REH LRS. It will hold the legal agreement with Natural England and be responsible for overall delivery and compliance. The risks to ENPA are therefore via its membership of the SLE, and in relation to the inclusion of ENPA land in the scheme.
- 9.2. Currently there are some significant concerns over Defra's proposed Project Implementation Agreement (PIA), which all LRSs have raised with Defra. These include:
- the ability for Defra to withdraw from the PIA with year's notice, potentially leaving the SLE with ongoing obligations and costs
 - the potential for clawback or termination due to breach of the PIA or under performance / failure to deliver environmental outcomes
 - the requirement for safeguarding of the benefits created by the LRS beyond the period of the LRS through a mechanism such as a conservation covenant
- 9.3. In response to these concerns a revised PIA is awaited at the time of writing. Legal advice will be sought on these changes. The risks associated with the revised PIA will need to be considered by all participants including ENPA, before agreeing to enter into the scheme, once the assurance and negotiation phases are completed and if a formal offer is made.
- 9.4. ENPA will be a member of the SLE in relation to its land and will hold a delivery agreement with the SLE. A member of ENPA's Leadership Team will also be a Director of the SLE. The Directors will be protected through indemnity insurance which the SLE will take out. The SLE legal structure of a private company limited by guarantee will limit the liability of all members to the level of the guarantee (proposed to be £1). ENPA will be responsible for delivery of the LRS outcomes on ENPA land. Some of this will be via tenants, and some is likely to be done in-house. This will therefore require clarity over roles and responsibilities from the outset, with appropriate controls / penalties, and maintaining a close working relationship with tenants.
- 9.5. As set out in section 8, Defra expects an element of private finance to be brought in to fund the scheme. This private finance may not materialise given the undeveloped nature of many of the green finance markets and lack of demand, for example in

relation to Biodiversity Net Gain credits. Discussions are ongoing with Defra regarding how to mitigate these risks, including the potential for Defra to underwrite the delivery of the environmental outcomes should private finance not be forthcoming.

10. Next steps

- 10.1. The REH LRS documents are currently being finalised and are due to be submitted at the end of April 2026. There will then be an assurance period of 3-6 months where experts from Defra / Natural England / other statutory agencies review the proposals to make sure that public funding is well spent and that projects will contribute to environmental goals. It is anticipated that a number of LRSs will be submitting around the same time, which could lead to delays in this process. Not all pilot projects will pass this stage and so will not be offered a Project Implementation Agreement.
- 10.2. However, if approved, there is then a period of negotiation with Defra over the funding offer. It is not known how long this phase will take, but it is likely to be several months. At this point, all participants including ENPA will need to decide whether to join the scheme or not. A paper will be brought to Authority for member approval on whether or not to accept the offer and include ENPA land in the scheme.

Clare Reid

Head of Climate, Nature and Communities

April 2026

ITEM 9

EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting of the Standards Committee held at 12pm on Tuesday, 2 December 2025 in the Committee Room at Exmoor House, Dulverton.

PRESENT

Mr S J Patrinos (Chairperson)
Mr M Ellicott
Mr S J Pugsley
Mr N Thwaites

In attendance: Mr B Barrett, Head of Enterprise and Operations, ENPA. Independent person – Ms D Mortimer, Mr A Yendole – Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, Devon County Council.

1. **ELECTION OF A CHAIRPERSON** – Miss E Stacey had submitted her request 'in absentia' after a unanimous vote, the election to position of Chair was confirmed.
2. **ELECTION OF A DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON** – Mr J Patrinos was elected following a vote, and to chair the meeting on 2 December in absence of Miss E Stacey.
3. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies for absence were received from Miss E Stacey.
4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were none.
5. **MINUTES:**
 - i. **Confirmation:** The [Minutes](#) of the Standards Committee's meeting held on 4 March 2025 were agreed and signed as a correct record.
 - ii. **Matters arising:** There were no matters arising from those Minutes.
6. **BUSINESS OF URGENCY:** There was none.
7. **PUBLIC SPEAKING:** There were no public speakers.
8. **ACTIONS UNDER THE AUTHORITYS MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT**

To consider the verbal report of the Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

There was 1 complaint received in relation to a comment made by Councillor Ellicott at a Members forum meeting, a local resolution has been found and training undertaken.

Developments in Standards regulations are underway following Government consultation. New measures for Standards committees such as the right of appeal, and ability to suspend or disqualify elected members will be confirmed when they are finalised.

9. **OVERVIEW OF COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS:** The Committee considered the [Report](#) of the Chief Finance Officer and the Solicitor & Monitoring Officer.

The Committee's Consideration

The overview is for the period 18 February 2025 to 31 October 2025. This serves as an addendum to the overview provided in March 2025 covering the period 1 April 2024 to 17 February 2025

The report outlined receipt of 49 compliments relating to work carried out across the Authority and National Park Centres, this is a reassuringly positive trend to show the Authority is doing well in the activities and services it provides. It was confirmed that the compliments received are shared with ENPA staff.

2 formal Planning complaints were received. The Stage 2 complaint has been referred to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsmen, a decision is awaited following their investigation.

RESOLVED:

1. To consider the overview report of the general complaints and compliments received by the Authority.

The meeting closed at 12.20pm

(Chairperson)