

We praise the Dartmoor National Park plans vision of being climate resilient, nature rich carbon neutral and working with the next generation. Considering the current ecological and climate crisis we also welcome the suggested deadlines for implementing different measures in the plan, such as, start of 2 pilot landscape nature recovery areas by 2022, development of a locally tailored ELMS by 2022 and by 2022 explore how to remove barriers and allow more young people to benefit from existing opportunities to explore and enjoy Dartmoor.

#### What you can do to help deliver the Vision and objectives of the Management Plan

We – Action for Climate Teignbridge (ACT), are a group of citizens working with Teignbridge District Council (TDC) to help them achieve carbon neutrality by 2025. As such our comments focus primarily to those areas of the Park that are within Teignbridge. ACT is organised in a number of working groups (built environment, transport, ecology and food, farming and forestry). We have forged links with parish councils and community groups in Teignbridge to share ideas, create discussions and hopefully influence policies and attract funding.

In the Teignbridge areas which fall within the Dartmoor National Park plan we would like to take part in discussions/ consultations and if appropriate help to inform and disseminate ideas. We are specifically very interested in discussions about sustainable transport links, renewable energy generation, tree planting and natural regeneration, landscape connectivity, land management practices, practices to increase soil carbon and how to support a local food economy.

#### Themes

##### 1- Climate change

We believe that vast parts of Dartmoor could be subjected to different land management practices that would enhance biodiversity and increase soil carbon.

Our group includes several farmers and we are interested in starting discussions about local land management changes (at parish level) and invite farmers and land owners to join in.

We are also considering organising a discussion about how to support farmers to introduce changes and practices to increase soil carbon.

Greater areas of the moors should have an increase in woodland cover and we support the DNP plan to increase the tree cover of the river valleys and in this way also increasing the landscape connectivity. Natural regeneration should be allowed to take its place in greater parts of the moor, striving for a mosaic of habitats in the landscape.

Our group is starting a discussion about how to support a more resilient local food economy. Therefore, we are very interested in how the DNP plan will promote local food supply chains. Hopefully, the groups supporting local food can link, share experiences and work together.

There is scope for more bus routes linking centres such as Newton Abbot and Bovey Tracey connecting towns and places in the moors and linking cycling and walking routes.

We support local community energy schemes and work to increase energy efficiency in buildings, working with local community energy groups and are interested in the measures that are going to be adopted in the Dartmoor National Park.

##### 2- Next Generation

Involving the next generation that lives in the Dartmoor and in the surrounding areas is key for a more sustainable future. We would suggest creating a trusted place/ platform for young people to express their opinions, such as the young people's assembly created to discuss Devon's climate emergency.

### 3- Nature and natural beauty

One of the proposals ACT has for parishes is the creation of the role of a parish wildlife warden. One of the roles such a person would have is to look at potential 'wildlife recovery areas' and map the landscape trying to link it up. Several parishes have already groups that were created to try to enhance the biodiversity/ wildlife of their area. We propose to organise a joint meeting for all those groups, to share experience and to start to talk about a vision to 'join/ connect the landscape'.

We would like to see the increase in tree cover on the river valleys in the upper part of the moors, connecting them to wooded areas in the lower river basins (Dart, Teign, Bovey, etc..). This should be achieved together with naturalising rivers and streams and restoring wetland habitats to increase water storage and increase biodiversity.

We also support the vision of connecting not just woodland areas, but providing a 'mosaic' of habitats that would be connected in the landscape, such as connecting the areas of heath, areas of wildflower meadows and water habitats (ponds, lakes, mires).

We would love to see some areas of the South moors be designated as nature recovery areas, areas such as the Bovey, Teign or Dart valleys.

We support a vision of a landscape with more woodland cover possibly supporting in the future the reintroduction of iconic species such as the pine martin and the beaver.

### 4- Cultural heritage

### 5- Farming and Forestry

As mentioned before, our group includes several farmers. We are interested in the discussion about farming practices that contribute to the increase in soil carbon and enhance biodiversity and are considering to start discussions about local land management changes and invite farmers and land owners to join in. Some simple measures such as letting hedges grow, increase biodiversity and store carbon.

Regarding management practices, we believe that swailing needs to be reduced and better controlled. Although, this has to be balanced with the control of fires in the summer months.

There is a need for a wide ranging discussion on grazing, biodiversity and greater biodiversity in the landscape.

We would like to see a thriving and supported forestry sector on Dartmoor. New opportunities should be forged to gain and share skills. Sustainable forestry businesses should be able to have the necessary infrastructure on their land to be able to carry out their activities.

As mentioned previously, our group is starting a discussion about how to support a more resilient local food economy. Therefore, we are very interested in how the DNP plan will promote local food supply chains. Hopefully, the groups supporting local food can link, share experiences and work together.

### 6- People

We welcome the proposal to of setting up a program with schools in the whole of Devon aiming to build a lasting connection with Dartmoor for children in the area.

The Dartmoor Recreation Strategy mentioned in the plan fits in very well with the new TDC local plan and their green infrastructure suggestions for new developments. We specifically support the development and dissemination of sustainable transport options. We recommend the inclusion of a certain amount of public transport passes in welcome packs to stimulate new residents to try out public transport links.

We would like to see more public transport/ bus routes linking centres such as Newton Abbot and Bovey Tracey connecting towns and places in the moors and linking cycling and walking routes.

#### How will we measure success?

ACT has developed a number of resources to help establish an emissions baseline. We continue to improve these and develop further resources to support planning authorities and local councils in achieving their Carbon emission reduction targets.

Please refer to our website for the following information:

- Information on emissions from dwellings and transport  
<https://actionclimateteignbridge.org/index.php/maps-and-data/>
- Information on meeting legally binding emission targets  
<https://actionclimateteignbridge.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/ACT-Comments-on-TDC-Local-Plan-Review-Oct19-v0.6.pdf>
- Information on why we have a Climate Emergency  
<https://actionclimateteignbridge.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/ACT-TP-Pack-Emergency-v1.0.pdf>
- Information to support local councils  
<https://actionclimateteignbridge.org/index.php/resources-pack-for-town-and-parish-councils/>
- Information on sequestering Carbon emissions (section 6.7)  
<http://teignenergycommunities.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/TECs-Zero-Carbon-v0.11.pdf>

We would welcome any feedback on these and how they could be extended specifically for your needs.