

SECTION 3

RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Introduction

The *Moor than meets the eye* Landscape Partnership area, as part of Dartmoor National Park, is acknowledged as one of the country's finest landscapes through its designation as a protected landscape. This is further endorsed by the significance of its archaeology and cultural heritage, and the range of designations for wildlife conservation, and its popularity for those wanting to enjoy its wide open spaces.

As well as this openness, it is also an area of intimate landscapes and the special qualities identified in Section 1 (Understanding Your Landscape Partnership Area) are the result of the interaction between people and landscape over many centuries. There have been many changes as farming and exploitation of the area's resources have developed, and farming remains a key factor in how the landscape is managed.

This section provides an overview of the threats that face the *Moor than meets the eye* area, drawing on the Landscape Character Assessment for Dartmoor National Park for the Landscape Character Types within the scheme area, as well as the National Park's recently adopted Management Plan (*'Your Dartmoor': National Park Management Plan 2014 – 2019*).

Development work has also identified opportunities through work on Audience Development, Interpretation, Skills, and Landscape and Access around Postbridge and Bellever. The Scheme has also been able to acquire LiDAR data for the three Forestry Commission areas of Bellever, Fernworthy and Soussons and for the East Dartmoor National Nature Reserve. These are discussed briefly in this section, and are addressed more fully in Section 4 where they are considered in the discussion on delivery and in Section 5 where individual projects and their outcomes are detailed.

RISKS

Direct threats

Access and landscape heritage

Dartmoor is fortunate in having a significant amount of access provision, which is detailed more fully in Section 4. The Dartmoor National Park Authority's Management Plan and the Recreation and Access Strategy both recognise that there are parts of the National Park where there are opportunities for further access (for example the forests), areas that already have heavy recreational use, areas for exploration and areas which should remain quiet.

These same considerations should also be applied on a more local scale, and, for example, while the development of the Wray Valley Trail provides access to parts of the *Moor than meets the eye* area, there are also areas close to the proposed trail which remain secluded and where, while a growth in visitors might occur gradually,

the emphasis should be on retaining the quietness and so should be allowed to develop rather than being encouraged to do so.

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Some areas have been described as having 'poor access'. It is worth looking at that concept more closely. Poor access may be due to an infrastructure that would struggle to cope with significant increases in visitor numbers particularly when taking into account traffic on roads that have shown little change since before the age of the car. It may also refer to areas which are more remote and so are more difficult to reach and therefore present a challenge. Finally, while physical access to an area may be relatively easy, the intellectual access may be poor and there is little to encourage explanation, interpretation and understanding of the significance of the landscape's heritage. Each of these needs to be given consideration for locations within the Landscape Partnership area, but the first aim of *Moor than meets the eye* needs to be one of maintaining the special qualities of each location.

For each of these versions of 'poor access', the Landscape Partnership should take into account the following potential risks:

- Project development should consider any increase to traffic where a road system is not suited to accommodate increased numbers of vehicles
- Hard to reach areas are not 'poor access' but are challenges in their own right. Encouraging access to these, particularly supporting and expanding on the challenges and opportunities presented by the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expedition Section and Ten Tors, should be welcomed with appropriate levels of support.
- Increased intellectual access should still maintain the special qualities of Dartmoor, and increasing interpretation can be done in ways that do not use intrusive material where this is not appropriate

More specifically, increased access may have a direct impact on the heritage that is seen as important. Three key issues are:

- Disturbance of wildlife – there are a number of species which will be affected by large numbers of people being near to where they live and breed.
- Erosion - in many places Dartmoor looks wild and rugged but in reality such areas are extremely fragile. Where more and more people choose to visit and explore Dartmoor there is an increasing pressure upon the landscape, and erosion and general 'over use', particularly at peak holiday periods, can damage the very fabric of the moor, its plants, its wildlife and its archaeology. Furthermore, it can impact upon the people who live and work within the National Park boundary
- Physical damage – this may result from erosion but may also be caused by lack of understanding of the importance of features, whether they be part of the important archaeological resource or those to help management such as walls and gates.

Climate change

Climate change is a cross-cutting threat that has the potential to impact on a variety of elements that make up the landscape heritage. Climate change is already having an impact on Dartmoor, and further changes are predicted.

Climate change isn't new to Dartmoor - it has seen all sorts of weather during the past 370 million years or so, and from earthquakes and volcanoes to the Ice Age, the moor has experienced a wide range of climatic conditions. However, there are fears that the current rate of climate change might be too rapid for some habitats and species to adapt. The climate is changing at its fastest rate for 10,000 years and looks to be already having an impact, affecting Dartmoor vegetation, contributing to some increased bracken and gorse growth and making access to certain moorland areas more difficult. By 2080, the mean summer temperatures on Dartmoor may rise by more than 4°C. Winters will become wetter and stormier, while summers will become much drier.

Climate change impacts on the moorland areas could include potential drying out of wet heath, blanket bog, valley mires, Rhôs pasture and wet woodland due to an increased frequency and intensity of drought conditions in the summer months causing damage to archaeological sites; increased autumn and winter precipitation levels which could lead to higher water levels in upland streams, mires and tracts of blanket bog, resulting in more frequent downstream flooding, as well as an increase in poaching on river banks; a longer growing season and enhanced growth rates of vegetation including bracken, gorse and secondary woodland resulting in a decrease in the area of open heather moorland and a 'scrubbing up' of upland stream valleys; an increase in the prevalence of pests and diseases which may affect species such as heather and bilberry; the spread of non-native and alien species in response to a changing climate, and a change in woodland composition as new pests and diseases spread

Off the moorland areas, there may be pressure for the use of new crops, some crop failures or reduced productivity due to drought. In turn, this might lead to field enlargement, loss of Devon banks and impacts on water quality. Other impacts on the landscape could include increased demand for bio-energy planting, planting of non-native woodland species to respond to different growing conditions – altering the species composition of the landscape's oak-dominated valley woodlands, increased demand for domestic and community-scale renewable energy installations such as solar panels, small wind turbines and ground-source heat pumps, and demand for harnessing the power of Dartmoor's fast flowing rivers through hydroelectric schemes

Threats to natural heritage

The importance of a wide range of habitats and species has already been highlighted in Section 1 ('Understanding Your Landscape Partnership Area') and these include:

- Moorland birds - the Red-backed Shrike was extinct in England since 1992, and was lost from Dartmoor and Devon in 1970 before it returned to Dartmoor in 2010. It was once widespread in parts of southern England but declined rapidly last century, thought due to loss of suitable habitats and consequent declines in its large insect prey, so longer-term management and protection of the birds is required. Many moorland bird species have suffered declines throughout the UK and because of this have been Red Listed as 'Birds of Conservation Concern'. Birds such as the Cuckoo, Skylark, Snipe, Nightjar, Meadow Pipit, Tree pipit, Whinchat and Stonechat are still found in nationally important numbers on Dartmoor despite disappearing from much of southern

England. It also holds all of the South West region's breeding populations of red grouse, dunlin and ring ouzel.

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Meadow pipit (© Laurie Campbell)

- Haymeadows – the haymeadows in the *Moor than meets the eye* area are small and fragmented, and so to reach their full potential, and to stop further decline and (hopefully) encourage expansion, they need active and appropriate management.
- Wet valleys - without proper and integrated management, important wet valley systems will revert to wet woodland resulting in the loss of Rhôs pasture and threaten the delicate mosaic of valuable habitats. The loss of these habitats will result in the disappearance of key BAP species such as marsh fritillaries, which have an internationally important stronghold in the National Park, and bog hoverfly not to be found anywhere else in the UK
- Barbastelle bats - the Woodland Trust will undertake research into the roosting habits of Barbastelle bats in the Bovey Valley and use this to ensure their habitat is protected for future year
- Lichens in the Bovey valley - declining light levels are affecting lichen assemblages but also the diversity of ground flora including ancient woodland species, so the Woodland Trust will undertake research to monitor the impact of recent woodland management and ensure important maternity roosting sites are protected or enhanced

Direct threats to the cultural heritage

Dartmoor boasts the largest number and best preserved archaeology in Europe but recent excavations at White horse Hill and Bellever have shown that there is still so much more hidden beneath the surface which may be lost if it is not recorded, preserved and understood.. The results of the Whitehorse Hill burial cist excavation provided a totally unexpected and fascinating glimpse into what life might have been

like in the early Bronze Age on Dartmoor. In particular, they have provided a rare glimpse into the personal and treasured possessions of Dartmoor's inhabitants some 4,000 years ago.

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The results are already of national importance and are certainly the most important to come from Dartmoor in the last century. The question remains as to how many other prehistoric sites are there situated within environs of Whitehorse Hill, still concealed by the peat, as it is most unlikely that this burial took place in total isolation in the landscape away from contemporaneous sites. In order to fully understand the context of the burial, the whole area needs to be explored both physically and using remote sensing techniques.

Afforestation of the areas of moorland at Bellever, Fernworthy and Soussons created a very different and artificial landscape from that which previously existed. The three Forests are all situated within the heart of the moor and the creation of these large woodland blocks has taken in a large number of archaeological sites. During the original forestry operations many of these sites lost their inter-visibility which had been an important element of their original laying out, while many more sites were partly obliterated, disturbed or obscured by the tree planting. The LiDAR survey and field survey undertaken during the development of *Moor than meets the eye* have revealed new features and allowed a better understanding of the existing features. It has also allowed greater thought on the link between what is hidden in the forest and what is below the reservoir, which was possible due to low water levels during the summer of 2013. This survey has allowed a better understanding of individual sites as they are now and of how they relate to each other, their original positions within the landscape and indeed their chronology. A programme of tree removal will help unveil some of this archaeology and will develop areas for public exploration and understanding of the area.

The *Moor than meets the eye* area contains 146 Scheduled Monuments at Risk, 70 of which are recognised to be at medium or high risk. The area also contains 6 Premier Archaeological Landscapes (PAL) identified in the Dartmoor Vision. A number of the Monuments at Risk (MAR) will have been recognised in existing or new HLS agreements and therefore should have management prescriptions in place (see the example of Spitchwick Common in section 1). However, work to protect the monuments from vegetation growth often requires volunteer input, which is currently managed and co-ordinated by DNPA archaeologists. Training for commoners and volunteers in vegetation control, together with the work of *Moor than meets the eye's* Community Heritage Officer, would help reduce the amount of supervision time of DNPA staff and would allow more work to be completed. It is estimated that 50 of the MARs do not have a management plan or proposed management prescriptions, and 21 of those are on highly visited sites.

In the past, resources have not been available to undertake research, develop management plans, and implement conservation works to improve the condition of these sites, and, if this is not done, there is a risk that they will deteriorate further. Taking the Birch Tor and Headland Warren area as an example, despite the PAL status recognising its importance as one of the most complete of the Dartmoor mining areas, it currently appears on the English Heritage "at risk" register due to the threat posed by increasing vegetation and bracken cover. In total, an area of 113 ha

of the Scheduled Monument is deemed at “high risk”. As with many archaeological assets on Dartmoor, resources have not been available to undertake work to improve their condition. The potential for climate change to increase the growing season highlights both an increased threat and a need to agree and implement management plans for these sites.

Protecting the Dartmoor vernacular

The network of minor lanes, bounded by dry-stone walls and Devon hedgebanks, and the isolated farmsteads, hamlets and small villages are valued elements of the Dartmoor landscape that probably haven’t changed very much since medieval times. They are under threat from inappropriate repairs, maintenance or development and a lack of understanding or knowledge of homeowners, builders, local people and decision makers. Awareness of the local heritage assets which make a parish landscape special are crucial if they are to be valued and conserved, and yet this level of parish survey has not been undertaken.

Higher Uppacott

As one of Dartmoor’s oldest identified longhouses, and one of the earliest roofed buildings in Devon, Higher Uppacott has a wealth of significant features dating from the early to mid-14th century through to the 17th century. Apart from the building itself, its landscape context is rich in archaeological remains (with many dating from the Bronze Age) and as an example of the large systems of seasonal transhumance and grazing of the moor recently analysed by Professor Harold Fox.

Being open to the public, Higher Uppacott has a track record of successful visits from people of all ages, many nationalities and different interests. However, in recent years visitor numbers have dropped, partly due to restrictions on parking and the numbers who can visit at any one time, but also due to less promotion of the building for visitors. In conjunction with this, there has been a decline in maintenance in a period of financial austerity with the longhouse now being in poor condition, with the need for urgent and expensive repairs, of which the priority is thatching. The opportunities for avoiding risks to, and enhancing the significance of, Higher Uppacott have been identified in the policies outlined by Keystone Historic Buildings Consultants (2013) in their Conservation Plan for the building.

There needs to be more certainty in the management structure for Higher Uppacott to implement the costed list of works to remedy some of the condition problems, and DNPA will continue to look for an appropriate body with the skills and expertise to take over the building and make the most of its importance as a heritage asset. This will require maintenance work before this can be achieved which will also help develop the presentation of the building, increase access to it (including for those with disabilities) and the role of volunteers to capture enthusiasm for the building.

A key part of *Moor than meets the eye* will be taking forward the recommendations within the Conservation Plan to develop an integrated strategy to ensure maintenance of the building, increase access and visitor numbers within the capacity of the access constraints, and develop interpretation that will explain how Higher Uppacott reflects man and landscape over the centuries and underpins its place as a key part of the local landscape.

Custodians of the land

Farmers remain fundamental to the management of Dartmoor's heritage landscape and yet farm incomes are declining and farmers are heading down the hill (ie off the moor), putting high moorland farms at risk. The traditional and specific skills required to farm the commons is therefore also in decline. Management of the land is becoming increasingly more reliant on agri-environment schemes, and some features are not currently funded under these schemes, such as stone walls that have traditionally been used as stock-proof boundaries. These are now deteriorating as it is more cost effective to use stock-proof fencing behind the stone wall, a situation made worse by theft of stone and damage through visitor pressure.

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Indirect threats

Disconnection with the landscape and its heritage

If people are choosing not to engage with the landscape and its heritage because it is perceived as 'not being for them', or the facilities do not encourage visitors to stop the car as they travel through the area, or activities do not cater for people with disabilities – this will lead to a further disconnection with the landscape. The circle would continue as participation in activities that do benefit landscape heritage, such as dry stone wall management and undertaking archaeological studies, would diminish along with visits to historic sites and visitor centres and participation in courses and training events.

The result could be a lack of investment that further disconnects people from the landscape and its heritage. However, those who visit the outdoors frequently are more likely to have concerns for the natural environment and to participate in pro-environmental activities such as buying seasonal or locally grown produce and becoming members of environmental or conservation organisations, leading to improvement in the condition of the landscape heritage. It is therefore vital that the diverse audience that live and work in, and visit, the *Moor than meets the eye* area are offered activities and options that are appealing and relevant. This may mean thinking beyond the usual when it comes to investment in the area.

The future of ponies on Dartmoor

Dartmoor ponies have lived on Dartmoor since prehistoric times. Although herds of ponies roam freely on the moor, they all belong to different pony keepers. By grazing the moorland they play a vital role in maintaining a variety of habitats and supporting wildlife.

The future survival of the pony on Dartmoor has been in serious decline for a number of years. Environmental payments have helped reduce the decline in recent years, but with the reduction of any supporting payments and with dramatic changes in legislation, the pony on Dartmoor is under threat of extinction.

Increasing concern is being expressed about the sustainability of ponies on Dartmoor, with economic support for their continuation being limited, recent prices at markets being very low, the quality of the ponies is varied, and therefore there is potential for the numbers of ponies to reduce significantly. This will have an impact on the management of the moorland and rhôs pasture and will impact on people's enjoyment of Dartmoor.



Scheme sustainability

As an opportunity, the move toward localism (as in development management under the spatial planning system) may support the development of skills and knowledge at a local level. However, the current government policy continues to be one of cutting resources, which affects a range of facilities and reduces budgets for and grants to National Park and local authorities, and agencies such as English Heritage, who provide the main source of expertise and opportunities to develop skills.

Without the support these organisations offer, heritage conservation is liable to remain small-scale, whereas a wider, landscape view, is necessary to ensure that priority actions are not overlooked. Development of a landscape partnership approach will also help to pool resources and develop new ways of working which may reduce the effects of shrinking budgets.

Historic Environment Record (HER)

Dartmoor National Park Authority's Historic Environment Record (HER) contains detailed information for Dartmoor's diverse archaeological and historical resource and includes sites dating from ten thousand years ago up to the 20th century.

At present the Dartmoor HER contains over 18,600 entries. The HER information is stored on a database that is shared with the Devon County Council HER. The nature of the shared database allows each HER to be instantly updated, amended and managed by the relevant Authority. The database was originally designed and built by Devon County Council who will continue to implement the continued technological advancement of the database. Other components of the HER include listed building information, photographs, historical mapping, site reports, evaluations and historical mapping. Much of this information is not stored on the database and is therefore not available to view on-line.

Funding secured from English Heritage in April 2010 supported the appointment of a Historic Environment Record Officer (HERO) to manage the Dartmoor HER and implement a three year Action Plan to bring improvements to the information

recorded in the database and the accessibility of this information. With the continued need for cuts to budgets outlined above, there is a risk that this resource may be lost, and while the HER will continue as a resource that could underpin work in parts of *Moor than meets the eye* (eg Parishscapes), it will be less accessible and therefore not contribute as much as it could.

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Project conflicts

The significant risk to the landscape heritage that may arise out of projects being delivered as part of *Moor than meets the eye* that look to improve access facilities on sensitive sites. The role of the Local Stakeholders Group will be crucial in advising on the views of local communities in this, but it is equally important to develop a direct dialogue with those communities. The Landscape Partnership Board and the Scheme Team should both take an active role in working with communities to identify and reduce conflict between projects. The Project Team has started to develop these links during the development of *Moor than meets the eye* and will build on this during delivery of the Scheme. The Sandford principle could be used in this, but the best solution is one which addresses the problems long before the need to use the principle is necessary.

There may be some conflict when looking to host events and activities on sensitive sites. Again, the Local Stakeholders Group and discussions with local residents will be sought during planning for and prior to undertaking such activities.

OPPORTUNITIES

'Your Dartmoor': National Park Management Plan 2014 – 2019

The Management Plan identifies a number of actions that can be delivered by *Moor than meets the eye*, but also identifies wider principles which the Landscape Partnership could help in delivering, for example some of the key ecosystem services provided on Dartmoor include:

- The strong and varied landscape provides **inspiration**, local distinctiveness and a **sense of place**.
- Dartmoor is the single largest unbroken area of **tranquillity** in the south of England. 92% of the National Park is classified as tranquil.
- Around one third of Dartmoor is designated as internationally and nationally important for **wildlife**, as well as numerous areas of local interest for wildlife.
- Dartmoor is one of the most significant areas in western Europe for archaeology and the density of archaeological remains is reflected in more than 20,000 entries in the Historic Environment Record, providing a lasting **sense of history**.
- Dartmoor provides extensive **recreational** opportunities, and is accessible to nearly half a million people living in surrounding areas. Over 2.3 million people visit a year. There are over 730km of public rights of way and an additional 127km of permissive paths. 40% of the National Park (over 46,600 ha) is open access or common land.
- Dartmoor is the principal source of a large part of the **water** supplied to around 840,000 people in Devon. Water quality is generally high, with the majority of water bodies classified as moderate or good

Working with local communities

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Developing good working relationships with the various communities within the *Moor than meets the eye* area is fundamental to the success of the Landscape Partnership Scheme, and to delivery of the projects within it. This takes up the increasing stress that is being placed on working with communities, which is an important theme of the recently adopted Management Plan.

In this it is made clear that crucial to the delivery of the Management Plan is strengthening the relationship between local communities, visitors, partner organisations and the National Park itself. This includes ensuring that local people have a say in how the National Park is managed, as well as getting involved themselves through volunteering, practical conservation work or archaeological projects, and through sharing the information and knowledge that they have of Dartmoor's special qualities.

A core value of this Management Plan is to increase engagement, involving people in understanding, conserving and managing the National Park and promoting social inclusion. There are great opportunities to reconnect people with nature, and involve them in practical conservation work, looking after their local environments, and monitoring and recording the wildlife that they see. Communities and volunteers should be encouraged to be more involved in practical habitat management and surveying work, as well as understanding the aims of wildlife conservation.

However, given the limited resources to achieve this work, there is a key need to prioritise areas of higher importance to focus efforts. A number of initiatives being co-ordinated through *Living Dartmoor* will support this, including the incorporation of County Wildlife Sites in to the interactive map, the Community Tool Kit for Natural Environment, and the development of Parish Biodiversity Audits and Parishscapes.

Going back to the statement within the DNPA *Local Development Framework: Core Strategy Development Plan Document 2006 – 2026*, regarding working with communities, it is worthwhile repeating:

Crucial to the future is the relationship between the local communities and the National Park itself. Both the working economy and the National Park's cultural identity are vested in the local people. They provide the continuity, support and living heritage that make each place much more than a mere location on a map. This vision for Dartmoor National Park is therefore one of balance, in which both stability and change are beneficial to local people and visitors alike, and the special qualities of Dartmoor are preserved for future generations as well as for those who visit and live in the National Park today."

However, it is also important to understand that, for whatever reason, those communities may also have suspicion and cynicism about the way in which the National Park Authority and other organisations work in wanting to engage with them. It is equally important to accept that, while some of this may well be justified, it is also the perception that this is the case which needs to be addressed.



Moor than meets the eye Community Workshop at Moretonhampstead, September 2013

Moor than meets the eye's Open Meeting in Moretonhampstead in September 2013 as part of developing the Scheme asked for comments on and interest in the range of projects that were being developed. A number of those attending the meeting also produced comments on how some felt they were excluded from community engagement processes and how they felt they should be undertaken, which are shown below. Open involvement of local communities in *Moor than meets the eye* is certainly the way that the Landscape Partnership Board wish to work, and working with those communities to achieve what is expressed in the second diagram will be a crucial role for the Scheme's team.



Working with local communities is fundamental to successful delivery of *Moor than meets the eye*. The Landscape Partnership has already established a separate website for the Scheme in response to the requests for one from the Moretonhampstead meeting. While the Project Team will play a key role in this, it is important that all partners contribute to further developing continuing discussions with communities.

However, perhaps one of the biggest opportunities is one which funding from HLF cannot address, and which communities can take forward alongside *Moor than meets the eye*. On the one hand, the level of funding available inevitably generates ideas and enthusiasm which cannot always be met either because the budget and grant can only be spread so far or because proposals fall outside HLF's guidance for Landscape Partnership Schemes. On the other, this doesn't mean that those proposals are not without merit, and therefore the opportunity is one of seeing how those projects can be delivered in ways that meet the criteria of other funders, or in identifying solutions that may require agreement rather than funding.

As examples, both Postbridge and Widecombe-in-the-Moor have projects which are highly valued by the local communities, at Postbridge it's the village hall and Widecombe Local History group are looking to house their archive. Both would be better seeking funding from other sources, but the combination of these and *Moor than meets the eye* projects could deliver many more benefits than just those under the Landscape Partnership Scheme. The potential benefits of the discovery of a parish's heritage assets under 'Parishscapes' and the engagement of communities with this could deliver much more than either alone.

Working with landowners

The farming community of Dartmoor and the *Moor than meets the eye* area are recognised as being major contributors to the continuing management of the landscape and its natural and built heritage. This includes the farmers and commoners, together with the larger landowners such as the Duchy of Cornwall, and the financial support for them from agri-environment schemes plays a small but critical part in maintaining viable enterprises, along with any diversification that has taken place. The better prepared these enterprises are to any new opportunities that present themselves, will have an immediate and positive impact on the landscape heritage.

In the uncertain period between the end of the support offered by the current CAP and the roll out of any new agri-environment schemes, the advice and support offered by the Landscape Partnership through some of its partners (eg the National Park Authority, Natural England and English Heritage) with reference to archaeology and sites of nature conservation importance, will help ensure that the impacts on these features is minimised. The role of the Landscape Partnership is not to further complicate matters by being seen as a further source of advice but to complement this by making sure that activities and projects are targeted at areas where agri-environment schemes have not been agreed and implemented.

There are already a number of schemes and initiatives that work with and advise the farming community on how they can reduce factors contributing to climate change and be better prepared for the impacts of it. The Landscape Partnership will be fully

supporting these especially if the process is farmer-led, and the contributions here of the Dartmoor Commoners Council and the Dartmoor Farmers Association should not be under-valued.

The farming community are also in a prime position to help reconnect people with the landscape in stressing both the importance of its use in agricultural production and in the quality of its products. Similar initiatives to help link food production with the landscape have worked on a national and local scale, such as the Linking Environment and Farming 'Open Farm Sunday'. Dartmoor Farmers Association are already promoting beef and lamb from the moor and the 'Moor Wool' campaign is taking low value fleeces from sheep that graze the commons, scouring and spinning them as close to Dartmoor as possible and using the yarn to create Dartmoor wool products. *Moor than meets the eye* can add to these opportunities to promote farming as the manager of the landscape and its heritage across a number of its themes, and will be working on a number of projects in conjunction with the local farming community.

Working in partnership

One of the strengths of developing a Landscape Partnership is that it can take further forward joint working including some of the research that has taken place during the development of *Moor than meets the eye*. Findings and recommendations from these are shown in the Section 4 on 'Aims and Objectives', but it is worth noting here some of the issues highlighted as opportunities that could be considered.

Audience development

Apart from the work commissioned by the Landscape Partnership, the National Park Authority had previously commissioned research in 2012 by The Tourism Company on users and non-users of the three National Park Information Centres. Two of the three are inside the *Moor than meets the eye* area, and the third at Princetown provides a significant opportunity to promote the Landscape Partnership Scheme, being just outside the area.

Some of the research took place at locations away from the centres, and this included the Haytor Lower Car Park; Haytor Top Car Park; and Widecombe-in-the-Moor Village Green. Perhaps most significant in analysing the results of surveys undertaken as part of this is not what the results say as much as the gaps. These could identify areas of opportunity. As an example, 51% of the adult population across England and Wales is aged 45 years and older whereas 66% of the sample came from this age group. By contrast there were less younger respondents in the sample than there would be if it were representative of the adult population across England and Wales (The Tourism Company, 2012). As continued support for protected landscapes in the future will be crucial, not only for farming, heritage and access but also for how they deliver benefits from the environment (ecosystem services), the under-representation of younger people highlights a challenge that will continually need to be addressed.

Having received the final Audience Development and Interpretation Strategy report for *Moor than meets the eye*, apart from noting some of the findings and

recommendations for incorporating in the development of the Scheme, it is also particularly important to acknowledge that:

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“This Plan represents a stage in on-going stakeholder engagement work by the Scheme and is seen as an important resource for catalysing this process. The consultation carried out for the ADP represents a snapshot of the current situation and has been designed to generate general consensus about people’s views and priorities. On-going engagement and consultation will be needed to provide an in-depth, continually relevant resource; this will be possible through implementation of the Scheme.”

(Evison and King, 2013)

Skills

Following the work on the Skills Audit by Power Marketing, it would appear that there is a good level of agreement that skills and knowledge could be beneficial whilst at the same time acknowledging that there is already a broad skill set that could be made use of across Dartmoor with a good number being willing to share their skills. Business skills would appear to be required with good levels of interest in traditional moorland skills, understanding of species and habitats and archeology/history of the area.

The best way to provide such knowledge transfer (and those that appear to appeal to most) is through practical demonstrations and talks on site run at different times of the day with social networking offered in the evenings. There is a good level of interest in the “Dartmoor Diploma” but again caution about the level of practical skills included and the amount of skills that would be covered in a way that they are worthwhile and useful. The youth/younger generation are highlighted as being in need of the training and skills to retain them on Dartmoor.

There are some notes of caution - funding and time are mentioned as issues for going to events, doing training and there are comments about the amount of training that some have already received, and a number of the farm businesses would appear to be somewhat resistant to the idea of others teaching them about their environment and would like the authorities and visitors to be the ones receiving the training,

Interpretation

Some interesting discussions have focused on *Moor than meets the eye* having value as a coherent partnership, but not as an external brand, and there is a general consensus that ‘Dartmoor’ is the outward-facing brand for use in interpretation and promotion, whilst *Moor than meets the eye* is the internal organisational structure steering and implementing the work.

Whilst stakeholders will hopefully become increasingly familiar with *Moor than meets the eye*, it should be in the context of its existence as a Landscape Partnership Scheme and not an externally promoted brand. However, this does raise issues regarding awareness of the contribution to delivering the Landscape Partnership Scheme through funding from HLF, and there is a clear need for the Scheme to have an identity which both places it in the public gaze and acknowledges HLF.

Dartmoor's landscapes, wildlife, people and places combine to tell a fascinating story – a story that begins in the distant geological past and whose concluding chapters have yet to be written. Significantly, we are all part of the story – as visitors, farmers, residents and wider society – through the lives we live and the choices we make.

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This concept of 'telling a story' should underpin the approach to interpreting Dartmoor. This does not mean being lax with the facts; but rather it is predicated on the need to dig deep into the archives and scrutinise the evidence to bring out the nuances and make the connections necessary for a deeper public engagement with Dartmoor 'the place' (Jones, 2013).

LiDAR

The recent acquisition of data through LiDAR (light detection and ranging) surveys of the Forestry Commission areas on the high moor and the East Dartmoor National Nature Reserve means that there is information available through a remote sensing technique which measures the relative position of the recording unit to determine three-dimensional points of contact using a laser.

LiDAR is used in a wide range of scientific applications, but for the purposes of *Moor than meets the eye*, its value is in providing accurate three-dimensional measurements of a surface to support archaeological investigation. However, it does have limitations:

“Lidar is seen by some as a tool that will record all aspects of the historic environment, making other techniques redundant; this is especially true when it is described as being able to ‘see through trees’. This is a misleading statement, however, and can lead to disappointment if the properties of lidar are not understood.....Like any other tool for archaeological recording lidar has its strengths and weaknesses and it depends to a large extent on the ability of the user to interpret the data effectively.”

Crutchley and Crow (2009)

Clearly, now having the data is a first step, and a key element in delivering the heritage aspects of *Moor than meets the eye* will be developing the expertise in being able to interpret the data to identify features on the ground, and to make this available to local history and community groups, particularly those around the forest areas and the 'History Hunters' at East Dartmoor National Nature Reserve.

Whitehorse Hill

The excavation, co-ordinated by Dartmoor National Park Authority, has discovered a nationally important collection of Early Bronze Age remains in a burial site, and the discovery could prove to be one of the most important archaeological finds of the last 100 years nationally. The excavation has revealed that cremated human bone and burnt textile was placed within an animal hide or fur on top of a very thin leather and textile object, itself placed above a mat of plant material. At one end of the fur/ hide was a delicate woven bag or basket with fine stitching still visible. The contents inside included beautifully preserved shale disc beads, amber spherical beads and a circular textile band. A further layer of matted plant material covered these objects.

There is a real opportunity here to use the interest that is continuing to build around the discovery of these objects to look at how Bronze Age people lived on the moor. There is also a clear feeling that these objects should be interpreted at Postbridge, and that, if possible, located for display at the Visitor Centre.

Working with schools, colleges and universities

An essential outcome of the Landscape Partnership will be to build a foundation upon which the future prospects for understanding the area and supporting the local economy can be laid. To do this the Landscape Partnership is keen to engage with those that will be in a position to make decisions about the landscape in the future.

The most effective means of going about this is to engage with the local schools, colleges and universities in and around the *Moor than meets the eye* area. Firstly, a relatively straightforward and effective way is to make sure that they are aware of the significance of the resource on their doorstep and how it can link to a variety of curriculum learning. This can be done through both the staff team and outreach work of the partners. Secondly, it is also important that it is made as easy as possible to access this resource; directly – by visiting it, or indirectly – by having resources that allow the history and heritage to be learnt back in the classroom. The learning element of *Moor than meets the eye* will work to show the connection between the school-aged children in the area, their local landscape, its heritage and the other generations that make the communities what they are today. A key part of this will also be to use these processes to highlight issues of anti-social behaviour and the consequences of this.

To ensure that the messages can still be delivered after the life of the Landscape Partnership scheme, development of the 'Dartmoor Diploma' as a way of delivering training that fits into the National Qualification Framework through the use of the Edexcel 'Developing Work Related Skills' accredited qualification gives the opportunity to have flexible training at the point it is needed. Working with local colleges on this (Duchy College, Bicton College etc) will make the best use of their resources and expertise as needed rather than being tied into much longer schemes of delivery.

Higher education institutions, such as Exeter and Plymouth Universities, lie within the vicinity of the *Moor than meets the eye* and have significant interest in it, particularly the historic environment. Every opportunity should be made to engage with them to ensure that the importance of the landscape is further reinforced and explored. Particular areas of expertise, such as involving the student courses including Computer Generated Images at Plymouth College of Art, will also provide opportunities to bring innovative techniques to be used in interpretation.

Further potential for working with schools, colleges and universities lies with a number of businesses and organisations that already work with these educational establishments. The Youth Hostels Association has a hostel at Bellever, ideally placed to access the heritage around Postbridge and in the adjacent forest areas, as well as one at Okehampton. There are a number of other centres in or near the *Moor than meets the eye* area including Pixie's Holt and the Dartmoor Training Centre (Babcock International), Bachelors Hall (Plymouth YMCA) and Spirit of

Adventure based at Powdermills. The Devon office for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award is located in Moretonhampstead.

Working with local history centres, community archives, environmental records centres and museums

A great deal can be gleaned about the heritage of the landscape from existing resources such as the HER, the Devon Record Office and the Westcountry Studies Library, both housed in the Devon Heritage Centre in Exeter. There is also a considerable range of published material produced through Devon Books and later by Halsgrove which have contributed to bringing the heritage of Dartmoor's landscape to a wider audience.

Devon Biological Records Centre (DBRC) was set up and is hosted by Devon Wildlife Trust and is supported by a large partnership of organisations and individuals to act as a central reference point for anyone who wants to know about wildlife in Devon. The DBRC team is involved in:

- Field work (going out to look for wildlife)
- Information management (Putting wildlife observations onto computers)
- Data analysis and presentation (Providing information to people)

However, there is potential for more to be done to make information available and more accessible to a wider audience, and it is important that these resources are added to, and the scheme presents an opportunity to work with them to do this, as well as to improve accessibility. A number of local history groups and community archives already exist within the *Moor than meets the eye* area and the Landscape Partnership will work with these to help deliver projects, and there is a clear link between these and 'Parishscapes' and 'Moor Medieval', and 'In the Footsteps of the Victorians' is being developed by three such groups based in Moretonhampstead, Lustleigh and Bovey Tracey. The National Park Authority already hosts an annual day for Local History Groups which can help promote this in the area and across Dartmoor. However, the further development of archives may again be one of those opportunities where a better option is to seek funding elsewhere. *Moor than meets the eye* is about delivering projects based on archive material that interprets the landscape rather than being specifically about increasing archive capacity. This is clearly an opportunity for the Dartmoor Trust not only to be actively engaged with *Moor than meets the eye* but also to take a lead in developing an extensive interactive archive for the whole of Dartmoor. Such a programme would add to the Local History Group days run by DNPA and help with sharing ideas and expertise between community archives and local history societies and community groups in the *Moor than meets the eye* area and across the National Park.

There are also a number of museums in and around Dartmoor that can play an important role in delivering *Moor than meets the eye*. The Museum of Dartmoor Life in Okehampton has an obvious connection to the area's landscape heritage, while Plymouth Museum is already involved in work on the finds from the Whitehorse Hill excavation. The Royal Albert Memorial Museum and Art Gallery (RAMM) in Exeter holds a number of paintings and other artefacts related to Dartmoor including the collection of several works by Frederick John Widgery and his son, William. As with the other museums, RAMM has the potential to take *Moor than meets the eye* to a wider and different audience outside the National Park.

Working with the arts

The Moor than meets the eye area has a wide range of organisations and individuals that already deliver high quality art. Green Hill Art and the MED Theatre based in Moretonhampstead, the community of arts-based residents in and around Postbridge and Powdermills, the support for music by the Guild of St Lawrence in Ashburton, and performance of traditional music by the likes of the Kelly Quarry Blasters are just a few examples of this, and the contribution of art to the cultural heritage of the area has been more fully explored in Section 1. By working with the arts community, the Landscape Partnership can use arts to engage with a much wider audience than a more traditional approach would ever be able to, and can strengthen ties between the Landscape Partnership Scheme and local communities.

Taking a creative approach to many of our projects will develop and deepen the public's appreciation of this special landscape and enable visitors to engage with the time depth and spirit of place through a variety of experiential and interpretive mediums. This may be through visual art, photography, performance and poetry as well as smart phone technology, printed guides and guided tours, and could include local communities working with artists etc to use art to develop their interpretation.

SUMMARY

The *Moor than meets the eye* area is exposed to a number of threats, both direct and indirect, that are identified above and in '*Your Dartmoor: National Park Management Plan 2014 – 2019*' and the Landscape Character Assessment. *Moor than meets the eye* presents an opportunity to contribute to either raising awareness of these, or helping to implement projects to conserve and enhance the historical landscape that is so unique to this area. Most importantly, this is a real opportunity to develop a collective approach identified in the Landscape Partnership's vision of:

".....an area where local residents, businesses, farmers, visitors and agencies work together to share, understand and appreciate the importance of this landscape and together have the skills and opportunities to contribute to its future."