

# Moor than meets the eye

Landscape Partnership



*The story of people and landscape over 4,000 years on Dartmoor*



Bowerman's Nose © Thomas Dobner



## **Background**

2

One of the catalysts for the *Moor than meets the eye* Landscape Partnership has been the demand for investment in the landscape that has come from those living and working in the area or adjacent to it. Using the Heritage Lottery Fund's (HLF) Landscape Partnership Grant Scheme, the Landscape Partnership wants to deliver projects that will help people:

- learn about and learn from the past
- understand, appreciate and enjoy the cultural and natural environment now
- develop projects and skills to sustain the area's heritage for future generations.

The vision for *Moor than meets the eye* is:

*"Our vision is for the unique historic landscape of south east Dartmoor to be recognised as a truly special place: one where wildlife thrives, heritage is conserved and appreciated, and people draw inspiration and value from the landscape, today and for future generations.*

*It is 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."*

This is also an opportunity to look at ways of developing innovative projects that can be used elsewhere in Dartmoor National Park.

Part of submitting the application to HLF for £1.9 million (towards a budget for the Scheme of £3.9 million) has been writing a Landscape Conservation Action Plan (LCAP) for the area, which has been produced by Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) for the *Moor than meets the eye* Landscape Partnership.

### **The Landscape Partnership Area**

From the high moor to the fringe of the lowland plain, the *Moor than meets the eye* area:

*"...encompasses contrasts between the tor-crowned ridges and peat-filled valleys; moorland waste and agricultural land; royal forest and medieval settlement; which provide a rich diversity of interest. In this area man has assessed and utilised the varied resources of soil, water, woodland and minerals and so created the changing landscape patterns which today are regarded as 'typical' Dartmoor..."*

Brunsdon and Gerrard, in *Dartmoor: A New Study* (ed Gill, 1970)

The area is quintessentially 'Dartmoor' – a rich cultural landscape displaying thousands of years of human interaction – a microcosm of the landscape, both vast and intimate, that creates such a sense of place.

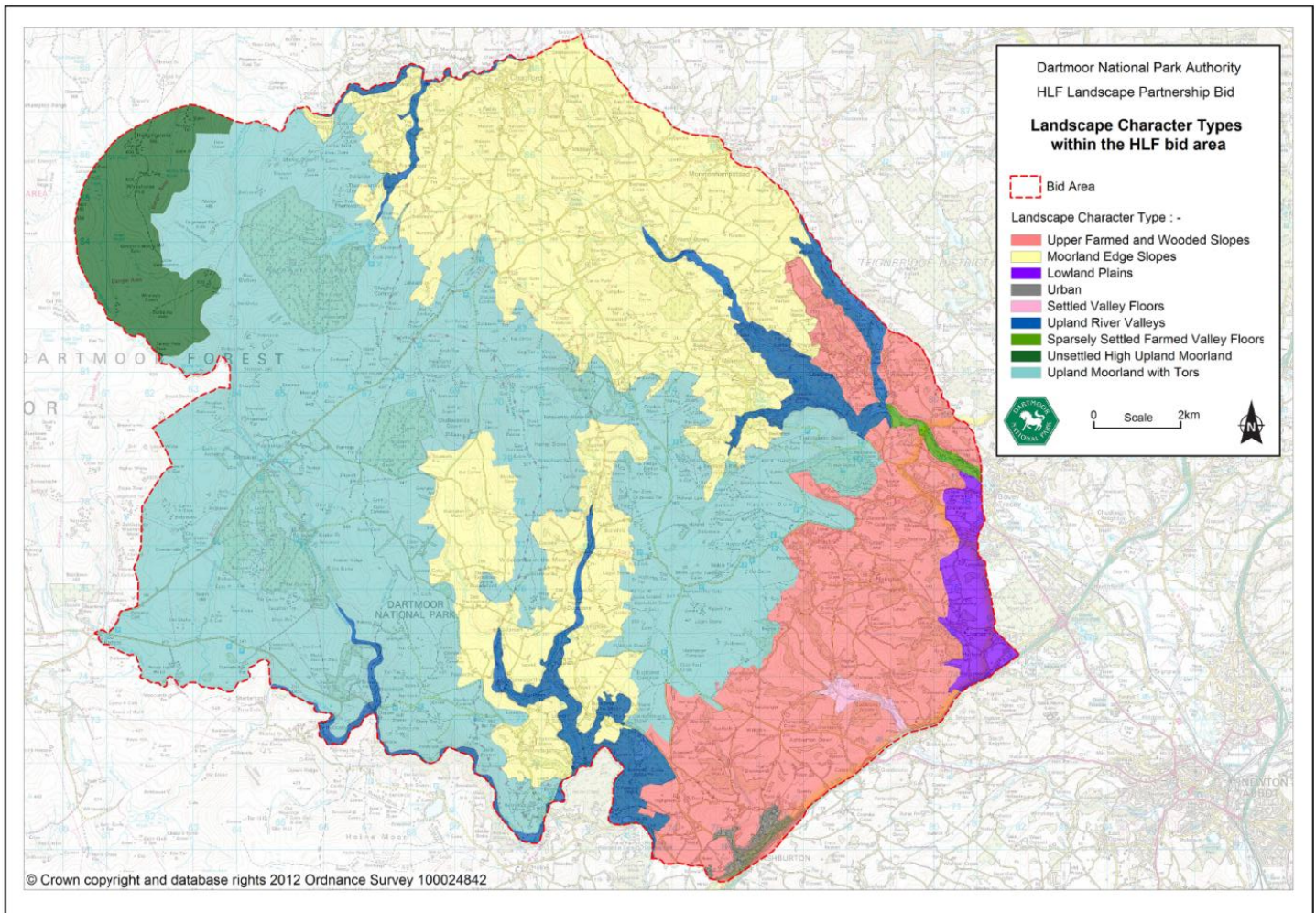
The *Moor than meets the eye* Landscape Partnership area is the south east corner of Dartmoor National Park, located in Devon, south west England. The area is bounded by significant geographical features (the A38 at its southern boundary, the River Dart on its western boundary, the River Teign on its northern boundary and the A382 Bovey Tracey to Chagford road on its eastern boundary). It covers 280 square km with open moorland blocks, valley systems and enclosed land that reflects the landscape integrity of the area and its interrelation with the people who have lived and worked here for over 4,000 years

You can literally walk through time in this area: passing examples of Bronze Age and industrial remains on the high moorland, through the medieval landscape of the moorland edge and down the valleys to the age of the railway which brought Victorian tourists to the

area. The routeways that link the high moor to the valleys are often ancient ceremonial routes or latterly routes to markets. The link between high moor and the valleys is intrinsic and important in telling the story of the landscape, how it evolved and how it is managed.

3

The area has six different types of landscape that are characteristic of the National Park, including:



- **Unsettled High Upland Moorland** - containing the highest and most remote land in Dartmoor
- **Upland Moorland With Tors** - a gently rolling large-scale moorland landscape with a strong sense of exposure, tranquillity and far reaching, often panoramic views
- **Upland River Valleys** - the spectacular courses of Dartmoor's major rivers as they drain from the central moorland plateaux, characterised by clean, fast flowing water tumbling through steep, woodland cloaked valleys
- **Moorland Edge Slopes** - hills and slopes falling away from the high moorland core incised by steep valleys
- **Upper Farmed and Wooded Slopes** - a rolling, hummocky landscape which owes its character to a complex underlying geology – cut by small tributary streams at the foot of undulating slopes
- **Lowland Plain** – the flat undulating plain where upland finally meets lowland

### **The Significance of the *Moor than meets the eye* area**

The area is one of the finest examples of a palimpsest - a landscape on which layer upon layer of human activity has left its mark - in the UK. Its unique character has been shaped over millennia ensuring that people and place are intrinsically linked.



*Marsh fritillary*

The number of designated sites is testament to the variety and importance of the area. The following come together to make the area's unique landscape and create the internationally important and highly valued landscape of the National Park:

- The area is deeply layered and steeped in history, with a chronology of human activity stretching back over 8,000 years
- A strong medieval settlement pattern of scattered farmsteads, hamlets, villages and towns
- The area has widespread evidence of industrial archaeology
- The area's Victorian influence is probably not widely understood or recognised but has had an impact on the development and character of the area
- Traditional farming practices extending back thousands of years, using the moorland commons for extensive grazing of cattle, sheep and ponies
- A unique system of pony 'drifts and pounds' associated with the management of the commons
- Communities who have a strong affinity with the heritage of their local area
- An inspirational landscape of legends and myths that has inspired art and literature through the centuries and continues to inspire
- A unique assemblage of wildlife dependent upon the areas distinct habitats, including upland blanket bog, heathland and ancient oak woodland, rhôs pasture and small pockets of haymeadow
- An area where it is still possible to find absolute peace, dominated by the sounds of nature
- In 2012 the area was visited by 2.24 million visitors and 675,000 people live within 30 minutes drive time.

## Key Risks to the Landscape Partnership Area

5

For the natural heritage there are a number of key risks, including:

- deterioration of wet valley systems which support a range of flora and fauna some of national and international significance
- deterioration of haymeadows has continued often because of the small and fragmented nature of sites
- a decline in the lichen community in the Bovey valley which needs management to protect their long term presence
- management being in place to help the Red-backed Shrike create a stronghold in the area since it returned to Dartmoor in 2010
- developing management proposals to protect existing and potential maternity roosts for the nationally scarce Barbastelle bat in the woodlands of the Bovey Valley

For the cultural and built heritage the key risks include:

- the Landscape Partnership area contains 70 monuments registered at high or medium risk on the Heritage at Risk Register – more than 50 of these do not have a management plan or proposed management prescriptions in place
- the built environment is at risk from the lack of traditional skills and an awareness amongst building owners/occupiers of the need for traditional skills when maintaining/developing such buildings
- the lack of ability to realise the full potential to develop a unique example of a Dartmoor longhouse as a visitor attraction
- there is also a general threat to the landscape character from changing agricultural practices, with past problems of overgrazing now changing to undergrazing and an associated spread of gorse and bracken and a general increase in vegetation which threatens archaeological remains and important habitats and species.

### Delivering *Moor than meets the eye*

The Landscape Partnership Scheme is delivered through HLF's Programme areas made up of the following projects

#### Programme A: Conserving or restoring the built and natural features that create the historic landscape character

<b>PA1</b>	<b>Moorland Birds</b>	<b>£89,296</b>
	Protecting and celebrating Dartmoor's special moorland birds	
<b>PA2</b>	<b>Haymeadows</b>	<b>£22,431</b>
	Raising awareness and appreciation of the unique concentration of flower-rich haymeadows and pastures which remain in this area	
<b>PA3</b>	<b>Natural Connections</b>	<b>£22,431</b>
	Encouraging better management and enhancing natural networks within a number of wet valleys in the <i>Moor than meets the eye</i> area	
<b>PA4</b>	<b>Discovering the Nature of the Bovey Valley</b>	<b>£266,445</b>
	Protecting and conserving key species, habitats and historic features of the Bovey Valley	
<b>PA5</b>	<b>Unveiling the heritage of the High Moor and Forests</b>	<b>£89,000</b>
	Improving understanding to enable better management and promote the internationally important Bronze Age landscape on Dartmoor through survey, research, excavation, interpretation and conservation management works	

<b>PA6 Higher Uppacott</b>	<b>£172,550</b>	6
A grade I listed longhouse with early - mid 14 <sup>th</sup> century origins where the lower-end shippon remains intact, which is emblematic of Dartmoor's medieval farming built heritage		
<b>PA7 Ponies, Pounds and Driftways</b>	<b>£34,000</b>	
A project to identify and implement repairs to a number of pounds and driftways		
<b>PA8 Ancient Boundaries, Modern Farming</b>	<b>£100,000</b>	
A grant scheme to help repair significant walls and gateways which are clearly visible from the highway or well used access routes		
<b>PA9 Hameldown WWII Bomber Crash Archaeological Survey</b>	<b>£2,300</b>	
A project to investigate why an aircraft heading back from France to Lincolnshire should crash on Dartmoor		
<b>Programme B - Increasing community participation in local heritage</b>		
<b>PB1 Bellever and Postbridge Trails</b>	<b>£124,400</b>	
Proposals to make links around Bellever Forest and Postbridge, using Whitehorse Hill as a means of developing further interest in the heritage of the area		
<b>PB2 Parishscapes</b>	<b>£175,386</b>	
A community based project to help local people to look at, record and restore, where appropriate, features of built and natural heritage of significance in their local community		
<b>PB3 Moor Medieval</b>	<b>£25,000</b>	
A parish based project to develop understanding about medieval life and to explore the effect that early farming had on the landscape of Dartmoor over more than a thousand years		
<b>PB4 Engaging with the Nature of the Bovey Valley</b>	<b>£150,003</b>	
Developing volunteering and community participatory activities to engage people with the nature in the Bovey Valley, part of the East Dartmoor National Nature Reserve		
<b>PB5 Welcome to Widecombe</b>	<b>£49,429</b>	
Increasing the quality of the visitor experience in Widecombe in the Moor. It will interpret the historic nature of specific buildings, tin-mining and Victorian tourism and will tell the story of parish farming through the ages from Bronze Age settlement to "lost medieval manor of the moor"		
<b>PB6 Managing Volunteers</b>	<b>£20,000</b>	
The Community and Events Officer will provide an active role to help partners recruit volunteers and will provide advice and support to existing volunteer groups		
<b>PB7 In the Footsteps of the Victorians</b>	<b>£102,087</b>	
This project will research the history of the Wray Valley and the surrounding area on the eastern edge of Dartmoor during the nineteenth and early twentieth century		
<b>PB8 A Drift through Time - Pony Herd Identification Project</b>	<b>£6,768</b>	
Developing a leaflet and a small handbook to identify the pony herds in the <i>Moor than meets the eye</i> area and to help interpret their value to the management of the moorland areas		

---

**PB9 Moor Boots** **£20,000** **7**  
Moor Boots is a scheme to assist young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to acquire personal expedition equipment allowing them to participate in activities from which they would otherwise be barred

---

**PB10 Whitehorse Community Play** **£14,350**  
People of all generations from a Dartmoor community will perform a community play that has been inspired by life in and around Bellever through different eras starting with the Bronze Age

### **Programme C - Increasing access to and learning about the landscape and its heritage**

**PC1 Moor than meets the eye Interpretation** **£177,986**  
Telling the story of people and landscape of Dartmoor over 4,000 years this project will help a wider range of local people and visitors engage with the heritage of Dartmoor.

**PC4 Brimpts Tin Trail** **£12,300**  
This project seeks to increase, improve and facilitate information and awareness of Dartmoor's world class tinworking heritage, with a trail for visitors, communities and specialist groups

**PC5 Wray Valley Trail** **£845,000**  
Provision of 10km of predominantly off road multi-use trail on the route of the disused Moretonhampstead Branch line

**PC6 Heritage Trails** **£9,900**  
Developing an interactive web based map to develop, promote and share a range of Heritage Trails which help people explore and learn about the area

**PC7 Fernworthy Reservoir Improved Access** **£120,846**  
Improving access and interpretation around Fernworthy Reservoir

**PC8 Postbridge Visitor Centre** **£190,000**  
Developing the National Park Visitor Centre at Postbridge as the Dartmoor hub for cultural heritage and specifically the main focus for the finds and story of the Whitehorse Hill Cist

### **Programme D - Increasing training opportunities in local heritage skills**

**PD1 Dartmoor Diploma** **£150,000**  
This project will deliver a programme of training to help to address the risks to the landscape heritage of changing farming practices, and losing traditional skills in managing vernacular buildings

**PD2 EcoSkills** **£199,500**  
Natural England (NE) will host a roving team of trainees who will help deliver key elements of *Moor than meets the eye* while learning from scheme partners to broaden their experience and understanding of landscape scale heritage conservation

<b>PD3</b>	<b>East Shallowford Trust</b>	<b>£30,000</b>
	A project to develop a training programme in rural skills and in particular the making of cream based at East Shallowford Farm	

**Programme E - Overheads, scheme staffing and other costs**

<b>PE1</b>	<b>Staff Team</b>	<b>£631,177</b>
<b>PE2</b>	<b>HERO and GI staff for Heritage Trails</b>	<b>£11,338</b>
<b>PE3</b>	<b>Transport and Subsistence</b>	<b>£5,000</b>
<b>PE4</b>	<b>Training</b>	<b>£3,000</b>
<b>PE5</b>	<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	<b>£20,000</b>
<b>PE6</b>	<b>Moor than meets the eye Website</b>	<b>£6,500</b>

A	Conserving or restoring the built and natural features	£789,453
B	Increasing community participation in local heritage	£693,424
C	Increasing access to and learning about the landscape and its heritage	£1,356,320
D	Increasing training opportunities in local heritage skills	£379,500
E	Overheads, scheme staffing and other costs	£677,016
<b>Total</b>		<b>£3,904,425</b>

**Sustainability after *Moor than meets the eye***

Five fully-funded years of delivery will have built significant momentum among communities, business and interest and user groups, energy that the Landscape Partnership is committed to maintaining. Through the likes of the Dartmoor Diploma and Parishscapes and further work on both natural and cultural heritage, it will also have developed and supported many of the skills necessary for long-term management of the area to foster a deeper understanding of the area's heritage for visitors and among the next generation of volunteers and heritage managers.

It is not the intention to seek a further large injection of funds once the five years of the delivering the projects that make up *Moor than meets the eye* is complete; the Landscape Partnership aims to ensure that many elements of the scheme will become self-sustaining.

The commitment to work with local communities should underpin the work of the Project Team and identify good practice in working and engaging with the communities in the *Moor than meets the eye* area so that this can be embedded in work here and taken wider to other communities in the National Park.

**Availability of the *Moor than meets the eye* Landscape Conservation Action Plan**

The full plan will be available on the scheme website and will be linked from partners' websites, where appropriate. Hard copies of this plan will be held by:

- Dartmoor National Park Authority as the Lead Partner
- The staff team
- All organisations on the Landscape Partnership Board
- Members of the Local Stakeholders Group
- The Heritage Lottery Fund.

**Review of the Landscape Conservation Action Plan**

This will be reviewed on an annual basis over the life of the scheme, to tie in with the submission of a detailed delivery plan for the forthcoming project year. The review will ensure that the aims and objectives of the scheme are still being met, thoughts from the local communities are taken into consideration, and any new opportunities incorporated.