

DETAILED PROJECT PLAN

| HLF Programme Area | | | |
|--------------------|---|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Area | Programme Title | Main Area (tick one box only) | Links to Other Areas |
| A | Conserving or restoring the built and natural features that create the historic landscape character. | ✓ | |
| B | Increasing community participation in local heritage | | ✓ |
| C | Increasing access to and learning about the landscape and its heritage | | ✓ |
| D | Increasing training opportunities in local heritage skills | | ✓ |
| E | Scheme staffing, overheads and running costs | | |

PA4

Discovering the Nature of the Bovey Valley



Barbastelle Bat (© Hugh Clark/Bat Conservation Trust)

| Heading | Content |
|---------------------|---|
| Summary | Protecting and conserving key species, habitats and historic features of the Bovey Valley. Fostering deeper understanding and life-long interest in the area's natural and cultural heritage, and engage local communities in all aspects of management. |
| Project description | <p>Natural England (NE) and the Woodland Trust (WT) respectively own and manage East Dartmoor National Nature Reserve (NNR) and further woodland in the Bovey Valley. The two organisations have collaborated on a programme of activity that will bring about a step change in the focus and management ethos of this stunning landscape.</p> <p>This project cuts across all the programme areas but to show the how overall project will meet the individual programme aims we have presented it as</p> <p>PA4- Discovering the Nature of the Bovey Valley PB4- Engaging with the Nature of the Bovey Valley PC1- Discovering the Dartmoor Story- MTMTE Interpretation PD2- Eco skills PE1- Contribution to staff team</p> |

The overarching aims of this project are to:

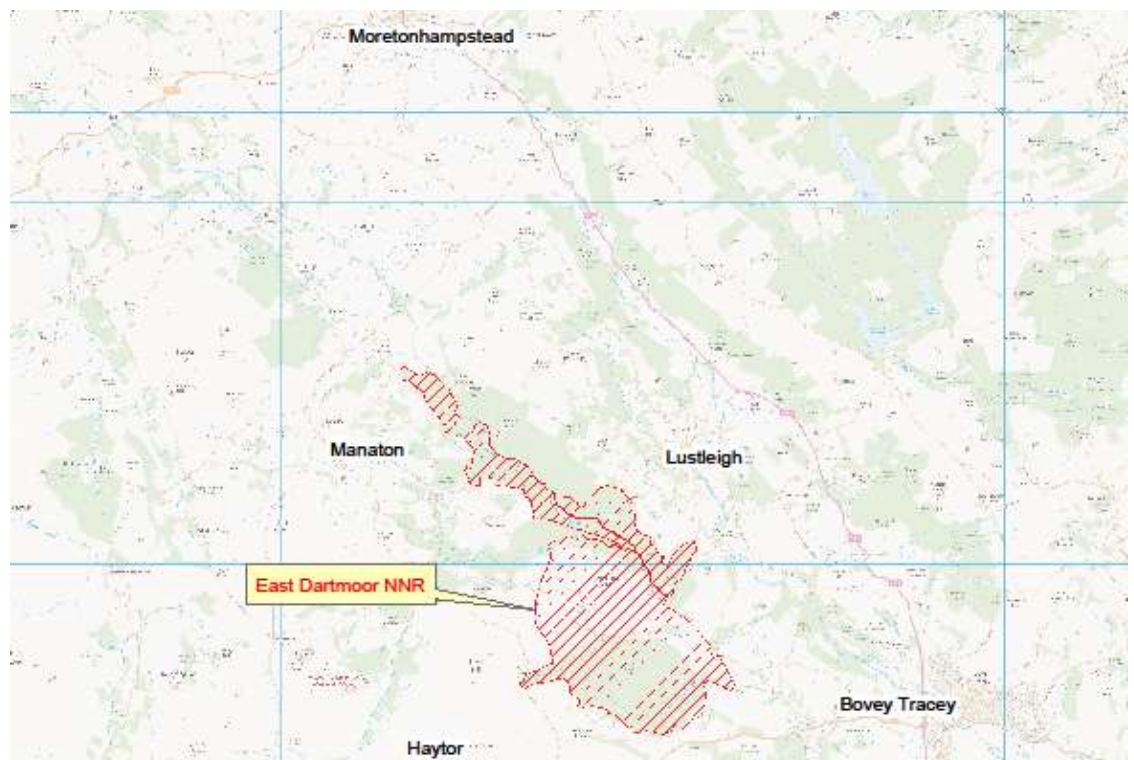
- Future-proof key species, habitats and historic features
- Foster deeper understanding and life-long interest in the area's natural and cultural heritage.
- Embed local communities in all aspects of management

We will do this by:

- Restoring conifer plantations to native broadleaf woodland
- Developing a rigorous scientific framework for survey and monitoring of heritage features with particular focus on Barbastelle bats, lower plant communities and archaeology
- Establishing ongoing, productive relationships with local residents, groups and organisations
- Investing in priority infrastructure to cater for predicted needs and demands
- Providing appropriate physical and intellectual access for visitors of all ages, abilities and backgrounds
- Strengthening learning opportunities for visitors, educational establishments and local communities

East Dartmoor NNR is one of the best places in the country to enjoy the outdoors and to encounter wildlife. Managed by NE and WT, the Reserve lies just a 'stone's throw' from the iconic Haytor Rocks and straddles higher open moors and the lower wooded valleys of the River Bovey and Becca Brook. Internationally important for its extensive ancient upland oak wood and heathland, the NNR is legally protected as a Special Area of Conservation and Site of Special Scientific Interest. WT also owns and manages Pullabrook and Houndtor Woods in the Bovey Valley, which are contiguous with NNR.

Location of East Dartmoor NNR



East Dartmoor NNR – Bovey Valley from lower Trendlebere car park



PA4- Discovering the Nature of the Bovey Valley Reservoir Habitat Restoration

The centrepiece of the 'Discovering the Nature of the Bovey Valley' project is the restoration of a large, open water body, which was a former reservoir, located on the edge of Trendlebere Down. Owned by NE since 1965, the water body is currently in poor ecological health and public access is not permitted for safety reasons. Through some clever bio-engineering, namely a system of connected planted rafts, NE wishes to significantly enhance the water quality and aquatic wildlife value of the reservoir.

Safe access and viewing of the water body will be provided by a new wheel chair-friendly path, observation hide and car park, so that people can enjoy the pleasures of this unusual Victorian feature for many years to come.

New interpretation boards at the new car park and observation hide will allow people to learn about the history of the reservoir and the natural and cultural heritage of the whole area. The plan below outlines the reservoir enhancement proposals but please refer to the attached supporting documents for detailed architect plans and photo montages.



Trendlebere reservoir proposals showing plant rafts, path, hide and car park

Woodland Restoration

WT is at the forefront of restoring and enhancing ancient woodland now planted with conifers.

It is proposed to sensitively restore the conifer plantations at Pullabrook, Houndtor and Hisley Woods to their former broadleaf woodland condition. This will comprise thinning of conifer to create more open conditions for native ground flora and woodland to regenerate. Targeting areas with relict ancient woodland, felling will also be prioritised to unveil areas with archaeological interest, such as the medieval Boveycombe farmstead. These new spaces will also be of great benefit to threatened lichen and butterfly populations (see below).



Houndtor Wood – 1960s conifer

Restoration will be achieved through the efforts of staff, specialist contractors,

local volunteers and interest groups as well as through a series of practical events and demonstration days. And it is intended that NE's herd of Dartmoor ponies will be the long-term conservators.



Pearl Bordered Fritillary – A direct beneficiary of the project

Barbastelle Bats

Barbastelle bats are currently very rare in a European context, with numbers still declining in recent decades. Although the Bovey Valley is a stronghold for the species, very little is known about their seasonal behaviour and landscape requirements. The WT and NE, with the help of the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) and local volunteers, wish undertake a year-long study to fully understand the conservation needs of this shy and highly mobile species. The results will inform future management decisions as well as the design of an ongoing monitoring protocol for Barbastelles and other bat populations in the Valley. At the end of the core period research on-going data collection and study will be continue with volunteers leading annual survey work.



Barbastelle Bat – A rare species present in the Bovey Valley

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| | <p>Through all of the measures above, WT and NE are certain that the natural and cultural heritage of East Dartmoor NNR and the Bovey Valley will be more strongly placed for future generations to experience and enjoy.</p> |
| <p>Beneficiaries and communication</p> | <p>The EDNNR is widely visited and well loved by locals and visitors alike. NE have been gathering data on visitor numbers for three years across the NNR, although there is a lot of “noise” in the data, in board terms it is estimated there are some 50,000 plus visits per annum to the EDNNR. Presently, there is no indication of any increase in numbers over this 3 year period but at present the data is still in a period rationalisation and fine tuning.</p> <p>Potential beneficiaries fall into the following broad categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locals (Lustleigh/Manaton and Bovey Parishes) • Tourism (Day Trips to the Moor and Holiday makers – estimated at 2.8 million in 2007 for the National Park and the trend is increasing) • Education (Primary/Secondary Schools and Universities) • Volunteers (drawn from all the above but including graduates of colleges and universities looking to develop future careers). <p>Despite separating people into groups, the actual individuals are often both a “local and volunteer” and this is the same for the other categories, so it’s important to keep this in mind when considering the value to beneficiaries.</p> <p>Benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locals – The plans intend to create the opportunity for local people to obtain a deeper understanding of the work of the EDNNR and to be involved in and to influence the long term management of the reserve. A programme of events will help locals to enjoy directly the value and the benefits that the reserve can provide. • Visitors - The plan will provide an opportunity for the “uninitiated “ to explore and to discover the importance of the EDNNR but helping to minimise the negative impact that visitors are perceived to bring. • Education – The development of the twining/John Muir approach is intended to appeal to primary schools in particular and to better establish longer term working relationships with schools both on site but off site at the schools. The development of “laboratory/research” space at Yarner will help re-enforce relationships with higher education establishments and provide a work place for longer term conservation studies at a tertiary/university level. • Volunteers – Through the work of the Wildlife Hit Squad, History Hunters and Lichen Lovers core volunteer teams which have been developed through the Development Phase of the project a far wider group of future volunteers can be reached by the project. <p>Communication</p> <p>Throughout the development phase the NE/WT have liaised and consulted widely with in particular the local communities of Lustleigh, Manaton and Bovey Tracey. We intend to continue this dialogue, through public meetings, attendance at parish council meetings and regular email updates available for publications in local magazines.</p> <p>For the wider project both NE/WT wish to be directly involved with the web</p> |

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| | development being undertaken by the National Park and see this as an important conduit for communication and as a test bed for innovative “interpretation” and thus minimise the need for “on site” interpretation. |
| Project buy-in | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative development of joint working between NE and WT • Programme of public consultation through Development Phase, culminating in the publication of a report in October 2013. • Appointment of an independent advisory group with range of “expertise” in project areas • Building a volunteer programme and resource during the project Development Phase |
| Project lead | <p>David Rickwood Site Manager (Devon) Woodland Trust davidrickwood@woodlandtrust.org.uk 07827 820637</p> <p>Simon Lee Senior Reserves Manager (Dartmoor) Natural England Simon.lee@naturalengland.org.uk 01626 831580</p> |
| Partners / contractors etc. | <p>Reservoir Habitat Improvements EAD Ecological Consultants 3 Colleton Crescent Exeter EX2 4DG Tel: 01392 260420 Fax: 01392 434603 Email: info@eadconsult.co.uk www.eadconsult.co.uk Produced ecological impact assessment</p> <p>Faulhaber Design Ltd Kennick Barn Christow Devon EX6 7NZ Tel: 01647 252037 e-mail: klaus@faulhaber.co.uk Landscape architects who have designed the scheme</p> <p>Barbastelle Bats Bat Conservation Trust Geoff Billington (potential contractor) Matt Zeal (potential contractor) Ruth Angel (lead volunteer – PHD in bat research Leeds University).</p> |

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| | <p>Woodland Restoration (PAWS) White Wood Management (potential contractor) Dartmoor Woodfuel Cooperative (potential contractor) Euroforest (potential contractor) Ben May/Andy Bradford – Horse logging contractors TCV (Dartington) Volunteers Core Devon Wildlife Trust - Volunteers Core Wildlife Hit Squad – Volunteers Core Lichen Lovers – Volunteers Core History Hunters – Volunteers Core</p> |
| <p>Project development</p> | <p>This project together with PB4 has significantly changed since it was first proposed, as a result of public consultation.</p> <p>The Discovering the Nature of the Bovey Valley project has been split into four projects to reflect four of the programme areas. PA4- protecting and conserving key species, PB4- developing volunteering and community participatory activities, PC1 Discovering the Dartmoor Story- interpreting the nature of the Bovey Valley in relation to the wider story of Dartmoor and programme E- contribution to the role of Community and Events officer</p> <p>PROGRAMME A – Total £266,445 RESERVOIR HABITAT IMPROVEMENT WORKS - this element has changed radically through public consultation. Local feeling was that this neglected water body, locked away from the public, should be retained and restored for the benefit of wildlife and to allow some limited access to observe it.</p> <p>Revised budget £90,000 Contingency £9,000 -Total £99,000</p> <p>BARBASTELLE BATS – the project has developed following consultation with the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) and the development of a research specification as advised by their national expertise reflecting recent and ongoing research elsewhere across the UK. The original budget has increased significantly, in large part driven by the independent advice and guidance provided by the (BCT). The specification as drawn adds significantly to the wider contextual value of the research to land managers and conservation organisations across the UK, and will therefore be of use widely beyond the project area.</p> <p>Revised budget £110,616 plus Inflation £1867 Contingency £3041 – Total £115,524</p> <p>Woodland Restoration (PAWS) – project remains largely as initially conceived but the links with other elements beyond the woodland habitat benefits, such as importance of the PAWS work to lichen assemblages (SSSI citation), archaeology, butterfly habitats, volunteer and community engagement has become increasingly significant as the work has been re-researched and planned.</p> <p>Revised budget £49,302 plus Inflation £1262 Contingency £1357 - Total £51,921</p> |
| <p>Activities and Timetable</p> | <p>See tables overleaf</p> |

| Activity Timeline | Y1 | | | | | | Y2 | | | | Y3 | | | | Y4 | | | | Y5 | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|---|---|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| PA4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Reservoir Habitat Improvements | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. Reservoir Car Park - Tree Felling | | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| b. Reservoir CP and Access Tracks - groundworks and landscaping | | | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| c. Reservoir CP and access tracks - Surfacing | | | | | | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| d. Reservoir CP and Access Tracks - fencing | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| e. Reservoir Observation hide installation | | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| f. All abilities trail - groundworks and surfacing | | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| g. Reservoir - aquatic plant seed collection | | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| h. Reservoir - aquatic plant nursery phase | | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| i. Reservoir - aquatic plant - raft installation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Activity Timeline | Y1 | | | | | | Y2 | | | | Y3 | | | | Y4 | | | | Y5 | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|---|---|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|--|
| | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | |
| Barbastelle Bats | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Main research phase £60k over one season - May to Oct 2015 (Bristol University) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. Tailored Training x 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| b. Programme of volunteer study | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| c. Volunteer management during key research phase | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| d. Write up volunteer studies to supplement University Research (alternative DBRC) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| e. Workshop to promote findings of research | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| f. Dissemination of research | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| g. BCT Director of Science | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| h. Ongoing research support from BCT(alternative DBRC) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| i. Static Detectors | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| j. Call Analysis | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| k. Radio Tracking Equipment | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Activity Timeline | Y1 | | | | | | Y2 | | | | Y3 | | | | Y4 | | | | Y5 | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----|---|---|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| Woodland Restoration | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. Phase 1 PAWS - Pullabrook - 2014/15 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| b. Programme of volunteer study | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| c. Phase 2 PAWS - Houndtor Wood - 2015/16 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| d. Phase 2 Underplanting - Houndtor Wood 2015/16 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| e. Phase 3 PAWS - Hisley Wood - 2016/17 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | Cash secured | Cash unsecured | In-kind | Vols | HLF | Total | Contingency | Irrecoverable VAT |
|-----------|------------|--------------|----------------|---------|------|------------|----------|-------------|-------------------|
| PA4 | Total Cost | £187,722.50 | | | | £83,722.50 | £266,445 | £13,398 | £34,436 |
| PAWS/Bats | WT | £83,722.50 | | | | £83,722.50 | £167,445 | £4,398 | £18,436 |
| Reservoir | NE | £99,000 | | | | £0 | £99,000 | £9,000 | £16,500 |

| Budgets | Cost Breakdown | | |
|---|-----------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Estimated Total Cost | Cost: | | Contingency: |
| | £266,445 | | £13,398 (WT £4,398) (NE £9,000) |
| VAT | a. Is VAT applicable? | b. Is VAT reclaimable? | c. VAT amount: |
| | YES | NO | £34,936 (WT £18,436) (NE £16,500) |
| Lead Partner Contributions | Type: | Secured: | Unsecured: |
| | Cash (source): | £182,722.50 (WT £83,722.50) (NE £99,000) | £0 |
| | Staff: | £0 | £0 |
| | Volunteers: | £0 | £0 |
| | In-kind: | £0 | £0 |
| | TOTAL: | £182,722.50 | £0 |
| Other Contributions | Type: | Secured: | Unsecured: |
| | Cash (source): | £0 | £0 |
| | Staff (source): | £0 | £0 |
| | Volunteers (source): | £0 | £0 |
| | In-kind (source): | £0 | £0 |
| | TOTAL: | £0 | £0 |
| <i>Moor than meets the eye contribution</i> | Contribution: | | Intervention Rate (%) |
| | £83,722.50 | | 31% |

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| Outputs | <p>The following describes the specific outputs of this project:</p> <p>Reservoir Habitat Improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create extensive new aquatic habitat at the reservoir to substantially |
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| | <p>increase the wildlife value and visual amenity of the water body</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a new car park at the former reservoir site to provide a refreshed loci for highly valued visits to the NNR and Bovey Valley. Providing a more central starting point to investigate the NNR and the Bovey Valley. • Construct a new 650m long circular all –abilities path around the reservoir. • For the first time, provide public access to the Trendlebere reservoir via a wheel chair-friendly path and observation hide. <p>Woodland restoration (PAWS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration of defined areas of conifer plantations at Pullabrook, Houndtor and Hisley Woods beginning their transformation to their former broadleaf woodland condition. • Clear and consolidate key historic features such as Vinnimoor and Boveycombe farms and provide additional open habitats to sustain key lichen and butterfly populations. <p>Bat Survey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a year-long study of Barbastelle bats to fully understand their conservation and landscape management requirements. Use this project as a spring board to establish a volunteer-led long-term study of all bat species in the Bovey Valley. |
| <p>Output indicators and targets</p> | <p>Reservoir Habitat Improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.5ha of aquatic habitat at the reservoir to substantially enhanced. • Creation of the new car park with 20 car spaces and 1 coach space at the reservoir site in Yr 1. • 1ha of new land made safe and provide for public access at the Trendlebere reservoir from Yr 2. • Installation of the new observation hide at the reservoir in Yr 2. • Construction of a new 650m long circular all –abilities in Yr 2. <p>Woodland restoration (PAWS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed initial restoration steps completed on the areas of woodland identified in Pullabrook, Houndtor and Hisley Woods. Mapped and “before/after” photographic condition. • Medieval farmsteads at Boveycombe and Vinnimoor assessed, recorded and cleared by Yr 3. • Programme of field survey, recording and enhancements of wider historic features covering Trendlebere Down and the Bovey Valley started in Yr 1 and completed in Yr5. • Completion of proposed habitat creation of open space and woodland edge for lichens and butterflies by year 3. Mapped and “before and after” photographic condition. • Lichen survey of NNR boundaries and neighbouring land covering c.500ha started in Yr 1 and completed in Yr 3. • Assessment of dispersal potential and secured management of lichens of up to 100ha of the wider landscape completed by Yr 5. <p>Bat Survey</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbastelle bats study undertaken and completed in Yr 2. Written paper of study completed with conclusions, next steps and broad habitat/management recommendations for dissemination. • Volunteer-led long-term study of all bat species in the Bovey Valley established in Yr 1. • 80 bat boxes, 4 SM2 static detectors installed etc. Involving 4 skilled specialist volunteers and 4 support volunteers. |
| Outcomes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage will be better managed • Heritage will be in a better condition • Heritage will be identified/ recorded • More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage • People will have volunteered time |
| Evidence | <p>Evidence of the outcomes above will be demonstrated through these measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing survey and monitoring of key heritage features and analysis compared to baseline data (including historic data sets). • Evaluation of SSSI/SAC condition through JNCC Common Standards protocol • Repeat of 2013 visitor and volunteer survey as per Kate Measures, Heritage and Learning Consultant protocol • Evaluation of data from visitor and car counters compared to 2013 baseline • Numbers of active volunteers and community groups compared to 2013 baseline |
| Wider context | <p>This project PA4 Discovering the Nature of the Bovey Valley will be run alongside PB4 Engaging with the Nature of the Bovey Valley, PC1 Discovering the Dartmoor Story -MTMTE Interpretation and PD2 EcoSkills.</p> <p>It also relates to PA1 Moorland Birds PB2 Parishscapes PB6 Managing Volunteers PC6 Heritage Trails PD1 Dartmoor Diploma</p> |
| Legacy and maintenance of benefits | <p>In addition to the long-term security of the heritage features, the real legacy of the project will be the strengthened, ongoing relationships with local people, groups, partners and educational establishments. While the physical maintenance of infrastructure will be primarily the duty of NE and WT, future working will be enshrined in a spirit of shared responsibility with local people and partner organisations.</p> |

| Risks and Risk Mitigation | Risk Register | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|----------|------------|--|
| | Risk | Severity | Likelihood | Measures undertaken |
| | Reservoir Improvements | | | |
| | -Lack of support from public | H | L | Project developed after extensive public consultation. Pre-application discussions with the LPA have already filtered the potentially significant issues |
| | Unexpected costs | M | L | NE will underwrite additional costs where sensible and appropriate to do so |
| | Works negatively affect wildlife | H | L | Environmental impact assessment undertaken, works will be timed to minimise disturbance to wildlife, supervised by trained staff |
| | Rafts fail to grow | H | L | Rafts will be created by specialist contractors with many years of experience |
| | Woodland Restoration | | | |
| | Work may affect cultural or wildlife heritage | M | L | Work with site users and specialist interest groups to advise on potential conflicts |
| | Barbastelle Bat Survey | | | |
| | The bats roosting habits change frequently- may not be limited to EDNMR in range | M | M | Preliminary work in Year 1 to determine areas. This is crucial in this respect in terms of establishing locations, patterns of behaviour, and preferential transfer corridors. |
| Background information | 2013 Visitor and Volunteer Survey (Kate Measures Heritage and Learning Consultants). Planning application supporting documents People counter data Bovey Valley SSSI Lichen Survey 2012, Coppins Barbastelle Study 2007 – Matt Zeale | | | |