



# DARTMOOR COMMONERS' COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 3 December 2025**  
**Two Bridges Hotel, Princetown, at 7.30pm.**

**Present:**

**The Officers:** Ms Tracy May - Chair, Mr Robert Jordan - Vice-Chair & Mrs Dru Butterfield - Joint Secretary.

**Council Members:** Mr P Abel, Mrs M Alford, Mr R Ashford, Mr L Branfield, Mr P Cleave, Mr A Coaker, Mr N Cole, Mr W Dracup, Mr K Edwards, Mr J French, Ms S Herd (NFU) Mr S Lee (DNPA), Mr R Leigh, Mrs K Little, Mrs E Magee (Duchy of Cornwall), Mr M Radmore, Mr D Reddaway, Mr J Reddaway, Mrs P Warren, Miss A Webber & Mrs A Willcocks.

## 1. Chair's Introduction

The Chair welcomed members and observers to the meeting and noted housekeeping matters. She reminded attendees of meeting procedure, including rules on speaking, politeness, GDPR considerations, and the need to declare any conflicts of interest.

### GDPR Contact Form

The Secretary circulated updated documents for the Council Members' packs. She also distributed a GDPR Contact Form for members to sign, granting permission for their contact details to be published on the Dartmoor Commoners' Council website.

The form reads: *"I agree to my address and contact details being published on the Dartmoor Commoners' Council website for the purpose of being contacted in my capacity as a representative / Quarterman of the Dartmoor Commoners' Council."*

### Dartmoor Land Use Management Group

The Chair reported that the most recent meeting had mixed outcomes, with progress in some areas and challenges in others. Despite this, the group remains enthusiastic, and several positive concepts continue to develop. Work on both the Observatory and the Land Use Framework is progressing well.

The Grazing Trials Group faces a number of challenges, but it is hoped that these will be addressed at the December meeting. Following last month's meeting at Two Bridges, Commoners interested in participating in trials were invited to submit proposals outlining their ideas. A strong response has been received, and these submissions will be reviewed over the coming weeks with a view to progressing suitable proposals into practical trials. All potential trials must comply with Environmental Regulations, and Natural England has emphasised the need to verify proposals to ensure full compliance.

Further work to be commissioned includes the creation of a site inventory documenting land management activity within the living memory of current occupants. Additionally, existing data on bracken and gorse management will be collated—similar to a literature review—to ensure relevant information is readily available. A review of economic farming

systems will also be undertaken, incorporating changes in farming commodity prices since 2023 to assess their impact on existing work.

A communications firm has been appointed to support more cohesive dissemination of the group's work and to produce regular updates.

The group awaits further developments at the next meeting.

## 2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from: Mr J Cooper, Mr P Heard, Mr S Lee (NE) and Mr J Shears.

**Non-Council Member:** Mrs K McKechnie (Dartmoor Livestock Protection Officer)

## 3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

**Approval of Minutes** - The amended Minutes were recirculated on 29 October 2025. No further amendments were received by the 3 November 2025 deadline. The Chair proposed that the Minutes be signed as a true and accurate record.

**Decision:** Minutes signed: 03 December 2025. **Outcome:** All agreed.

## 4. Financial Matters

**Draft Accounts** - The draft Accounts were circulated to all Council members on 8 October 2025, with a reminder sent on 20 October 2025. Members were requested to submit any questions by 24 October 2025, in advance of formal approval at the Full Council meeting on 3 December 2025.

**Decision: Proposed:** Kate Little. **Seconded:** Ann Willcocks. **Outcome:** All members voted in favour.

## 5. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

**Veterinary Surgeon Position** - The Council wrote to the Western Counties Veterinary Association and has received interest from three applicants, one of whom is present at tonight's meeting. It is the Council's aim to complete the recruitment process by the next Council meeting in January.

**Stallion Accreditation** – 3 Stallions were presented and all passed Inspection

**Mediation Process** - A mediation meeting had originally been arranged for June 2025, but the other party postponed. Despite repeated requests, no alternative date was suggested. A deadline of 31 October 2025 was set for the other party to confirm whether they wished to pursue mediation. To date, the NFU, acting as mediator, has not received any response.

**Proposal:** Ann Willcocks proposed that the Council withdraw the offer of mediation and that the NFU as mediator, be formally notified.

**Seconded:** Ali Webber.

**Action:** Secretary to write to the NFU to confirm this decision.

**Walkhampton Common** - The Council office has been in communication with the landowner, land agents, and tenant of Burrator Catchment. Copies of the tenancy, including an addendum meeting the Council's requirements, have been provided. Units have been registered on CL192 for the tenant.

Additionally, the Council has received correspondence from Devon County Council and is awaiting updated maps and rights information. The Chair read an excerpt from a communication from Devon County Council, stating:

“To avoid any future confusion, the CRA will make an entry onto both registers under regulation 7(7) of the 2014 Regulations, stating that the Application Land is not subject to rights of common. Section 7(7) enables the CRA to supplement an existing entry with information necessary or desirable for the accurate interpretation of that entry. A copy of the supplemented entries will be provided to the relevant parties.”

The Council office has noted the clarification and awaits the supplemented entries.

## 6. Correspondence

Copies of the correspondence have been circulated to all members as part of the regular monthly updates.

**Appendices:** - **Appendix 1 & 2:** October and November Correspondence Summary

- **Appendix 3 & 4:** October and November Monthly Updates

## 7. Matters Brought Forward at the Direction of the Chair

**FiPL Funded Dartmoor Wide Fire Plan** - As the Chair is managing the Dartmoor Wide Fire Plan FiPL project, she handed over to the Vice-Chair to present the report.

**Decision:** **Reference:** Appendix 5. **Outcome:** Council members unanimously voted in favour of adopting the report.

## 8. Matters Dealt with by Officers since the Previous Meeting

**CL190 Area C** - Following a meeting with the landowner and tenant, a letter was sent requesting the number of stock to be registered on Area C. The deadline has been extended to 7 December 2025 due to a family bereavement.

**QuickBooks Secretary Training** - Sara Sloman has attended training on QuickBooks and is in the process of transferring all information onto the new system. The aim is for the system to go live from 1 January 2026 to facilitate sending invoices. Dru Butterfield will receive training once the system is fully operational.

## 9. Grievance Issue – CL96 & CL97

### Declaration of Interest

Tracy May (Chair) and Kate Little both declared an interest in this issue.

### Report and Discussion

The Vice-Chair delivered a report, prepared in collaboration with Ann Willcocks, which was also circulated to all council members prior to the meeting. A copy is held in the office.

The Vice-Chair and Ann Willcocks had met with the relevant parties and acknowledged the complexity of the case. For the benefit of those who had not read the report, it was read aloud and discussed.

**Decision:** - The report was adopted by all Council members, with the exception of Ali Webber, who abstained. Russell Ashford requested that attention be maintained on the boundary fence issue.

**Action:** Secretary to discuss with the Vice-Chair how to proceed with this matter.

## 10. Cripdon Down Commoners Association (CL106) – Council Approval

**Proposal:** That the Commoners' Council formally recognise the Cripdon Down Commoners' Association for the purposes of the Dartmoor Commons Act 1985 and allocate it to the East Quarter.

**Proposer:** Robert Jordan. **Seconder:** Penny Warren

**Decision:** The Council unanimously resolved to adopt the proposal and formally recognise the Cripdon Down Commoners' Association.

## 11. Reports from Members Representing Council at Meetings

**Dartmoor Rural Crime Initiative** – Robert Jordan presented a report:

- **Cattle:** New online cattle-attack reporting form is now live and already receiving submissions. Concerns raised about the lack of DNPA cattle-warning signs and the small size of existing signs. DNPA was praised for clear, youth-friendly sign wording, including the “one bus-length” guidance.
- **Fly Tipping:** Reported increase in fly-tipping incidents.
- **Raves:** Only one rave occurred this summer (Fernworthy).
- **Campervans:** DNPA now allowing overnight campervan parking at Haytor (6 pm–9 am). Plans to expand this by involving local landowners.
- **Rural Crime:** Police to increase focus on rural crime, which continues to rise. Underreporting remains an issue.  
Increases noted in farm/machinery theft, livestock/sheep theft, and equine theft. Recent theft of 14 cows and 1 bull (Shorthorn x) in North Devon, 16–18 October. Stolen Shetland pony recently recovered.
- **Livestock Attacks / Dogs:** 80 dog attacks recorded so far this year (slight decrease). Concern about lack of communication/feedback from police after cases are submitted; follow-up planned with Sgt Tom Ottley.
- **Dog DNA:** Laboratory tests confirm positive canine DNA on attacked sheep carcasses. 30 national samples submitted; 10 from Dartmoor.
- **Road Traffic Accidents (RTAs):** 106 to date—a clear decrease, likely due to Dartmoor Prison's temporary closure.
- **Reflective Collars:** Limited effectiveness; four ponies wearing collars have been hit.
- **Legislation:** Protection of Livestock Bill has passed its second reading in the House of Lords - will allow police to collect dog DNA from suspects without owner permission.

**Dartmoor Land Use Management Group** – Tracy May – minutes will be available on the DLUMG website

**Dartmoor Partnership Plan** – Communications – Tracy May – meeting notes available on request

**Devon TB Management Group** – James Reddaway provided a report:

James was unable to attend the meeting. Work is ongoing to investigate the link between deer and cattle, with evidence-based studies being conducted on live deer. In addition, a meeting with representatives of APHA, led by Rebecca Gristy, Veterinary Head for Field Delivery – Western Region, is scheduled with the TB Sub-Committee on 21 January 2026 to review evidence and address concerns.

## 12. Sub-Committees

Finance and Policy Working Groups Terms of Reference had been circulated to Council members for approval.

### **Finance Working Group – Terms of Reference**

**Proposal:** That the Council approve the Terms of Reference for the Finance Working Group.

**Proposer:** Kate Little. **Seconded:** Robert Leigh. **Abstentions:** Layland Branfield, Phil Cleave and Anton Coaker.

**Decision:** The Terms of Reference for the Finance Working Group were approved.

### **Policy Working Group – Terms of Reference**

**Proposal:** That the Council approve the Terms of Reference for the Policy Working Group.

**Proposer:** Robert Jordan. **Seconded:** Penny Warren. **Abstentions:** Phil Abel, Layland Branfield, Phil Cleave and Anton Coaker.

**Decision:** The Terms of Reference for the Policy Working Group were approved.

## 13. Report from Dartmoor National Park Authority

The report was discussed at length with input from DNPA representatives Simon Lee (DNPA) & Will Dracup (DNPA Chair) – Report attached (**Appendix 6**)

## 14. Pony Derogation Form

### **Reminder to Pony Keepers – Return of Forms**

Members were asked to remind pony keepers in their respective areas that the deadline for returning the required forms is **31 January 2026**. It was noted that five forms have been received to date.

The Council agreed that any pony keeper who does not return the form by the deadline will be deemed to have no ponies under the derogation.

## 15. Sheep Clearance Update

A successful clearance was achieved despite adverse weather conditions. Any reports of sheep remaining on the commons were promptly passed from the office to the relevant quartermen, who ensured their swift removal.

## 16. Date of Next Meeting

Confirmed as Wednesday 28 January 2026, 7.30 pm at The Two Bridges Hotel, Princetown.

The Meeting ended at 9.05 pm. Minutes prepared by: Dru Butterfield Secretary

Signed:  (Chair)

Date: 28/01/2026

## Appendix 1

### Dartmoor Commoners' Council – Correspondence List Summary: Sept and Oct

All correspondence entries have been depersonalised for GDPR compliance. Names and identifying details have been removed.

#### • Pre-October Correspondence

Ref No.	Date	Subject	Summary / Notes
Sept 1/01	22 Sep 2025	Cows at Holwell Widecombe	Report received regarding cattle at Holwell; issue logged for attention.
Sept 1/02	23 Sep 2025	CL190 Area D	Solicitor letter received concerning CL190 Area D.
Sept 1/03	24 Sep 2025	Holwell – Fencing Against Common Land	Correspondence passed to relevant land management team.
Sept 1/04	29 Sep 2025	FOI/EIR Request	Forwarded Freedom of Information/Environmental Information request for reference.
Sept 1/05	30 Sep 2025	Roborough Down Research	Support provided for dissertation research activity.

#### • October Correspondence

Ref No.	Date	Subject	Summary / Notes
Oct 1/01	02 Oct 2025	Dartmoor Invertebrates	Response issued regarding invertebrate matter.
Oct 1/02	06 Oct 2025	Acknowledgment of Correspondence – CL93	Insecure Gates
Oct 1/03	08 Oct 2025	Walkhampton Common	Acknowledgment of correspondence regarding Walkhampton Common.
Oct 1/04	10 Oct 2025	CL190 Area C	Follow-up correspondence after meeting on Area C.
Oct 1/05	13 Oct 2025	Belstone & South Tawton Grazing Report	Acknowledgment of grazing report submission.
Oct 1/06	13 Oct 2025	Veterinary Surgeon Position on Council	Information circulated regarding Council position.
Oct 1/07	14 Oct 2025	Pony Identification	Response issued regarding equine identification on commons.
Oct 1/08	16 Oct 2025	CL93 Clearbrook Side Ponies	Clarification provided regarding pony management.
Oct 1/09	21 Oct 2025	Property adjacent to Roborough Common	Follow-up on livestock access concern.
Oct 1/10	21 Oct 2025	Grazier information request	Response issued regarding grazing rights query.
Oct 1/11	28 Oct 2025	Vet Representation on Council	Response regarding veterinary involvement on Council.
Oct 1/12	28 Oct 2025	Request for Letter – Burrator	Response issued concerning letter request linked to Burrator.
Oct 1/13	29 Oct 2025	Veterinary Surgeon Position	Reply issued regarding veterinary role query.
Oct 1/14	29 Oct 2025	Walkhampton Common	Acknowledgment of correspondence update.
Oct 1/15	30 Oct 2025	Ditworthy & Walkhampton Common (Burrator Catchment)	Confirmation of grazing rights.
Oct 1/16	31 Oct 2025	Walkhampton Common	Reply issued following correspondence dated 30 Oct.

**Dartmoor Commoners' Council – Correspondence List Summary: November**

**3 November 2025**

- Ref: Nov1 – Farm Business Tenancy (FBT) Rollovers
- Ref: Nov2 – Ditsworthy & Walkhampton Common – Burrator Catchment

**6 November 2025**

- Ref: Nov3 – CL190 Area C

**15 November 2025**

- Ref: Nov4 – NFU Mediation Process

**26 November 2025**

- Ref: Nov5 – Walkhampton Common

## October Monthly Officers' Update

*(For Council Members – overview of key activities, not day-to-day office operations)*

- **1 October:** Met with Land Agent & Tenant – Walkhampton Common / South West Water
- **3 October:** Delivered FiPL Funded Cattle Behaviour Course – 17 cattle graziers attended an all-day event by cattle behaviour expert Miriam Parker on mitigating incidents and reducing risk.
- **6 October:** Circulated 'Animals Grazing the Moor' Press Release to Tavistock Times, Western Morning News & Moorlander
- **6 October:** Draft Minutes 24 September Council meeting circulated to Council member for approval – 3 November deadline.
- **7 October:** CL190 Report Submissions sent to consultees
- **7 October:** Wrote to Tenant of the area known as "*Land Around Burrator Reservoir Catchment.*" A 60 day notice period was served. In the absence of such evidence, the Dartmoor Commoners' Council will be obliged to request that the tenant, and any family members grazing stock by virtue of the tenancy, remove their animals from Walkhampton Common in order to ensure compliance with our statutory responsibilities.
- **13 October:** Recruitment email to Western Counties Vet Group seeking to appoint a Veterinary Surgeon to serve on Council.
- **14 October:** meeting with owner representative and tenant CL190
- **26 October:** 3 Veterinary Surgeon responses with 2 potential for position.
- **28 October:** Draft Environmental Information Form, Policy & Finance Working Group Terms of Reference sent to relevant council members for approval at first meeting of new groups on 6 November.
- **28 October:** Secretary Dru Butterfield met with Hazel Kendall (Dartmoor Hill Farm Project), Ann Willcocks (Council Member) to discuss the Dartmoor Dynamic Landscapes project with regards to further support Local Commoners Association Secretaries. We were joined by Tamsin Thomas who is part-time project officer for Foundation for Common Land working across Exmoor, Bodmin and Dartmoor on a parallel project.
- **30 October:** Dartmoor Dynamic Landscapes project have a small fund available to support DCC officer time to deliver support to LCA Secretaries and host a secure web-portal for templates and documents.
- **30 October:** Numerous meetings across month with South Devon Accounting to discuss PAYE matters.

### Updates to the Dartmoor Commoners' Council Register of Commoners

- **15 Entries:** CL33 × 2, CL56, CL70, CL84, CL85, CL86, CL109, CL146, CL153, CL64 × 5.  
In accordance with GDPR requirements, specific registration details are not disclosed in this public document.
- **27 Enquiries:** Responses were provided to land agents, buyers, and solicitors regarding the following registrations: CL25 × 2, CL26, CL33, CL38 × 3, CL93 × 2, CL96, CL97, CL104, CL134, CL146, CL148, CL153, CL164 × 4, CL173 × 3, CL191, CL192 × 3.  
In accordance with GDPR requirements, specific registration details are not disclosed in this public document.

### **Chair's Activities on behalf of Council**

- **8 October:** Attended Dartmoor Land Use Management Group workstream leads meeting
- **16 October:** The Chair met with the CEO and Chair of the Dartmoor National Park Authority to establish a good working relationship and discuss ongoing cooperation and shared priorities for the management of Dartmoor's commons.
- **31 October:** Chair attended a site visit on Harford and Ugborough Commons with NFU representatives and Mike Rowe, Director, Farming and Countryside Programme at DEFRA. Discussions covered a wide range of topics including how the current stocking rates under Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) and Countryside Stewardship (CS) Higher Tier are not suitable for Dartmoor and that stocking rates need to be tailored to fit the needs of each area as agreed by Commoners and Natural England project officers.

## November Monthly Officers' Update

*(For Council Members – overview of key activities, not day-to-day office operations)*

- **5 November:** Monthly documents sent to Council Members - DCC Monthly Update October, Correspondence September / October and Correspondence Log September / October
- **6 November:** Meeting of Policy Working Group – Draft Terms of Reference produced for ratification at full council
- **6 November:** Meeting of Finance Working Group – Draft Terms of Reference produced for ratification at full council
- **7 November:** Addendum to tenancy in support of manorial grazing rights received from landowner with reference to Walkhampton Common.
- **7 November:** Request for information from HSE with reference to cattle grazing.
- **10 November:** CL96 & CL97 Grievance report produced.
- **11 November:** DLPO provided the Office with a Strangles update, this enabled the DCC website to be updated with current information on commons affected by the equine infection.
- **24 November:** Under a new initiative developed in partnership with the Dartmoor Commoners' Council (DCC), the Hill Farm Project are able to offer support or training for Commons Associations which can be tailored to specific needs. For example, to help review their processes or governance; assist Commons Secretaries and Officers with development or training, working in parallel and with guidance from DCC to identify specific, local opportunities; eg. where centralised templates and resources may be helpful for administration or to streamline process. It also encourages knowledge sharing both regionally and further afield for the benefit of all those involved, which may help in the longer term to achieve greater representation across multiple generations.

### Updates to the Dartmoor Commoners' Council Register of Commoners

- **7 Entries:** CL25, CL134, CL153, CL155, CL164 x 2 & CL173

In accordance with GDPR requirements, specific registration details are not disclosed in this public document.

- **8 Enquiries:** Responses were provided to land agents, buyers, and solicitors regarding the following registrations: CL104, CL134, CL148, CL155, CL161, CL162, CL173 & CL176.

In accordance with GDPR requirements, specific registration details are not disclosed in this public document.

### Chair's Activities on behalf of Council

- **18 November – Attended a DNPA Partnership Plan (Communications Plan)**
- **24 November – Attended a Dartmoor Hill Pony Association Native Breeds at Risk Supplement Presentation / Agri-Environmental Schemes**
- **24 November – Attended a Dartmoor Land Use Management Group meeting**

### **FiPL Funded Dartmoor Wide Fire Plan**

Following a finance meeting it was agreed to provide an update on the final phase of the FiPL-funded Dartmoor Strategic Fire Plan. Building on Phase 2, the project delivers a comprehensive, Dartmoor-wide wildfire plan, including widening 60 km of paths, improving 21 river crossings, and repairing 150 m of tracks to enhance access and reduce wildfire response times.

There are two key elements to the project:

1. Deliver up to 15 commons across all four quarters practical wildfire prevention.
2. Fill mapping gaps and integrate data into QField, offer stakeholders, commoners, and contractors training to ensure the mobile mapping system remains current and accurate.

The Project Manager responsible for delivery is Tracy May. She has confirmed no contingency for staff illness is needed, as most work proceeds independently once Commoner agreements are in place, and any short-term absence would have minimal impact. The project lead and all subcontractors hold full public liability insurance. The Dartmoor Commoners' Council has no liability, acting solely as a funding vehicle for invoice transactions, with no ongoing responsibilities once the project is complete.

The Project Manager (delivery and management) is budgeted at £7,500.

The only ongoing element is the QField mapping system. While initially intended for the Council, long-term management will depend on another organisation—potentially the Common Owners Association or Fire Partnership—though costs are yet unknown. Given Council's current financial pressures, responsibility may be better held elsewhere.

The project will improve safety and access for fire crews, enhance wildfire planning and response, strengthen stakeholder collaboration, and deliver wider public benefits through better access infrastructure. This phase completes the Dartmoor-wide project, creating a mobile mapping layer with up-to-date, editable wildfire information for every common. Long-term data stewardship will be confirmed during the final stage.

**DNPA report for the Dartmoor Commoners Council Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025**

**1. Report on the summer season 2025**

This summer has been incredibly hot and busy for the Ranger Team and Dartmoor's honey pot sites. We have been working hard to ensure that we have been as efficient and effective as we can within our resources. The Ranger team have been maintaining a minimum rota of four on every summer weekend and typically five on every bank holiday.

The team have assisted with three significant wildfires this season (alongside commoners, land owners and the fire service) these being the fire at Cut Hill in May, a fire near Hennock in August and a fire near Rippon tor riddle range in October. Education around the risk of fires continues to be an important area of work and are in the process of reviewing and updating our fire signage ahead of next season.

We have deployed the Marshals again this year and they have been a welcome presence into the evenings. The Marshals have worked a total of 858 hours covering 49 evenings. The Marshals have addressed over 330 byelaw infringements this summer and have critically provided a presence at key locations to not only address byelaw issues but also to deter them. The top four issues that they have dealt with are: Campervans (Byelaw 6.1), Fires (Byelaw 8), Dogs not under close control (Byelaw 9) and Camping (Byelaw 6.2).

The Marshals started on May 30<sup>th</sup> and finished September 14<sup>th</sup> patrolling every Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday during the school holidays.

Priority areas for deployment of the National Park Marshals were identified in partnership with funders of the initiative and other stakeholders, they included: Postbridge - Bellever – Riddon Ridge – Riddon Brake / Two Bridges – Wistman's Wood / Dart Valley including Newbridge – Deeper Marsh and Holne Moor / Princetown Triangle (Princetown/Tavistock/Yelverton and Roborough Down) / Holne Moor / Walkhampton Common / Whitchurch Common / Haytor / Fernworthy forest / Harford and Ugborough Commons – Ivybridge / Cadover Bridge area / Foggintor.

The scheme was underwritten by Dartmoor National Park Authority and supported by the following organisations: Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Duchy of Cornwall, National Trust, Private landowners, South West Lakes Trust, Dartmoor Common Owners Association, Forestry England

We have also organised and deployed Engagement volunteers to increase our presence at key honeypot locations like Haytor, Wistmans wood and the Yellowmead and the Foggintor area. The Engagement Volunteers have been active most weekends between the end of May to the middle of September.

We will be reviewing all the data from this season collected in the Ranger app and updating the signage locations for the 2026 season to ensure the signage is reflecting the needs and issues on the ground.

The team has seen a significant increase in the amount of Fly tipping this summer. We have been reporting it to the local District Councils and facilitating its removal where we can. The removal of Fly tipping remains the responsibility of the District Council or the landowner.

There was unfortunately one significant rave at Fernworthy in October. The Police were in attendance and the Ranger team assisted the dispersion and subsequent clear up. Whilst the occurrence of this rave is disappointing we have seen a dramatic reduction in

the frequency of raves since rave reduction has been a priority and work area of the Dartmoor Rural Crime Initiative.

## **2. Cattle signage update**

We have been working with the HSE and the Commoners Council to implement a plan to reduce the risks of cattle attacks on Dartmoor. DNPA have produced an online reporting tool for reporting cattle attacks, with the reports being sent directly to Commoners Council for action as appropriate, and have designed and procured 120 new signs that have been erected across the moor by the Ranger Team. DNPA have also worked with the BBC to get the message out to the wider general public and it featured on their website, social media, television and radio over one weekend in early November.

## **3. Public Rights of Way**

Maintaining the 450 miles of linear access on Dartmoor continues to be a key area of work for the team. This summer the team have focused on undertaking the annual vegetation clearance and larger capital projects including work on the Two Moors Way and the replacement of 4 significant bridges on the network.

## **4. Partnership Plan update**

The [Partnership Plan](#) sets out what makes Dartmoor National Park special. It's a bold and ambitious plan for Dartmoor the place and all stakeholders and not just for the Authority, which outlines the actions needed to protect, enhance, and enable people to enjoy the landscape now and into the future.

It is a statutory requirement for National Parks to produce a plan of this nature and to review it every five years.

Gathering people's views is a crucial part of the process and will guide the development of the updated plan for Dartmoor National Park which celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2026.

Chair of Dartmoor National Park Authority Will Dracup said: "Dartmoor is a living, working landscape—home to 34,000 people and designated as a National Park in 1951 for its natural beauty, wildlife, cultural heritage, and opportunities for open-air recreation.

"In reviewing the current plan, we've created a [Partnership Plan Board](#) with representatives from key organisations that care for Dartmoor. Together, and working with others, we'll coordinate our efforts to identify key opportunities and address the most pressing issues.

Specific opportunities designed for the farming community to ensure their voices are heard have been provided on the following dates:

- November 12 – Gooseford Farm, Throwleigh (northern farmers)
- November 19 – Tor Royal (central farmers)
- November 26 – Tradesmans Arms, Scorrington (southern farmers)
- December 10 – Tor Royal – Young Farmers

## **5. Princetown Visitor Centre closure**

The National Park Visitor Centre at Princetown closed its doors for the last time on 31<sup>st</sup> October.

Due to rising costs and reduced government funding, [Dartmoor National Park Authority previously confirmed](#) it will not renew the lease for the centre, located in the former Duchy Hotel.

The centre has served as an information and exhibition space since 1993. The focus is now on ensuring a smooth transition back to the landlord, the Duchy of Cornwall, before the lease expires in March 2026.

The Authority continues to operate visitor centres at Haytor and Postbridge.

National Park Authorities receive a grant for their core funding from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) each year. Over the last 15 years, these grants have declined sharply.

On average across England's 10 National Parks, the value of these grants has fallen by 15% between 2010 and 2025. Factoring in inflation, it equates to a 40% reduction in real terms across England's National Parks. Changes to employer National Insurance contributions have also had an impact.