



**Dartmoor National Park Authority**

# Dartmoor and ELMS

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# Dartmoor

- 86% of National Park is utilised for agriculture:
  - 49% unenclosed rough grazing
  - 37% enclosed farmland
- 780 agricultural commercial holdings of which 200 responsible for most agricultural production
- About 50% farmland is owner-occupied, 40% tenanted, 10% seasonal grasskeep
- 37% of park is common land representing 75% of the moorland
- 850 registered commoners but estimated that only 130 commoners are actively using rights



# Clarity, Flexibility and Ownership



# Moorland Vision

## A Vision for moorland Dartmoor



This is an environmental Vision for Dartmoor's moorland. It is what the above statutory agencies with direct responsibilities for Dartmoor's environment want to see Dartmoor look like in 2030. The Vision is for Dartmoor's moorland to remain the largest open space in southern England; for its rich archaeological remains to be protected and made available to be appreciated, and its wonderful wildlife to be conserved and enhanced. The landscape and associated ecological and cultural resources will be managed by farming systems that not only provide environmental benefits but also maintain the farming communities so essential for Dartmoor's future.



Good quality blanket bog will be found on all areas of deep peat (over 0.5m) on the high moor. The extent of this internationally important habitat will be similar to what it is today. Areas in good condition will have been re-watered and areas that had been degraded, due to over grazing and inappropriate burning, will have been restored. The vegetation will be dominated by a mix of *Calluna vulgaris*, *Erica tetralix*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Long and narrow bog* peat mosses. Other characteristic plants include *Myrica maritima*.

Great Ray (heath) and Broad leaved heath will be abundant. There will be a high cover of sedge with *Scirpus cespitosus* and *Scirpus*. Some areas of blanket bog may have eroded into wet heathland as a consequence of changes in climate, however, the blanket bog will remain as a major resource for retaining water in the moor and will buffer the impacts of climate change on streams, water supplies and associated habitats.



There will be extensive areas of heather moorland, dominated by heather, particularly Ling. Other plants will include *Silene*, *Cross leaved Heath*, *Purple Moor Grass* and *Scilla*. There will be variety in the height and density of the vegetation including some areas of short grassland and tall nature heather particularly on the valley slopes and plateaus. Existing areas of heather will be maintained and other areas, including wet heath, will be restored. Plantations, which had the potential to cut and feed have been removed to this internationally important habitat.



On the lower slopes the dominant habitat will be *Wetland Heath*. It will be a mosaic of heath, grass, grassland and patches of scrub on the slopes of the moor. The vegetation will vary between wet and dry heath with characteristic plants including *Thymus praecox*, *Red heather*, *Common heath*, *Erica tetralix* and *Ling*. There will be considerable variation in the height of the vegetation including areas of low-lying grassland and areas of poor grassland where the sedge bank exists. *Wetland Heath* will be maintained and areas of poor grassland will be restored and areas of *Wetland Heath* and the extensive areas on Dartmoor are of international importance.



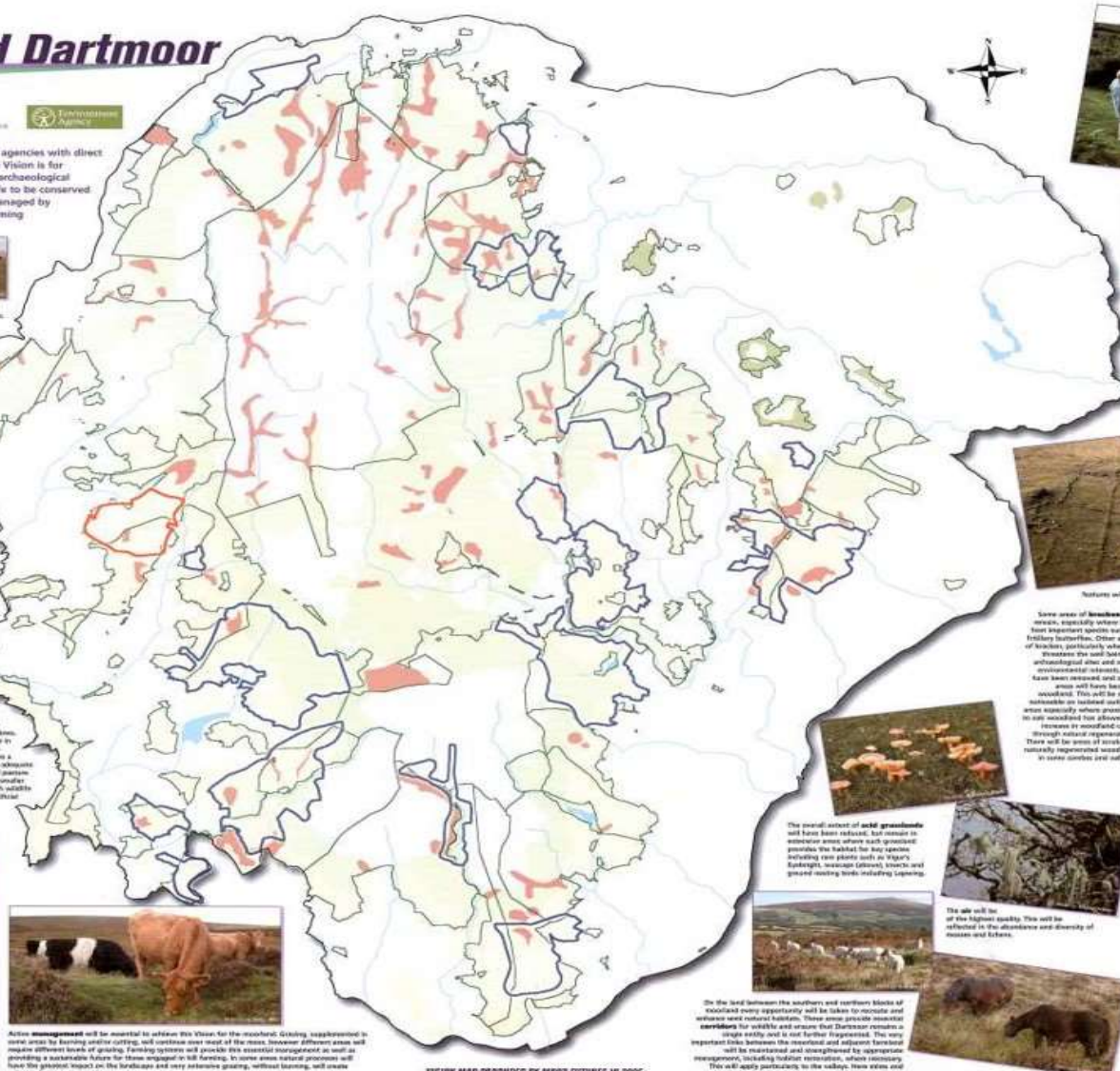
The high moor is the source for most of Dartmoor's rivers. These rivers will have very good water quality together with near natural flows. A natural meag. They will flow naturally through moorland, woodlands and floodplains with only minor modifications required to restore a more natural course. As they pass through farmed land they will have a variety of riparian habitats including wet woodland and pasture. Activities that disturb the banks will have been strictly controlled. The moorland rivers, streams and tributaries will be largely unregulated, providing rich habitats for species such as Otter and Salmon. Along these rivers wetland ponds and ponds will be a feature only in the wider valleys. Invasive species in the riparian zone will be controlled and where practical eliminated.



The valley rivers will continue to be an internationally important habitat on Dartmoor, supporting an array of waterlogged down to valley bottoms. The characteristic plants will be *Carex diandra*, *Carex lasiocarpa*, *Scirpus cespitosus*, *Scirpus*, *Scirpus* and *Scirpus*. The rivers will provide running habitat for water birds such as Grebe and Curlew. This habitat will support a number of rare plants including *Big chrysanthemum* and *Redstart*. The majority of the river landscape will be kept open by grazing and management, others will be restored into wet woodland and scrub (e.g. *Salix*, *Betula* and other native trees) and have riparian areas restored where adjacent to some of the eroded up-ripar.



Action management will be essential to achieve this Vision. For the moorland grazing system to be maintained, the moorland will continue to be grazed by sheep and cattle. The moorland will be kept open by grazing and management, others will be restored into wet woodland and scrub (e.g. *Salix*, *Betula* and other native trees) and have riparian areas restored where adjacent to some of the eroded up-ripar.



Dartmoor's rich and varied habitats, especially its archaeological and historic features, will be protected and managed to ensure vegetation does not damage the internationally renowned resources and, where appropriate, does not have the overriding priority. The most significant archaeological features (PACs) are identified as the main map. Other important archaeological sites including those qualifying for national designation will be managed on a site by site basis to ensure their preservation and to ensure they remain accessible.

Important geological and geomorphological features will be made available to good condition and may require management prior to the PACs.



The historic environment on Dartmoor is of great importance and value. Much of it is recognized as having international significance and there are archaeological landscapes which rank amongst the finest in Europe. For the most part, the historic environment on Dartmoor is well preserved. There will need to be protection and repair to ensure its significance is recognized in their planning and will require appropriate measures land management. Generally, within the historic environment, the historic environment will be protected and where necessary, take measures over that required for their setting.



Some areas of heathland will remain, especially where they have important species such as *Calluna vulgaris*. Other areas of heathland, particularly where it threatens the soil being of international importance, will have been removed and some areas will have been restored. This will be done in a way that is sustainable on the long term. There will be areas of scrub and naturally regenerated heathland in some areas and valleys.



Woodland will have expanded in some moorland valleys through natural regeneration and as a result of lower grazing pressure. There will be more trees around the Fringes of the moor with Birch, Rowan and other native species common on some valley sides. Small woods, located in the past, may have become part of bigger woodland blocks as a result of natural regeneration.

### Dartmoor in 2030

A Vision of what the statutory agencies would like the moorland parts of Dartmoor to look like.

Wetland Heath	Areas of high ecological quality, some nationally important
Heather Moorland	Natural Regenerated Moorland
Wetland Heath	Historic Archaeological Landscape (PAC)
Blanket Bog	Biological Features
Biological Features	Boundary of Dartmoor

Scale 1:76,000

Note: This map is intended as a guide to land management objectives. It does not constitute a guarantee of any kind. The map is produced by the Dartmoor National Park Authority in partnership with the English Nature, DEFRA and Environment Agency. The map is produced by the Dartmoor National Park Authority in partnership with the English Nature, DEFRA and Environment Agency. The map is produced by the Dartmoor National Park Authority in partnership with the English Nature, DEFRA and Environment Agency.

VISION MAP PRODUCED BY MOOR FUTURES IN 2005

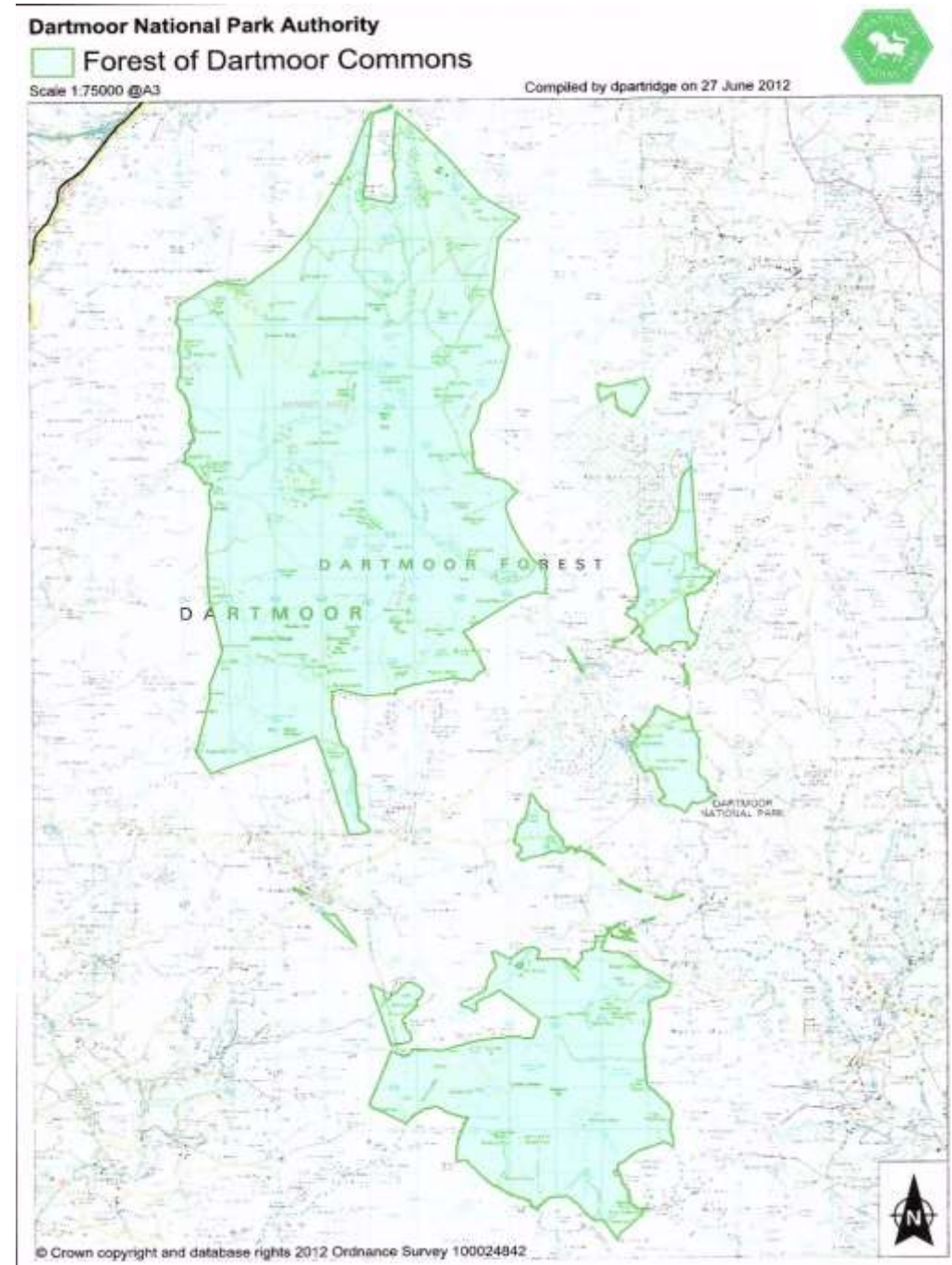


# Dartmoor Farming Futures

The scheme is being piloted on:

**Forest of Dartmoor** - 11,400 ha of common. Moorland dominated by blanket bog and deep peat. Notified as a SSSI. A Natura 2000 site. Largest expanse of open access land in southern England. An important upland landscape. Internationally important archaeological features. Several important water catchments. Parts used for military training. 78 active farmers/graziers

**Haytor and Bagtor commons** (approx 700ha). Managed as one unit. A 'honeypot' site for recreation and open public access. Rich in archaeology and includes a geological SSSI. 9 active farmers/graziers.

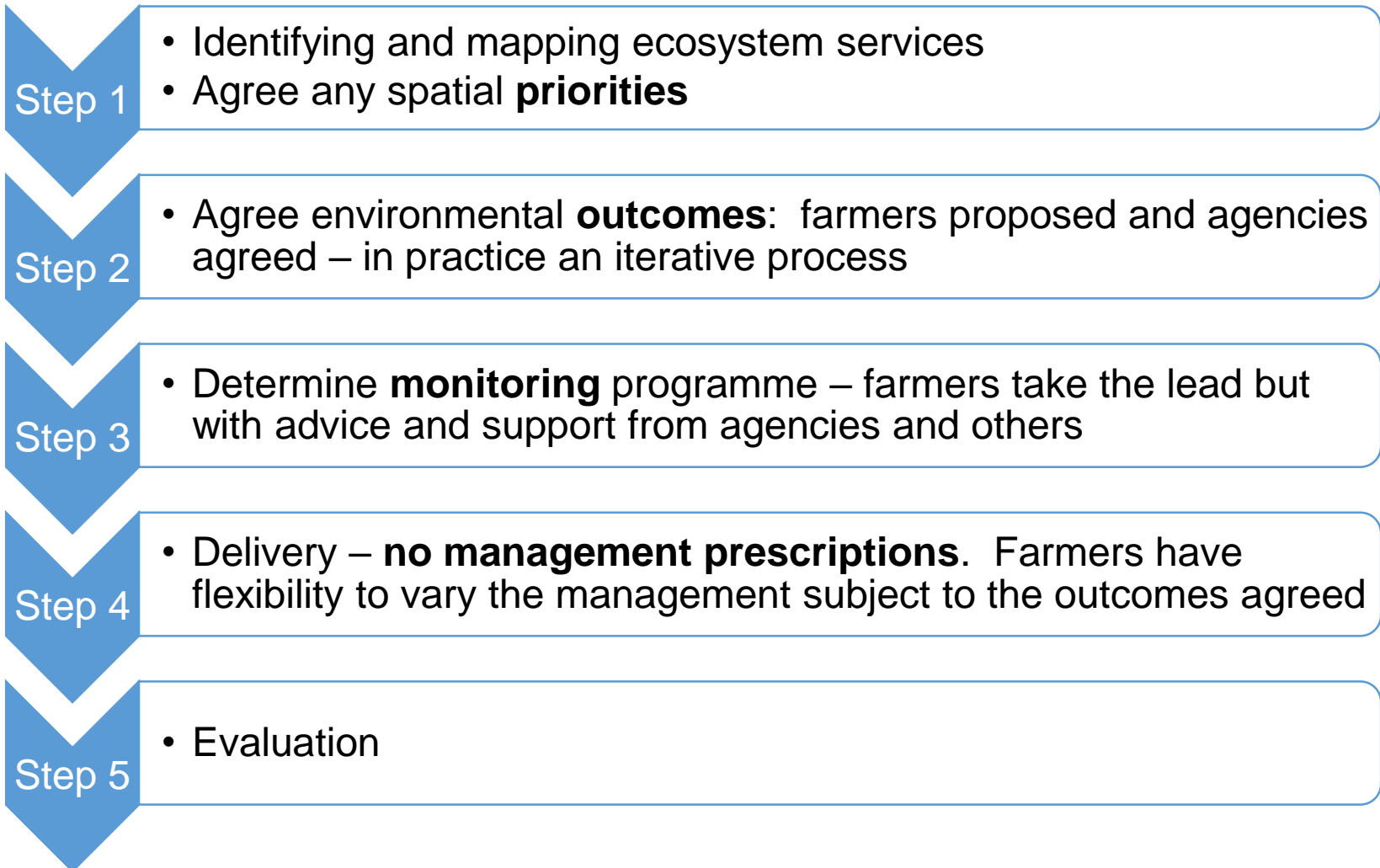


# Dartmoor Farming Futures

- Encourages self monitoring
- Is outcome focused with outcomes agreed following consultation between agencies and farmers
- No prescriptions - farmers decide on the land management to deliver the agreed outcomes
- Addresses the complete range of ecosystem services (food production, biodiversity, water, carbon, archaeology, public access, landscape) and identifies priorities for particular spatial areas



# Dartmoor Farming Futures



# Dartmoor Farming Futures - Evaluation

- Allows farmers to take more responsibility for the design and delivery of their agri-environment agreements
- Facilitated a collaborative approach to setting outcomes, delivery on the ground and scheme monitoring
- The process of engagement has led to greater understanding and ownership amongst the farming community of their agreement and the outcomes they are delivering
- Training and monitoring has increased commoners understanding of biodiversity and environmental features that can be found on their commons

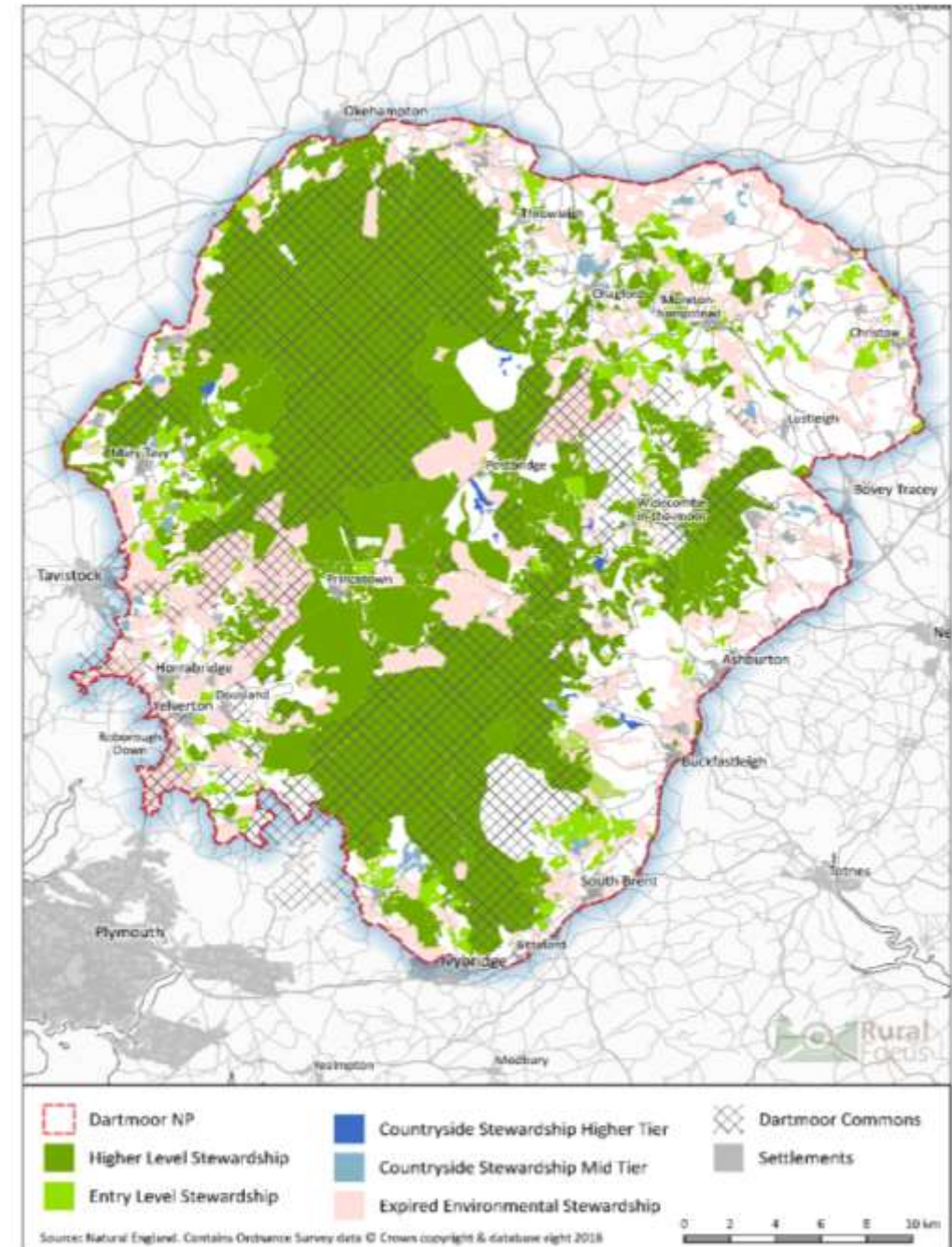




# Agri-Environment Schemes

As of 2018:

- 55% of NP area in AES
- 52% of common land in AES (28 agreements)
- Environmental Stewardship value £4.2 million (2016)
- Falling interest



# Existing Challenges

- Fragmented
- Prescriptive
- Inflexible
- Output based
- Require sign up from **all** commoners and land owner to commence
- Complicated
- Diminishing returns



# Dartmoor Test and Trails

- Two year project funded by Defra
- Delivered through a partnership
- Builds on Dartmoor Farming Futures
- Initially based around three commons and associated home farms



# Dartmoor Test and Trails

## Phase 1

Explore the role that National Park Authorities can play in shaping, facilitating and delivering ELMS.

## Phase 2

Develop a blueprint for Land Management Plans with a specific focus on commons and the link to the home farms



# Dartmoor Test and Trails

## Phase 3

Develop and trial a 'Payments by Results' approach that is capable of delivering a range of public benefit objectives and could be operated on a common as well as the home farm, across farm boundaries and at a landscape scale.

## Phase 4

Explore how private finance initiatives and other forms of environmental net gain could be incorporated into ELMS at a local level

