Dartmoor National Park Authority

Dartmoor and ELMS

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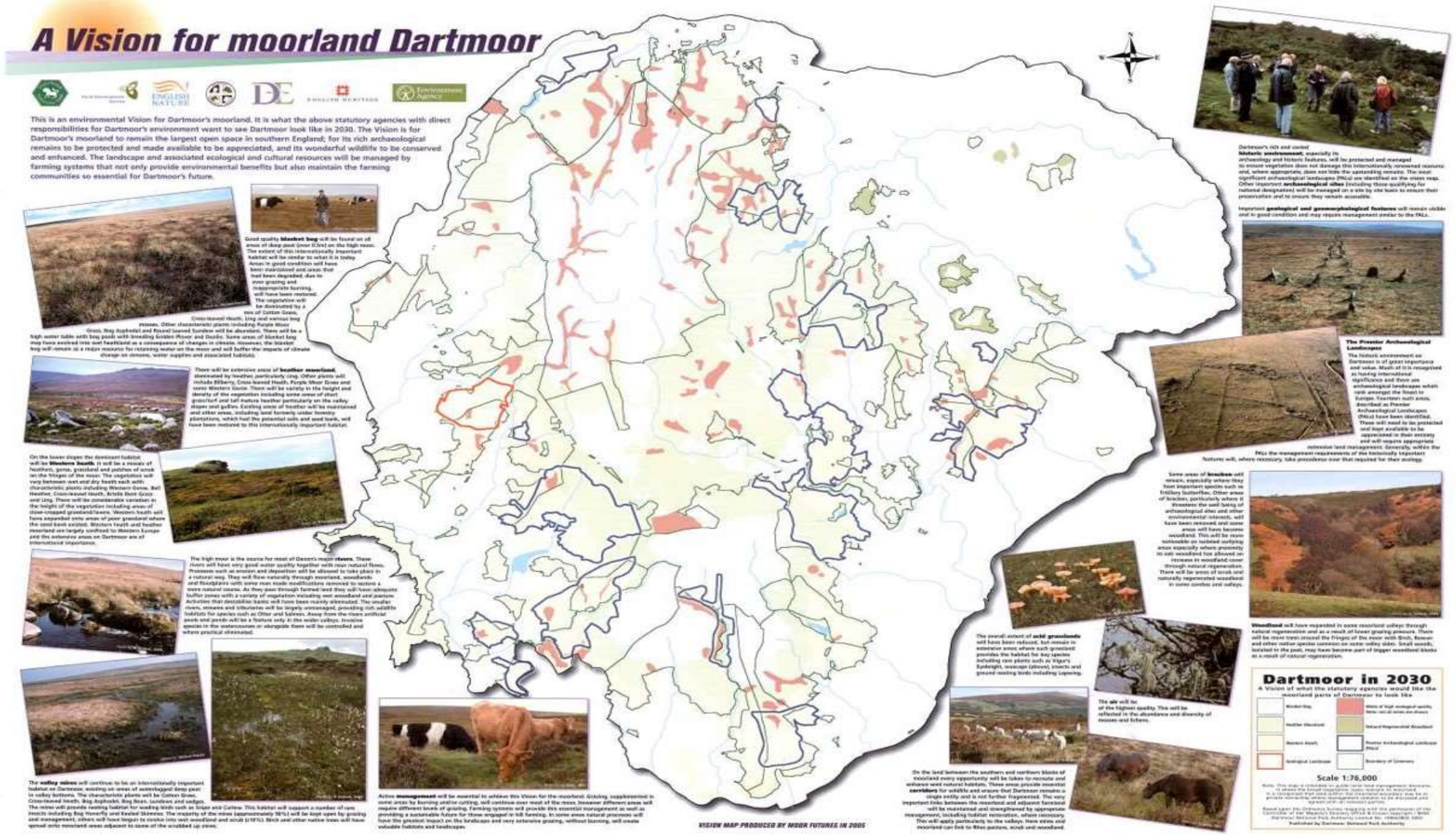
Dartmoor

- 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

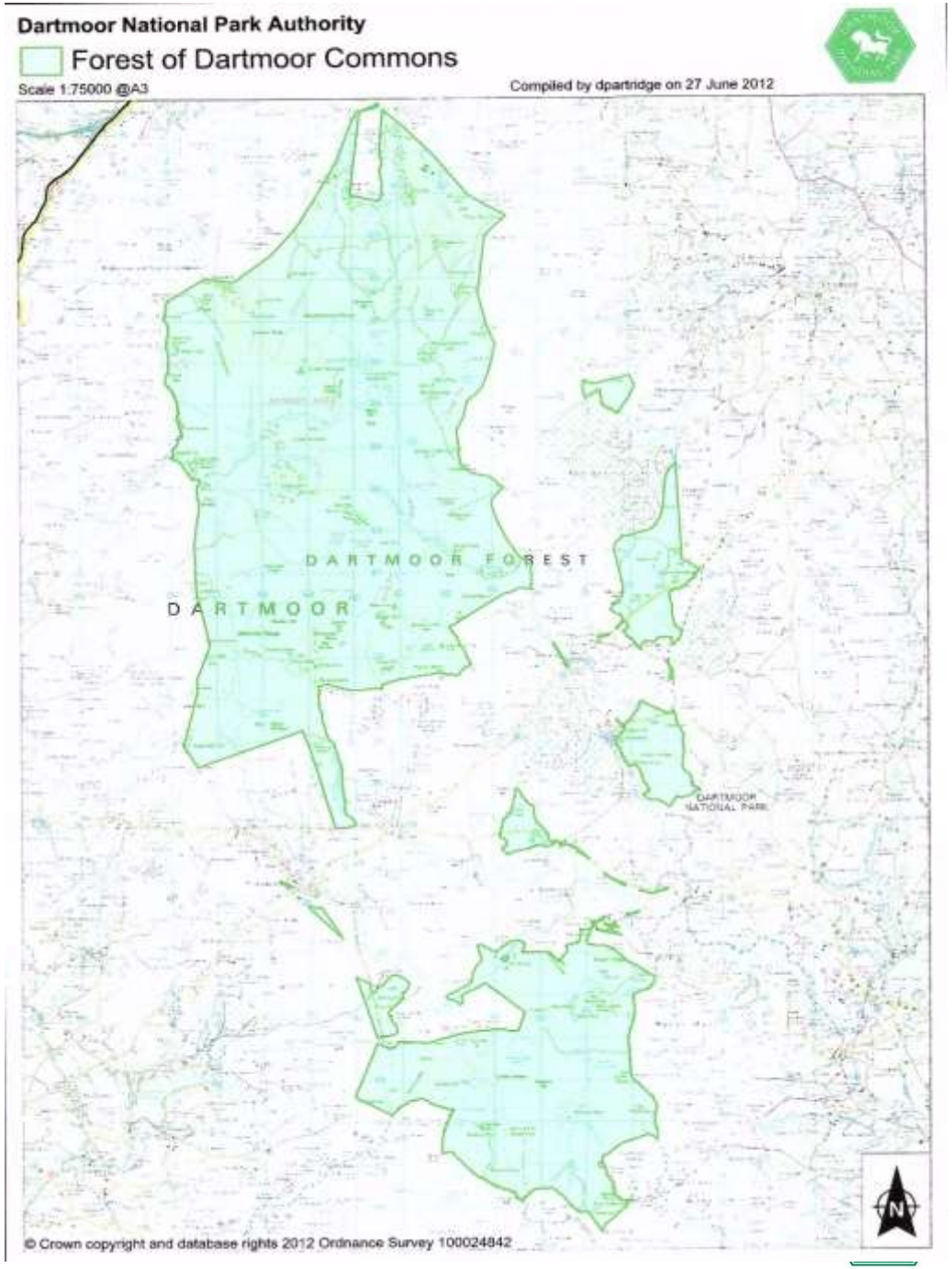


Dartmoor Farming Futures

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

Step 1
- Identifying and mapping ecosystem services
- Agree any spatial **priorities**

Step 2
- Agree environmental **outcomes**: farmers proposed and agencies agreed – in practice an iterative process

Step 3
- Determine **monitoring** programme – farmers take the lead but with advice and support from agencies and others

Step 4
- Delivery – **no management prescriptions**. Farmers have flexibility to vary the management subject to the outcomes agreed

Step 5
- Evaluation

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

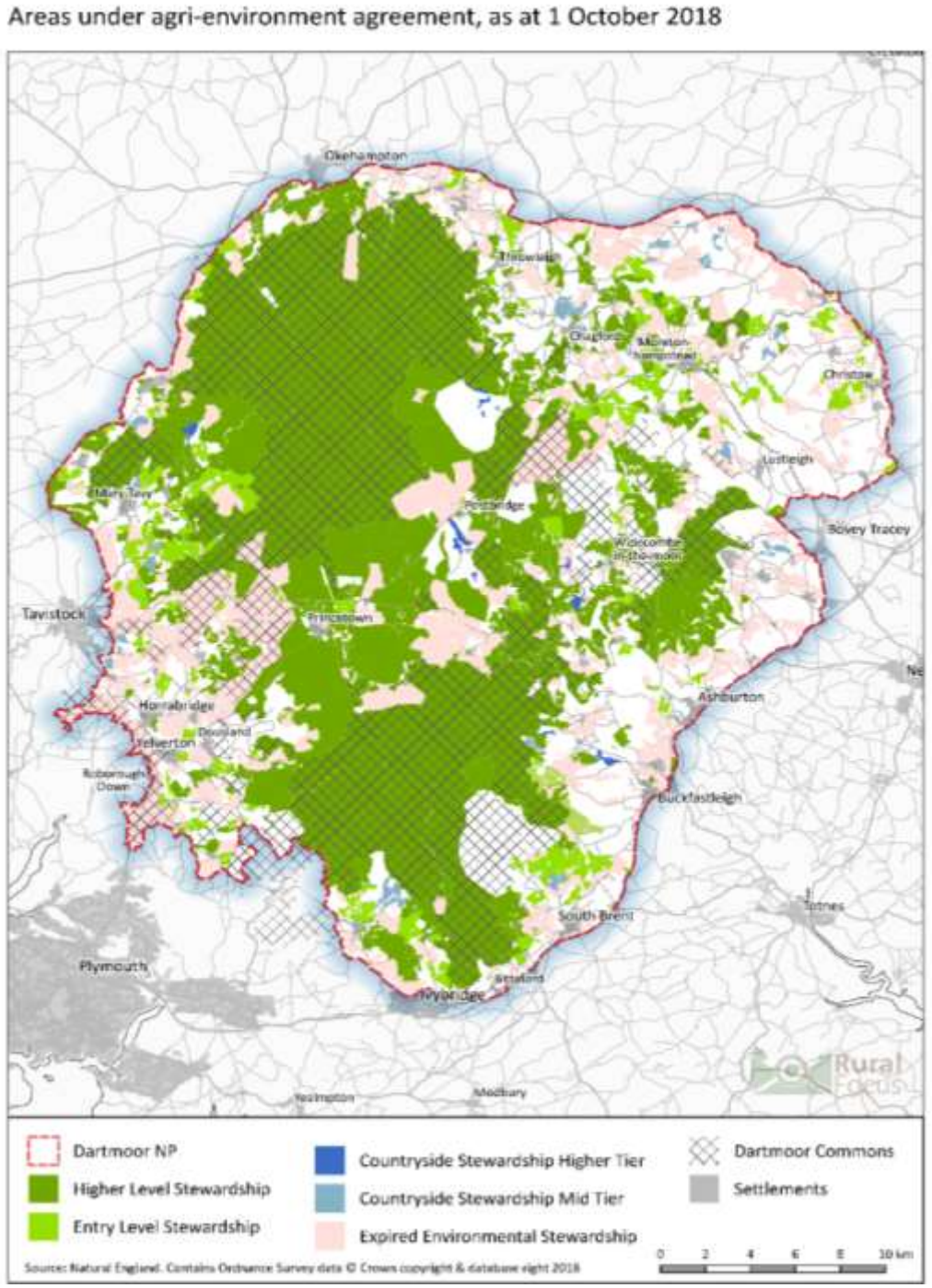
- The process of engagement has led to greater understanding and ownership amongst the farming community of their agreement and the outcomes they are delivering

- 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