

The Heart of Exmoor Scheme

Briefing paper. March 2016. More information at exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk



Helping people to enjoy and appreciate Exmoor National Park's moorland landscape, and supporting those who take care of it.

The Heart of Exmoor Scheme championed Exmoor National Park's moorland landscape and heritage for 5 years (Jan2011-Dec2015). This was a £1.2 million Heritage Lottery Funded *Landscape Partnership Scheme* managed by the **Exmoor Moorland Landscape Partnership** (EMLP) comprising 12 organisations with Exmoor National Park Authority as lead partner. Arabella Amory from The Exmoor Society chaired the group. A small staff team delivered the projects.

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The Partnership



Summary Notes

The Heart of Exmoor Scheme helped thousands of people to enjoy and appreciate the moorland, and supported those who take care of this precious landscape – farmers and commoners, landowners, rangers and volunteers. Thanks to everyone involved, we were able to inspire visitors, create exciting educational resources, research the moorland's natural and cultural heritage and help to conserve it for future generations.



The most striking aspect of this Heritage Lottery Funded scheme was undoubtedly its immense capacity to foster active partnership work and participation. A small army of people worked in partnership with the staff team, drawing upon immense expertise and energy from not just within the Partner bodies but a wide range of organisations and a remarkable number of volunteers from all walks of life - the farming community, local businesses, researchers, ecologists, archaeologists,



The Exmoor Moorland Landscape Partnership Scheme supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and our local partners and funders. Part financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development 2007-2013: Europe investing in rural areas.

artists, storytellers, students and the retired – all sharing their enthusiasm for the moorland. More than 5,400 volunteer days contributed to the scheme's success, valued at over £425,000.

The Heart of Exmoor Scheme engaged over 14,000 visitors at events and over 7,000 on school visits. The scheme contributed significantly to events such as the *Exmoor Archaeology Forum* and the Exmoor National Park's family-friendly *Big Adventure Days*. We established major new events such as the *Exmoor Pony Festival*, the *Exmoor Wildlife Forum* and *Bogtastic*.

The Partnership helped more than 560 trainees develop moorland management skills, employed 3 farmers as Moorkeepers, funded 3 moorland apprenticeships, and supported moorland managers to organise 26 practical demonstrations and 31 workshops about issues important to them – sharing experience and knowledge of livestock, scrub, bracken, burning, etc.

We ran 19 projects across 3 themed programmes:

- Programme 1: *Reconnecting People with Moorland Heritage*
 - Programme 2: *Reconnecting Livelihoods to the Moorland*
 - Programme 3: *Reconditioning Moorland Character*
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- Made a massive impact with community engagement – not just in Exmoor National Park but also through outreach far beyond its boundaries and to river valley communities downstream.
 - Brought volunteers and professionals together to work on groundbreaking investigative and interpretive moorland archaeology in our *Community Archaeology* project. We launched Exmoor's first ever moorland archaeology exhibition, and the first full assessment of its Principal Archaeological Landscapes.
 - Provided 52 wildlife skills workshops, and supported major wildlife surveys and campaigns e.g. RSPB Moorland Bird Survey, Exmoor Wild Watch, the Exmoor Crayfish Project.
 - Created the online *Moorland Classroom* with educational resources for 10 moorland sites, and the River Lyn. Produced a World War II teaching pack and 4 Archaeology Loan Boxes, all backed by outreach work, hundreds of school visits, and inspirational teacher training.
 - Moorland management was a key aspect. Pilot projects such as *Moorkeepers* and *Demonstration Moors* led onto innovations such as *Graze the Moor* demonstrative study on Molland Moor.
 - Published the new Moorland Birds of Exmoor guide, *A Field Guide to the Royal Forest of Exmoor*, accessible route Photo Trails, 4 Archaeology Walks, 9 digital reconstructions of landscape scenes, and 8 *Sounds of the Exe* films - enchanting audiovisual snapshots of the Exe Valley.
 - We researched, safeguarded and promoted key elements of Exmoor's moorland heritage with campaigns for e.g. Exmoor Ponies, the subtle prehistoric archaeology and the former Royal Forest.
 - Added new data and resources to Exmoor National Park's Historic Environment Record (HER) including finds, geophysics data, drawings, photographs and more than 20 archaeology reports.
 - Delivered 5 major landscape character projects and supported 10 small landscape projects.

Funding

The Heart of Exmoor Scheme was financed by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Exmoor National Park Authority and *many* local partners and funders. Programme 2, *Reconnecting Livelihoods* was RDPE funded by WSLA (Western Somerset Local Action) and L4TND (Leader for Torridge and North Devon) and by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Other major funders included the Heathcoat and Amory Trusts through The Exmoor Society, The Exmoor Trust, The Environment Agency and English Heritage.

Contributions in cash and in kind from project partners and Scheme Partners helped immeasurably. The vast contribution of volunteer time effectively increased scheme value from £1.2m to £1.6m!

