

## UK, Dartmoor – innovation example 1

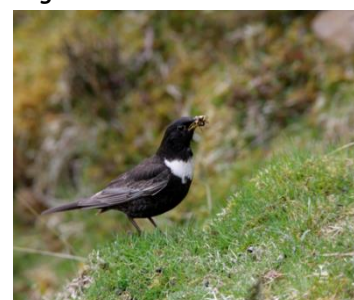
### THE DARTMOOR VISION

<http://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/living-and-working/farming/moorland-vision>

- **Location:** Dartmoor
- **HNV system:** Extensive grazing, sheep & cattle on rough upland pastures
- **Scale of operation:** all the open moorland on Dartmoor – c. 45,000 ha. of which 80%+ is common land.
- **Timespan:** valid to 2030
- **Keys to success:** Endorsed by farmers and all agencies, provides guidance to local AE delivery and resolves disputes over conflicting demands on the same area of land



**Figure 1**



**Figure 2** A ring ousel (*Turdus torquatus*), photo by RSPB

#### Problems addressed by this example

Poor communication between various government agencies and between those agencies and farmers. The Vision was initially an exercise to address what farmers perceived to be different demands from archaeologists and ecologists, often on the same piece of land; farmers were not confident there was a long term view of what was intended to be achieved by agri-environment schemes.

#### Story in a nutshell

The process of designing and creating a vision for the moorland began in 2003, while the Vision itself was completed and adopted by the statutory agencies and farmers in 2005. A long term (25 year to 2030) vision was produced for Dartmoor's moorland. It encompasses all the open moorland on Dartmoor – c45,000 ha. of which 80%+ (35,000 ha) is common land and describes what the agencies want the vegetation (HNV) and archaeological landscapes on the moorland to look like in 2030. The Vision is owned and endorsed by the main regulatory agencies and by the farmers. The process used to achieve the Vision was as valuable as the final product (a map) in securing a shared understanding of what each contributor wanted the moorland to look like in 25 years' time. All relevant agencies contributed and endorsed so provided confidence to farmers that they all wanted the same thing.

A new process of identifying archaeological landscapes helped farmers and agencies better understand priorities, introducing a new concept, PALs – Premier Archaeological Landscapes. These are mapped areas that contain important (internationally important) archaeology that requires to be set in a suitably managed landscape. Adoption of PALs enabled the ambitions of ecologists and archaeologists to be compared and assessed with the top priority taking precedence. This is very helpful to farmers with responsibility for managing such areas.



**Figure 3**



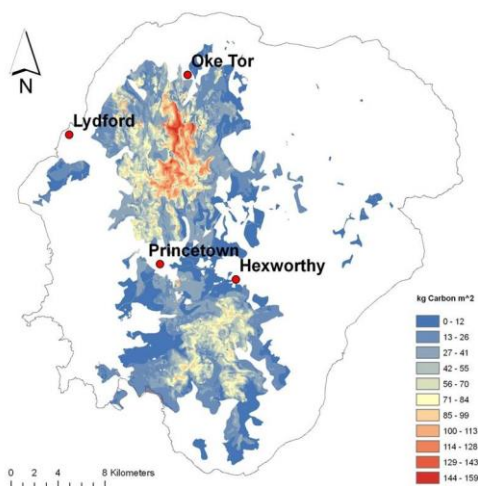
**Figure 4**



**Figure 5** A vision for moorland Dartmoor map (link to a bigger image below)  
[http://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0013/1070140/Moorland-vision-Map-with-illustrations.pdf](http://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0013/1070140/Moorland-vision-Map-with-illustrations.pdf)

### What does The Vision achieve for HNV farming?

- Confirms consensus amongst agencies for a farmed landscape – farmers have a future.
- Provides clarification on what vegetation is wanted and where.
- Resolves disputes between the land management required for archaeology and for biodiversity.
- Identifies where priority habitats are and where they are wanted in the future.
- Includes other public benefits: carbon storage (92m tonnes), water, public access.



**Figure 6** Distribution of peat soils/carbon

### Achievements

- The process resulted in a clear picture of what vegetation was wanted and where, not least for farmers, who now know what they are to achieve. Detailed management is then set out in the agri-environment agreements that are underpinned by the Vision.
- The invention of a process to resolve potential conflicting demands for different land management on the same area of ground.

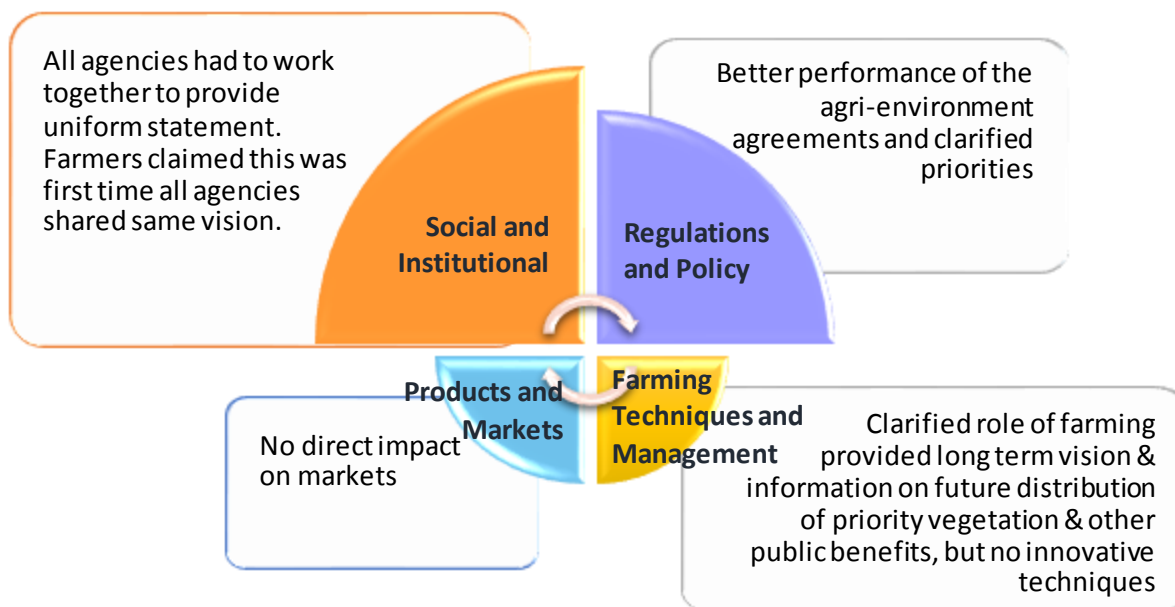
### Improved economics of HNV farming

- Better understanding of the intended outcomes for agri-environment agreements resulted in an increased uptake of this important funding resource

### Maintaining or improving HNV values

- The full suite of HNV vegetation (Annex 1 and non-Annex; within and outwith designated sites) was addressed through the process and included in the Vision.

**How does The Vision respond to the HNV LINK innovation themes?**



**Figure 7** The framework HNV-Link used for evaluating innovations for high nature value farming.

The Vision has social, institutional and practical benefits. Although originally designed to overcome a perceived difference of ambition from different government agencies the vision concept now links innovative delivery (of land management) with policy providing a practical solution to help those farmers within an agri-environment scheme to be able to better understand what the objectives of that agreement are and why the agreement seeks certain objectives. It also provides a longer term framework (25 years).

**The process that made it happen and critical factors for success**

- Action designed to address a specific problem identified by farmers.
- Independent facilitator employed to secure agreement between all agencies.
- Sufficient funding and capacity.
- Funded by all agencies so owned by all.
- Secured agreement on draft vision with professionals before asking farmers to comment and then endorse

The DNPA initiated the proposal following concerns from farmers that they had little faith in the agencies long term view of Dartmoor and conflict between the aspirations of the archaeologists and ecologists. An independent facilitator was employed and the process was to secure agreement between all the ecologists and then the archaeologists and then bring their agreed positions together to see if there was conflict. There was very little overlap of ambitions, both groups’ visions could be accommodated to each other.

All the government agencies with responsibility on Dartmoor participated. They eventually signed off the Vision and by doing so clarified their position. Farmers claimed this to be the first time that agencies had clearly stated that they wanted a farmed landscape to continue. The farmers then ground-truthed the draft, i.e., asked themselves whether it could be delivered, and then signed it off.

The process that was developed to deliver the Vision has been used successfully elsewhere. The employment of a facilitator was the only significant cost. Providing sufficient time was very important, enabling full participation by those busy with other work.

**Lessons learnt from this innovation example, and its potential replication**

- Vision restricted to moorland, fails to provide vision for inbye land.
- NGOs did not participate.
- Process, including use of Premier Archaeological Landscapes (PALs) used to produce vision for Bodmin Moor and moorland units on Exmoor.

**NOTES:** The Vision process has been used on Bodmin Moor (a similar discrete upland in south-west England). It is suitable for replicating on other uplands or discrete areas to resolve conflict between different land management for differing outcomes.

The following aspects of the Vision process were found to be valuable:

- Independent facilitation by someone with access to statutory agencies and farmers.
- Sufficient time allocated to secure participation
- Adoption of a term to describe discreet areas of high archaeological value that require a landscape selling – Premier archaeological Landscapes (PALs).
- Timing of meetings tailored to participants (farmers met in the evening at less busy times of the year)
- Ambitions of various disciplines captured on maps that could be shared and amended.
- Process improved communication between agencies as well as between agencies and farmers.
- Designed to complement and enhance existing delivery mechanisms and not to replace (AE agreements).
- Useful so it is still used and referred to.

The process did not include NGOs; if it were to be repeated, some NGOs would be invited to contribute so they could learn about the ambitions and constraints facing the farmers whilst contributing their information.



**Figure 8**

High Nature Value farming: Learning, Innovation and Knowledge: [www.hnmlink.eu](http://www.hnmlink.eu) & [info@hnmlink.eu](mailto:info@hnmlink.eu)

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