

**Report of a meeting of the Dartmoor Land Use Management Group (DLUMG) held at
2.00pm on 21st February 2025**

Present: Phil Stocker (Chair); Simon Lunniss (Secretary) David Attwell; Helen Booker; Helen Radmore; Janet Dwyer; Jez Bretherton; Kevin Bishop; Kevin Cox; Laura Cardenas; Layland Branfield; Liz Nabb; Matt Cole; Simon Lee; Stephen Dennis; Matthew Morris; Tom Usher; Tracy May; John Dracup; Ann Willcocks; John Howell.

Apologies: Dave Stone; Nick Bruce-White; Paul Hawkins; Rosie Byford.

1. Report of the meeting held on 28th January 2025 The report of the meeting held on 28th January was accepted as being a true record. Members agreed that in future minutes would be agreed by correspondence and circulated between meetings. As stated in the DLUMG terms of reference, the adopted minutes would then be a public record. Work was continuing to create a DLUMG web site to host meeting minutes and other relevant documents.

2. Progress report Phil Stocker updated the group on progress and meetings held since the last meeting. He had received a number of suggestions that a workshop should be held to consider the DLUMG's objectives and to clarify its priorities and working method. It was agreed that it would be helpful to hold a facilitated workshop to consider these issues and that the session scheduled for 24 March should be devoted to it. (Action PS/SL)

Phil also reported on preparations for the proposed Dartmoor Forum to be led by Geoffrey Cox MP on 3 April. It was agreed that Geoffrey Cox's office would be contacted to ascertain who from DLUMG had been invited to attend the session. (Action SL)

During a general discussion of the state of commoning, Members emphasised farmers' continuing frustration at the mechanics of claiming capital and revenue payments and particularly at the impossibility of moving easily between schemes. It was noted that upland farmers generally faced a two-year payment gap before initiatives such as Landscape Recovery would come onstream and that many would struggle to survive this period financially. Janet Dwyer agreed to lead a small group to consider the potential impact of this interregnum and the impact of A-E schemes on Dartmoor's farming economy more generally. (Action- JD to arrange a group to scope out the Dartmoor specific AE work strand)

3. Dartmoor Multi-functional Land Use Framework (MULF) Members noted that Defra had now published its consultation on future land use in England. This suggested that a combination of public and private sector incentives could result in an additional 430,000 ha (5% of UAA) being farmed primarily for environmental and climate reasons and that 760, 000 ha (9% of UAA) could be taken out of agricultural use altogether. Projected productivity increases on the remaining farmed area could offset the loss of output from these areas. The Group also noted the Analytical Appendix attached to the consultation, which suggested that Dartmoor was highly suited to habitat creation. Some members expressed the view that the consultation under-stated the contribution made by farming to the maintenance of the

environment in upland areas and the role played by farming in maintaining the culture and heritage of these areas. It was agreed to consider further whether DLUMG should submit its own response.

Under this item, DLUMG also received a presentation from Will Sibly of Land App, which prompted a useful discussion on the required characteristics of a Dartmoor MLUF. These included the requirement for any hosting platform to be able to handle large amounts of data and the need to identify a suitable platform and base mapping for the MLUF. Members also noted the potential to build a framework ‘bottom-up’, aggregating data from individual farms and agreements, or ‘top down’, presenting a view based on published data sources. The importance of any mapping being acceptable to Defra and Natural England as the basis for reporting was stressed. The DMLUF is a workstream where a workshop will be required. Action SL to ensure this is included in the workplan.

4. **Climate change** The DLUMG considered a specification for a research project on the impact of climate change on Dartmoor. Members recognised that climate change provided the underlying context for all of their work. As well as the promised climate change impact assessment from the Duchy of Cornwall and the Central Dartmoor Farm Cluster, the Group noted that a number of other bodies such as the Environment Agency and National Trust had produced their own assessments of the impact of climate change on Dartmoor and suggested that a literature review into this subject should form an important part of any project commissioned by DLUMG. (Action: MM to share the work done as part of the CDFC to allow scope of further work to be assessed.)
5. **Next Meeting** The next DLUMG meeting would be a facilitated workshop to be held at 2.00pm on 24 March, at Buckfast Abbey.

Action log

Action	who	status
Arrange DLUMG facilitated workshop for 24 th March	PS/SL	
Check with Geoffrey Cox office re invites to his Forum	SL	
Hold meeting with relevant people to scope out Ag Env works stream	JD	
Ensure a workshop on the DMLUF is included in the workplan	SL	
Circulate CDFC/Duchy report around group in order to enable group to agree next steps	MM/SL	