

PRESS RELEASE: The Exmoor Society's Response to Exmoor National Park Authority's *Vision for a Nature Rich National Park*

The Exmoor Society welcomes the Vision Statement (below) that aims to achieve a nature rich Exmoor National Park. It is positive, forward looking and identifies possible strategies for enrichment and recovery of habitats and species. It is a very ambitious vision that incorporates many themes and issues, short and long term time frames with specific targets, emphasis on wildlife habitats and species, suggestions of solutions to the crisis in biodiversity and climate change from the local to global level. The vision is consequently complex, complicated, and likely to have both intended and unintended consequences on National Park purposes and wider Authority achievements.

ENPA'S Vision

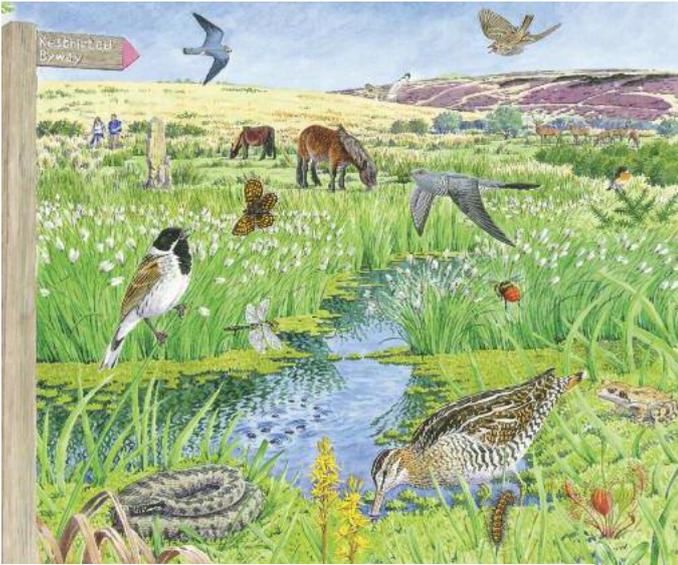
Exmoor's farmers, land managers, conservationists, communities and public bodies will work together so that by 2050 we have helped to deliver '*a Nature-rich Exmoor National Park*' which is great for wildlife and great for people:

- **Exmoor's rich mosaic of wildlife habitats are enhanced, extended and integrated into a network of nature-rich hubs, with blurred edges between them, and corridors linking them together.**
- **Wildlife is abundant and thriving and can easily move across the landscape and adapt to a changing climate.**
- **Exmoor's farmed landscape remains productive with farmers producing nature as well as food, and other public goods.**
- **People living in and visiting the National Park are connected to nature. They understand and are inspired by Exmoor's special wildlife and are actively engaged in its conservation.**

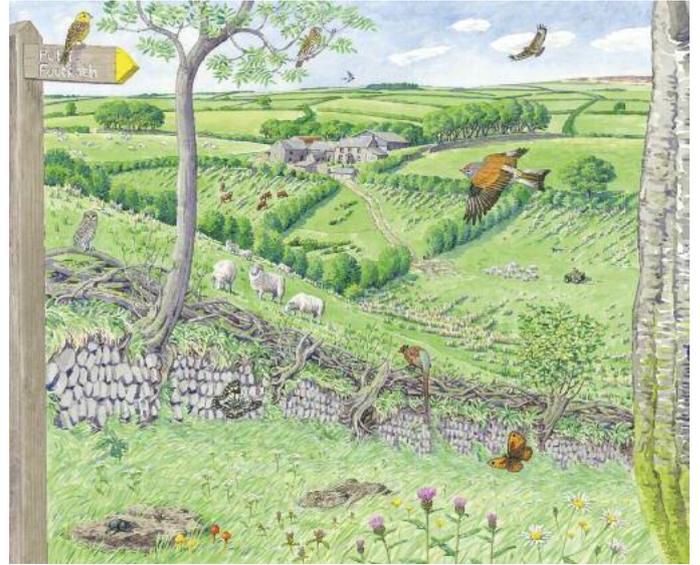
In total, at least 75% (or 51,750ha) of the area of the National Park will be in nature-rich condition, with the remaining areas providing networks and corridors for wildlife to move through.

What Exmoor will look like is a good question. There is a wide variety of interactions between nature and Exmoor's landscape across its 9 different types. That calls for a more comprehensive pictured approach to illustrate an even bigger, better, joined-up nature recovery strategy. Further landscape illustrations showing nature-rich habitat and species changes should be included as they are in the Exmoor Partnership Plan, shown below.

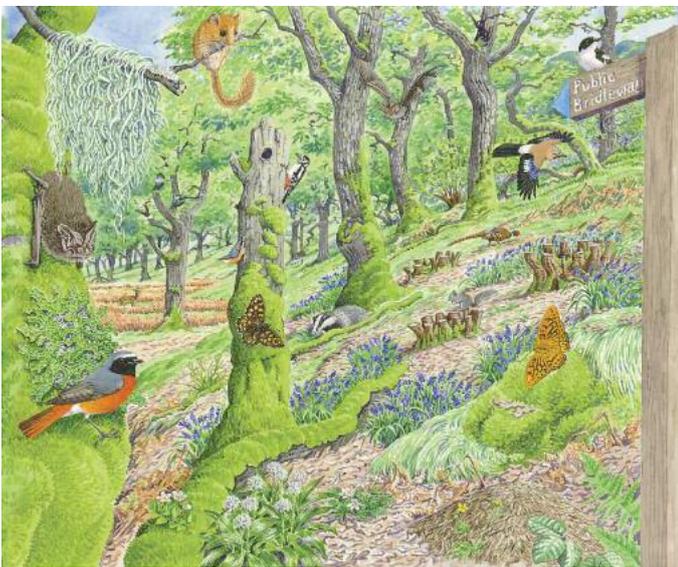
There will now need to be much more work to ensure this vision is delivered and The Exmoor Society is committed to assist in the process.



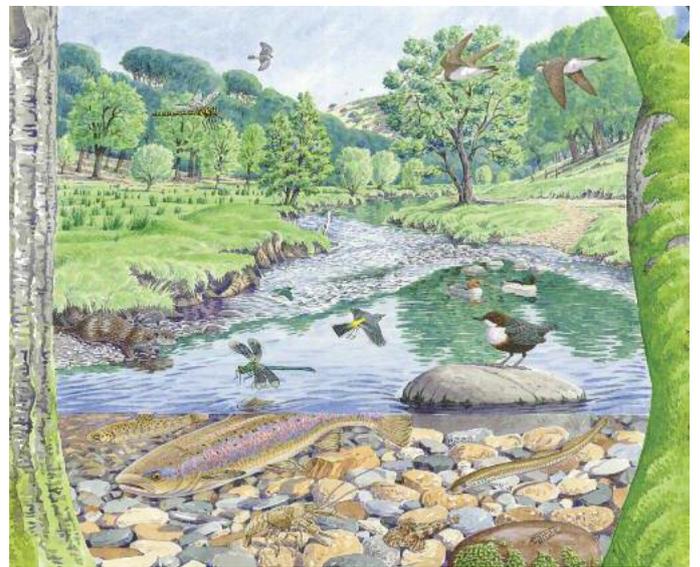
Moorland



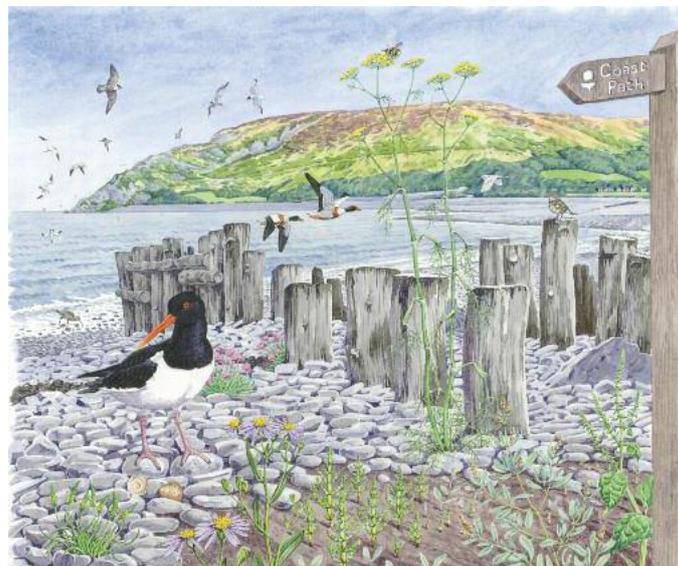
Farmland



Woodland



Rivers & Streams



Coast

Date: 5 November 2020

Word Count: 370 approx

Images: Images by Richard Allen from ENPA Partnership Plan 2018-2023
https://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0017/251162/Partnership-Plan-2018-2023-spreads.pdf

Note to Editors:

The Exmoor Society is an independent charity that protects and promotes Exmoor for the benefit of all and is the only membership organisation that is dedicated to the National Park status. Exmoor is a unique, diverse landscape of moorland, coast, woodland and farmland shaped by both nature and people over thousands of years. Established in 1958, The Society acts as a champion and watchdog for its conservation and the enjoyment of its natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage. It searches for solutions to today's challenges, such as loss of heather moorland, by gathering evidence to influence rural decision-makers both locally and nationally.

The Exmoor Society, 34 High Street, DULVERTON TA22 9DJ. 01398 323335
info@exmoorsociety.com www.exmoorsociety.com