



Briefing Note: Species Reintroductions

September 2025

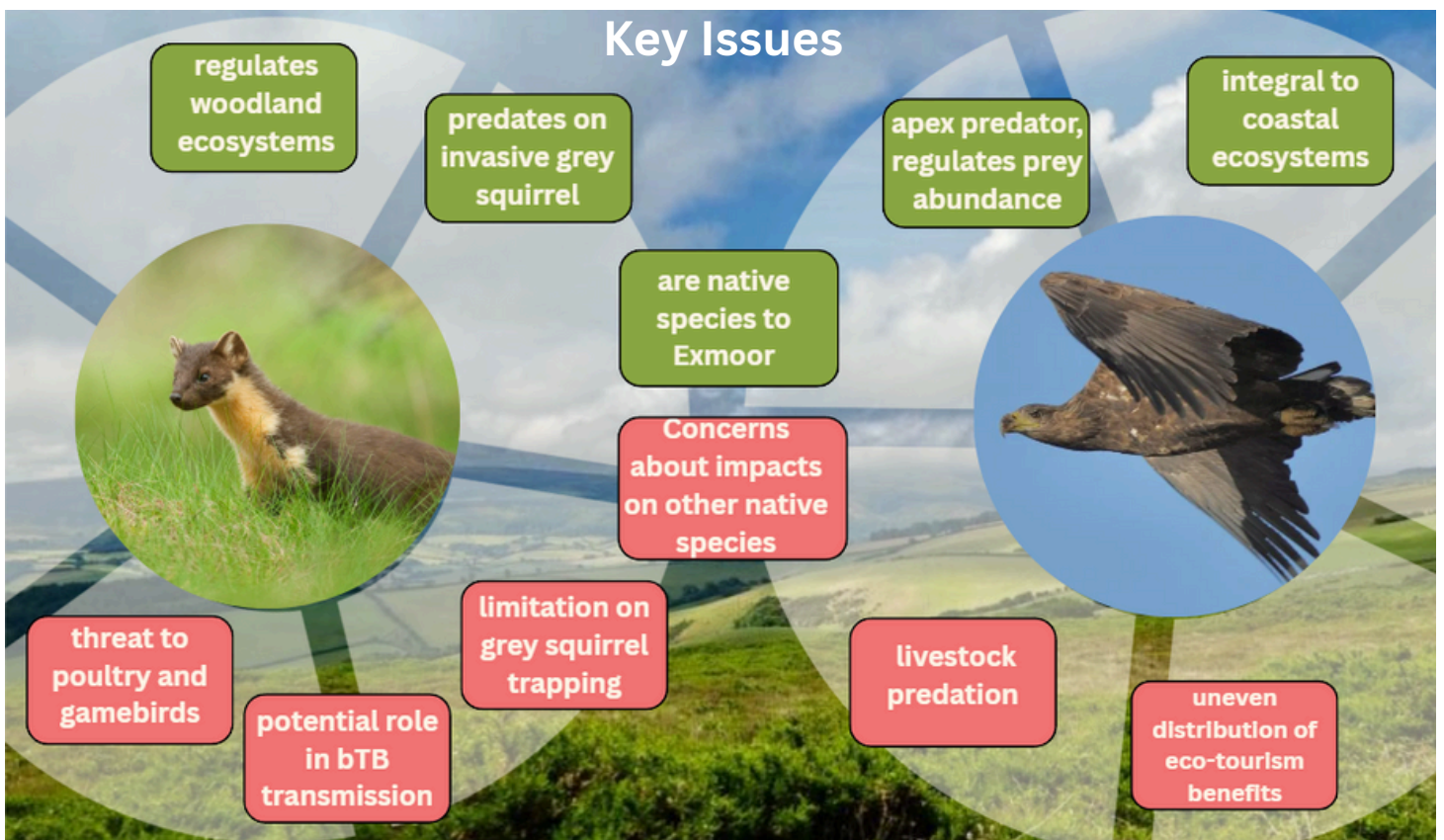
The Exmoor Society is committed to enhancing the conservation value of the National Park whilst supporting its communities and promoting effective management. This Briefing Note provides a summary of our recent evidence review into species reintroductions on Exmoor; outlining the key issues fuelling the debate and providing a roadmap for a more evidence-led and inclusive approach to management.

What's happening?...

- National policy increasingly supports the reintroduction of native species
- A reintroduction scheme for pine martens is underway
- A reintroduction scheme for white-tailed eagles is being proposed
- Local land managers have concerns about the potential negative impacts of the reintroductions and the way they have been handled
- The wider public is generally supportive of reintroductions

...And why?

- Exmoor identified as providing highly suitable habitat for both pine martens and white-tailed eagles
- Restoring native species and helping to balance the functioning of ecosystems
- Supporting biodiversity goals and enhancing ecosystem resilience to climate change
- Pine martens help control invasive grey squirrel populations
- Strengthen Exmoor's conservation standing



Moving beyond conflict requires...

transparency about uncertainties and evidence gaps

all voices and concerns to be heard and taken seriously

developing an inclusive strategy for management of livestock predation by white-tailed eagles following the Scottish example

greater clarity on the monitoring and mitigation of potential negative impacts, such as bTB transmission by pine martens

everyone to work together respectfully



...longer-term co-operation

set up long-term engagement forums and communication with land managers and the wider community

a scheme to remunerate and involve farmers in monitoring and mitigation of livestock predation by white-tailed eagles

a participatory framework for monitoring should also be included in pine marten management

collaborate with farmers and gamekeepers to lobby for research on impacts and grey squirrel control funding

ensure engagement, discussion and collaboration occur early on in the process



The Exmoor Society's purposes are to protect and conserve Exmoor National Park; its natural landscape, wildlife, habitats, and cultural heritage. The Society recognises that Exmoor is a shared landscape, shaped by many different interests and concerns, and its effective management requires balance, fairness, and a long-term approach. Open communication and mutual respect are essential to resolving conflicts and finding practical solutions. Species reintroductions can contribute to biodiversity and conservation on Exmoor, but they must be managed alongside other land-based industries. Their success depends on recognising the interdependence of communities, the environment, and the economy, and on ensuring that decisions are transparent, inclusive, and grounded in evidence.