



February 2026 E-News



UpTick Stakeholder Workshop – 5th February

As part of our UpTick project with APHA and UKHSA we are holding a stakeholder workshop this Thursday 5th February at Moretonhampstead. The meeting includes farmers, vets and rural interests with a view to identifying how tick borne (TBD) disease is impacting us and what strategies we are / could deploy to mitigate this. If you have had issues with TBD or would like to attend then click the link below or email hfp@dartmoor.gov.uk to reserve a place and food.

[Learn More](#)



We Need Your Blood Please!

During February we are busy taking bloods on 20 farms to look for evidence of tick-borne disease (TBD) in sheep and cattle. As well as livestock we are also interested in Human exposure and the UK Health Security Agency will be running phlebotomy sessions at four locations across the moor. Anyone who lives and works on Dartmoor is welcome to participate and will get feedback if they have been exposed to Lyme disease or other TBD. The drop-in sessions are from 9 AM – 7PM and a celebratory cup of tea and biscuit is provided afterwards!

Venue	Date
Postbridge Village Hall	Wednesday 18 th February
Brent Tor Village Hall	Thursday 19 th February
Throwleigh Village Hall	Wednesday 25 th February
South Brent Village Hall	Thursday 26 th February

[Book Here](#)



Discussion Group Meeting - Effective Wormer Use

The sheep discussion group will be meeting on Monday 23rd February at 6:00pm at Meads Farm, Harford (PL21 0JQ) to discuss how to effectively use wormers and create a worming plan to reduce the risk of resistance. Speakers include Richard Walters from Selworthy Vets and Dawn Clarke from Zoetis who will be discussing the new Startect wormer. Click the link below to book a place or email hfp@dartmoor.gov.uk

[Book a Place Here](#)



DARTMOOR'S DYNAMIC LANDSCAPES (DDL)

A new landscape-scale project has secured funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund which will be led jointly by the DNPA and Woodland Trust for 5 years, working with other delivery partners. The ambition is to create more naturally resilient landscapes, to enable better understanding and to connect people more sustainably to their place.

DHFP's role, as one of the partners, sits within a 'Hill Farm Hub' with a number of key delivery themes, in parallel helping to co-ordinate other project workstreams aimed at a farming audience with a view to simplify messaging and avoid duplication – both within the target project area and more widely.

DHFP will be supporting the development of new farm clusters or collaborative farming groups; working with Commons Associations to identify options that help day to day running (skills & training, shared resources etc); enabling knowledge exchange and visits to other upland areas for best practice; providing advice & events around land management schemes; co-developing environmental monitoring and the trialling of technology led by farmers & commoners.

A dedicated DDL website will soon be live which will allow updates from involved partners, but an outline is available by clicking the button below.

[Learn More](#)



Partnership Plan Workshops - Update

On the 14th January we held a combined Farming meeting as part of the National Park Partnership Plan Review process. This included participants from the four breakfast meetings we held during November and December 2024 which scoped the issues and helped shape the focus of the plan. There was a lot of discussion on the role of planning and the need to join up ambition in the Partnership Plan with delivery through the Local Development Framework. We hope that everyone's time will be rewarded by a better framework with a draft chapter due in the next few months. Thanks to all who have participated to date.



Mental health training for the farming community

Nuco Accredited
Level 3
Award in Supervising
First Aid for Mental
Health

2 day course Ofqual regulated

Have the skills
to make a difference to others

Course Overview	What's Covered?
<p>Did you know that 1 in 4 people in the UK are likely to experience mental health problems each year?</p> <p>Mental health is just as important as physical health, yet whilst we know how to take care of our own physical health, many people do not know how to support friends, relatives, or even colleagues who are experiencing poor mental health. By developing a greater understanding of common mental health conditions, as well as how best to support and guide someone to professional help, you can help to reduce the stigma associated with mental health in the UK.</p> <p>The Nuco Level 3 Award in Supervising First Aid for Mental Health is a regulated and nationally recognised qualification that has been specifically designed for those who would like to develop an understanding on how best to support, reassure, and signpost colleagues to professional support. What's more, candidates will develop the knowledge, skills, and confidence to actively promote positive mental health within their workplace, making it an ideal qualification for mental health champions/first aiders, human resources, managers, supervisors, and team leaders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is First Aid for Mental Health? • Identifying common mental health conditions including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stress - Depression - Suicide - Anxiety - Eating Disorders - Self-Harm - Psychosis - Schizophrenia - Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder - Bipolar Disorder • Providing advice and starting a conversation • Drugs and alcohol • First Aid for Mental Health action plan • First Aid for Mental Health in the workplace

TB Champions

A new charity has been established that aims to help farmers deal with the impacts of bTB (Bovine Tuberculosis); which has come about from personal experience. The charity is offering direct support and invites any farmers currently under movement restrictions and who wish to be involved to contact them.

In addition, it has been running training for individuals who are interested in becoming volunteer 'Champions' themselves, to assist with project delivery. The project is initially focussed on Dartmoor and across Devon but has ambition to be rolled out more widely.

As part of the preparation, specialist Mental Health training is being provided by RABI with a two-day course running on 16th & 17th Feb near Ashburton. A few extra places were also built in to allow this offer to extend to those who work directly with farmers – so please contact Emily if interested.

Tb Champions
Emily@tb-champions.org.uk



Catchment Sensitive Farming Dartmoor Farmers' Event



Thursday 19th February 2026 @ 18:45-21:00

The Plume of Feathers, Princetown, Yelverton PL20 6QQ

Come along and join your local Catchment Sensitive Farming Adviser,
Jasmine Pearson to understand more about:

- **What's on offer** to support your business from Catchment Sensitive Farming including free, confidential, specialist advice and potential to access to grants.
- **Get the latest** overview of what the water quality data tells us about the rivers originating on Dartmoor.
- **Discover** potential win-win solutions for the environment and for your business.
- **Learn more** about the agricultural regulations and what that means for your business. We are not the regulator and provide free and confidential advice.
- **Network** with other Dartmoor farmers.

Booking Essential. Places are limited.

To reserve your place contact Jasmine on 07799 169713 or email
jasmine.pearson@naturalengland.org.uk

Food will be provided so don't forget to tell us about any dietary requirements.

Natural England take looking after your data as seriously as we take looking after the environment.
For more information about how we use your data, or to opt-out, visit gov.uk/catchment-sensitive-farming.

Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) is led by Natural England, in partnership with Defra and the Environment Agency.

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Environment Agency

NATURAL ENGLAND

Mental Health Contacts

Helplines and help is always available to those in crisis - contact:

RABI 24hr Helpline: 0800 188 4444

FCN Helpline: 03000 111 999

Samaritans, Call: 116 123 or email: jo@samaritans.org

Contact us:

Russell Ashford, Steering Group Chairman
David Attwell, Land Management Adviser
Hazel Kendall, Dartmoor Farming Officer
Columb Anderson-Hague, Farm Support Officer
Office Telephone: 01822 890913

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Visit our website: www.dartmoorhillfarmproject.co.uk
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