



**Dartmoor
HILL FARM
PROJECT**

August E-News



Boundary scheme development – We want to hear from you in our survey

As we progress our Boundary Boost project, we have been working with our partner consultants Stantec, to understand the drivers, incentives or challenges that come with land management schemes linked to private finance and how to address or overcome these. As we look to gather a broad viewpoint, we have co-designed surveys that can gather input from different perspectives:

- From landowners and farmers who may be open to the idea of combining a potential new scheme with their existing options Enhancing our hedge & boundaries network on Dartmoor

Or

- From companies, corporates or SMEs who may already actively support land-based initiatives or are considering how to get involved to demonstrate support (at any scale or level). Enhancing Dartmoor's hedge network through investment

We aim to better understand the practicalities of developing such a scheme from theory to pragmatic delivery. Details around the Boundary Boost project ambition and links to the surveys can also be found on our website page, which can be submitted anonymously; [Boundary Boost | Dartmoor Hill Farm](#)



Land Use Management Group and Uplands Review

The Land Use Management Group continues to meet regularly to address some of the recommendations within the Fursdon Review of Protected Site Management. A number of task and finish groups have been developed around Evidence and Land Use, Nature Restoration, Holistic Grazing and Farm Viability and Communications & Engagement. We are sitting on the Grazing and Farm Viability workstream which is coordinated by Dr. Janet Dwyer and includes a mix of graziers, landowners and agencies such as Natural England and Historic England. The plan is to look at best practice and to develop field trials to help inform future management recommendations. We will report back on progress and opportunities to engage over the coming year.

We also participated in a recent workshop to explore new thinking around future uplands policy. The Defra Secretary of State has engaged Hilary Cottam to lead this process supported by staff in their policy lab who have visited uplands across England to identify key themes. Their ambition is to develop a new model to break down silos and to allocate resources for better outcomes!



Capital Grants Offer Now Closed

Defra have announced (Friday 1st August) that the 100% of the 2025 Capital Grants Offer budget has been allocated and the grant has been closed to further applications this year.

Although a capital works grant for 2026 has been announced, there are no details on available budget or content at the current time.

You can read Defra's announcement on the closure by clicking the button below

[Capital Grant Announcement](#)



Walling Courses

The Dartmoor Hill Farm Project is still running 2-day training courses covering the practical elements of boundary restoration, taught by expert practitioners, covering different boundary types across the moor. If you are interested in learning a valuable skill in a friendly group or have a section of wall or hedge you would like to offer for the courses please do contact us at hfp@dartmoor.gov.uk



Louping Ill – Vaccine Update

The Moredun Foundation continue to work hard on our behalf to raise funding for the new Louping Ill vaccine. The programme received a boost at the Royal Highland Show with a £100K donation from the Scottish Government and talks are continuing with moorland and grouse owners north of the border. However funding from the Livestock industry has been slow so if you have any bright ideas to accelerate this do get in touch. Without investment the vaccine is unlikely to be commercially viable so do please support the campaign via this link [Support the New Louping Ill Vaccine – Moredun Research Institute](#).

Stop Note: We have seen heightened levels of the virus this year on Dartmoor. If you have an animal showing classic signs then please do get in touch with the office as we are continuing to gather data and evidence.

[Learn More](#)



Show Season

The Hill Farm Project team will be attending various shows over the summer so please keep an eye out for us and stop for a chat!

Chagford Show (attending) - 21st August

Widcombe Fair (stand) - 9th September



Dartmoor National Park Planning Consultations

Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) have launched several public consultations around planning. This includes the statement of community involvement which sets out how DNPA engage with communities on planning matters.

The other consultation is for local validation checklist sets out the information required to validate a planning application and introduces 3 new elements for some applications:

- Carbon Reduction Statement
- Energy Efficiency Report
- Accessible and Adaptable Dwellings Statement

This consultation will be open until Sunday 21st September 2025

Statement of Community Involvement Consultation

Local Validation Checklist Consultation

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
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