

Luccombe and Selworthy & Minehead Without Parishes

**Your Future
Exmoor**

Feedback Summary Report



I GO TO SCHOOL IN PORLOCK

My Name is

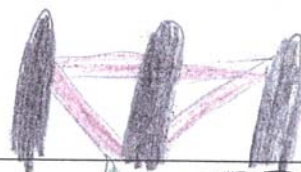
I Live in Allaford

IN PORLOCK

I Like the park
and the shops



I Don't Like
animals
Droppings
fences



I would like to see a forrist



A drawing from the youth consultations at Porlock First School.

This summary report sets out the key findings from the ‘Your Future Exmoor’ event for your parish. A full report with the detailed results and comments has been sent to your parish council and is also available to view on our website.

www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/your_future_exmoor.htm

If you have any views on this report please let us know by filling in the comments sheet at the end of the report and sending it to:

**Policy and Community Team
Exmoor National Park Authority
Exmoor House
Dulverton
Somerset TA22 9HL**

Or email your comments to: ldf@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

BY FRIDAY 1st October

At the end of this report there is also a form where, if you wish, you can provide your contact details to be notified of future consultations as the plan progresses, including Topic Group discussions.

Luccombe and Selworthy & Minehead Without Your Future Exmoor Event Feedback Report

Introduction

The Luccombe and Selworthy & Minehead Without joint 'Your Future Exmoor' events were held on Thursday 11th March 2010 in Luccombe Village Hall in the early afternoon and Allerford Village Hall during late afternoon and early evening. The event was organised by the Exmoor National Park Authority with the help of Luccombe and Selworthy & Minehead Without Parish Councils as part of the preparation of the Exmoor National Park Development Framework which is replacing the Local Plan. The event provided the opportunity for local people to have a say in the planning of their communities and the National Park as a whole.

The joint events were held during the afternoon and evening and were tailored to both settlements, so that people from the local communities could come along to either event at a time suitable to them. We would like to acknowledge the valuable input from the local community and we appreciate the representations that were made by those who attended the event.

This report summarises what was said at the event. We would like you (whether you attended the event or not) to let us know your views on the issues, options and comments contained in this feedback report.

Attendance

The events were attended by 35 people – 9 at the Luccombe event and 26 at the Allerford event - this represents just over 5% of the population invited to attend.

There were 7 people from Luccombe parish at the Luccombe event and 2 people from Selworthy and Minehead Without.

The majority attending the Allerford event came from Selworthy and Minehead Without parish (23 people) there were also 3 people who came from Minehead parish.

The bar charts below shows the age structure of people who attended the events at Luccombe and Allerford.



Young People's Consultation

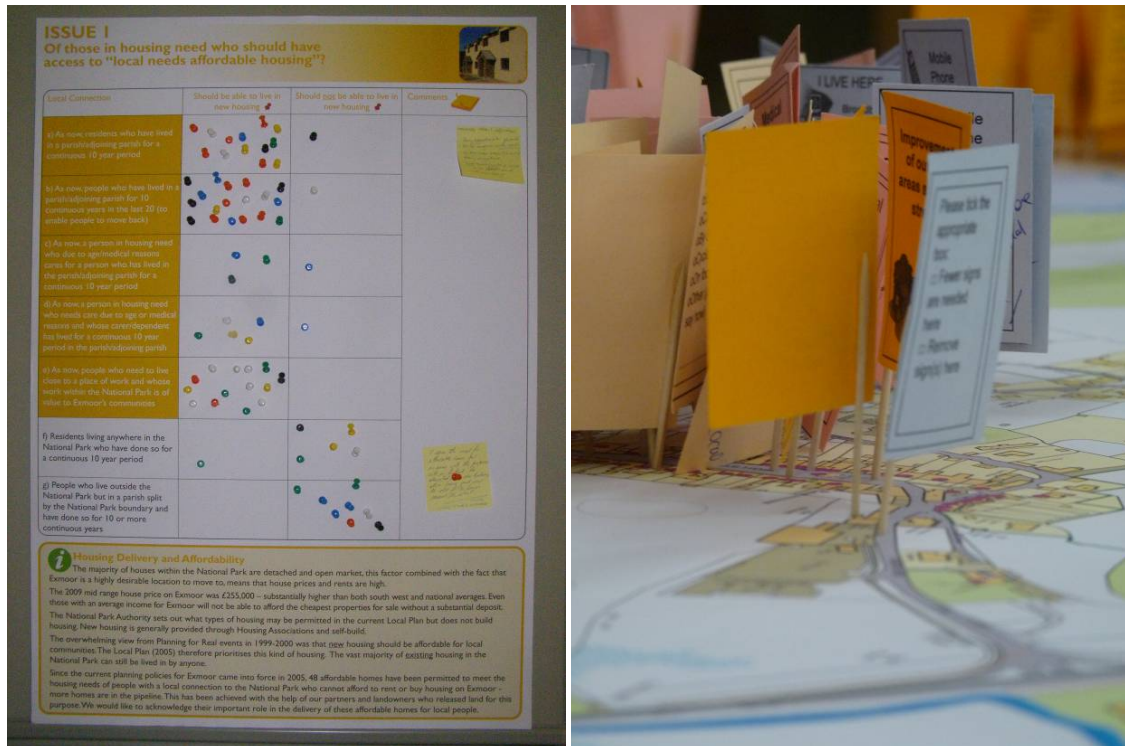
A workshop was held with young people from Porlock First School on Monday 19th October 2009. Children from these parishes attend this school. These workshops helped children to identify their priorities for the National Park and their local communities - their work was displayed at the events.

Feedback to the schools on how their work will be incorporated into the Plans was provided in July 2010.

Your Future Exmoor Consultation

Everyone that came along to the events was met by a member of the Authority staff and introduced to the layout of the event. People could make their views in a variety of ways and spend as much or as little time as they wished depending on which topics they were interested in.

A number of display boards divided into seven different topics were placed around the hall. Each topic included a number of issues with various options. People were invited to show which options they agreed or disagreed with by sticking pins into the boards and were also encouraged to make suggestions or comments on post-it notes.



An example of how people could make their views at the Your Future Exmoor events.

There were also a series of flags which represented a number of specific themes for each topic, such as a flag to indicate that mobile phone signal was needed in a particular location. The flags could be placed in a number of maps that were set out as part of each event – these were:

- settlement maps of Luccombe and Allerford, with inset maps of Bossington, Selworthy and Horner.
- a parish map of Luccombe and Selworthy and Minehead Without parish;
- a map of Exmoor National Park.

What You Said

Overall Response

The detailed report (available on our website and through the Parish Councils) shows how many pins were put into each of the options on display and summarises the comments that were made on post-it notes and flags. The level of interest in the seven topics was generally fairly balanced.

As people were introduced to the event we asked them to place a flag where they lived on any of the maps displayed and to indicate if they had mobile phone coverage or broadband.

Mobile Phone Coverage

3 flags in Luccombe and 11 flags at Allerford indicated the number of households at the event that had mobile phone reception while 3 did not at Luccombe and 3 households at Allerford. The most frequent networks available were Orange and Vodafone.

Broadband

5 flags placed in the maps showed those households with a broadband connection in Luccombe of whom 4 said their service was 'average' and 1 was 'slow and patchy'. At Allerford 13 flags showed the number of households which indicated they had broadband - 2 said their service was 'fast and reliable', 5 said the service was 'average' and 4 was 'slow and patchy' (2 flags did not indicate the service quality).

KEY FINDINGS

Natural Environment

Views were expressed for all questions on the boards with particular interest in the issues for manmade structures in the landscape, conserving wildlife and coastal development.

- The majority view for both events was that there were too many overhead wires. At the Allerford event, many people also thought there were too many pylons, main roads, car parks, road signs and infrastructure. At both events, respondents were keen on more wind turbines in the National Park.
- Flags were placed on the maps to identify areas which should be left free of manmade structures - these included areas such as: fields south of Hare Park in Allerford, fields adjacent to Stoates Farm, and the playing field in Allerford.
- Important trees were identified in Horner Wood, the Allerford Plantation and to the south of Selworthy Beacon.
- Many people were keen to reduce signage on the main route through Luccombe.
- On the whole people mainly agreed with the current approach to conserving wildlife and habitats - at both events there was support for

extending and linking habitats to help wildlife adapt to the impacts of climate change.

- There was a general level of agreement to protecting the coast, from development and in Allerford; many were keen on the policy option to resist harmful development by structures out at sea.

Cultural Environment

There were opinions expressed for all questions on the boards - issues regarding historic buildings, sustainable building design, supply of building stone and local distinctiveness, had the most interest.

- There was general agreement to the current approach of supporting the enhancement of Exmoor's settlements. Although there was some disagreement to increasing protection for buildings in conservation areas, more disagreed with this option at the Allerford event.
- There was general support at both events on all the options to conserve and enhance historic buildings.
- The current approach to sustainable design received support from both community events – allowing some flexibility in the modern interpretation of traditional designs using natural materials. There was also agreement to require developments over a certain size to have a percentage of their energy from renewable sources and to requiring developments to meet energy efficiency standards above current building regulations.
- There was clear support of the current policy for re-opening former quarries to supply local building stone in the National Park. At the Allerford event there was also support for opening new quarries in the National Park.
- People's opinions were generally supportive of ensuring that the design and materials of new buildings fit in with the local traditional character.

Climate Change & Natural Resources

There was a general level of interest expressed for all questions on the boards.

The key points were:

- Encouraging the use of sustainable construction methods was the most popular option selected to reduce energy use both in construction and in running costs. Almost equally as popular was maximising the potential for carbon sinks through tree planting and moorland/mire restoration.
- There was general support for micro-scale renewable energy technologies particularly solar power and ground source heat pumps. Opportunities to access tidal or wave power were also suggested. Micro and community scale hydro power were also popular.
- Large scale commercial wind turbines were not generally supported.
- Reducing the risk of flooding in future developments from surface water, rivers and the sea was considered important as well as encouraging the use of grey water recycling, sustainable drainage systems and porous surfacing in new development.

- There was general agreement to the options proposed to plan for climate change and sea-level rise on the coast – in particular support was given to the options to improve understanding of likely effects of climate change and most of all in not allowing any development in areas at risk of coastal change.
- The reduction and disposal of waste was a popular issue, with many indicating their approval for provision for public facilities to meet the need to reuse, recycle and compost materials, and the re-use of existing buildings.
- Options to reduce the risk of pollution within the National Park and pollution sources outside the National Park were also supported.

Settlements

Views were expressed for a number of questions on the boards with particular interest in the location of future development and the protection and availability of community services. Other points of interest were:

- The majority of people at the Allerford event supported the option to treat all identified settlements equally in terms of where new development should be located. Whereas the majority of people attending the Luccombe event supported the current option of the settlement hierarchy that is currently in place.
- Allerford has a shop incorporating a post office - other services such as supermarkets and petrol stations are accessed at Minehead. Top up shops and GP services are also accessed in Porlock.
- It was also evident that most people at the Luccombe event did not use the internet for shopping whereas most people at the Allerford event sometimes or regularly use the internet for shopping.
- People identified the shop/Post Office in Allerford as an important service that should be protected.
- Many people at the Allerford event approved of the current approach of supporting a mixed or flexible use of buildings to continue important services such as village shops and post offices. The option to ensure that new facilities are designed to be flexible in adapting to other uses (e.g. providing post office services in village halls) was also popular in both settlements as was the option to only allow new developments in those settlements with public transport links and/or a wide range of services and facilities.
- It was generally considered that there were sufficient areas for outdoor recreation in the community. Some people in both parishes indicated the need for more allotments.
- There was clear support for planning contributions that would benefit the community, through the provision of public green space.

Housing

There was a general level interest in all the questions presented on housing and the provision of affordable housing in the National Park.

The main points of interest were:

- People mainly agreed with the current approach regarding who should be able to access local affordable housing (see the *Current Access to Local Needs Affordable Housing* fact box below). The options with the most support were housing for people who have lived in a parish/adjoining parish for 10 continuous years in the last 20 years, a person in housing need who due to age/medical reasons cares for a person who has lived in the parish/adjoining parish for a continuous 10 year period and those who need to live close to their place of work.
- Most people thought that people should have lived locally for 10 or more years to access affordable housing. The local area that people should have lived in to access affordable housing, was also significant – the clear majority indicated that it should be the parish and/or its adjoining parish.
- In both communities there was generally support for affordable housing for local people only.
- The most popular options indicated to meet the housing needs of an ageing population, was to allow the change of use of buildings close to the main house, to an annexe for elderly or disabled people.
- At the Allerford event, with regard to the size of dwellings, generally people agreed with current policies to remain smaller in order to keep them more affordable. There was no general preference at the Luccombe event.
- In addressing the issue of 'low-impact living' the general outcome was to support existing policies for local affordable housing particularly those that allow conversions of existing buildings in hamlets or farmsteads.
- Sites for affordable housing were suggested to the north of Culver Cottage (which is to the west of East Luccombe Farm in Luccombe), and to the west of Myrtle Cottage in Allerford.

Economy & Employment

Views were expressed for all questions on the boards with particular interest in the issues for improving employment opportunities in the National Park, including support for businesses dependent on tourism and maintaining a positive relationship between the local economy and Exmoor's landscape and wildlife.

- There was overall support for the majority of options put forward to improve employment opportunities – particularly the options for encouraging a greater variety of businesses including more skilled and highly paid work, and those which will help Exmoor be more self sufficient.
- There was agreement to encouraging traditional/sustainable businesses, particularly allowing land and buildings for businesses which are linked to traditional land based activities, processing agricultural/forestry products and sustainable tourism/recreation activities.
- People at the Allerford event generally thought that new build business premises should be located in or next to any settlements – whereas people

at the Luccombe event thought premises should only be located in settlements with a wide range of facilities.

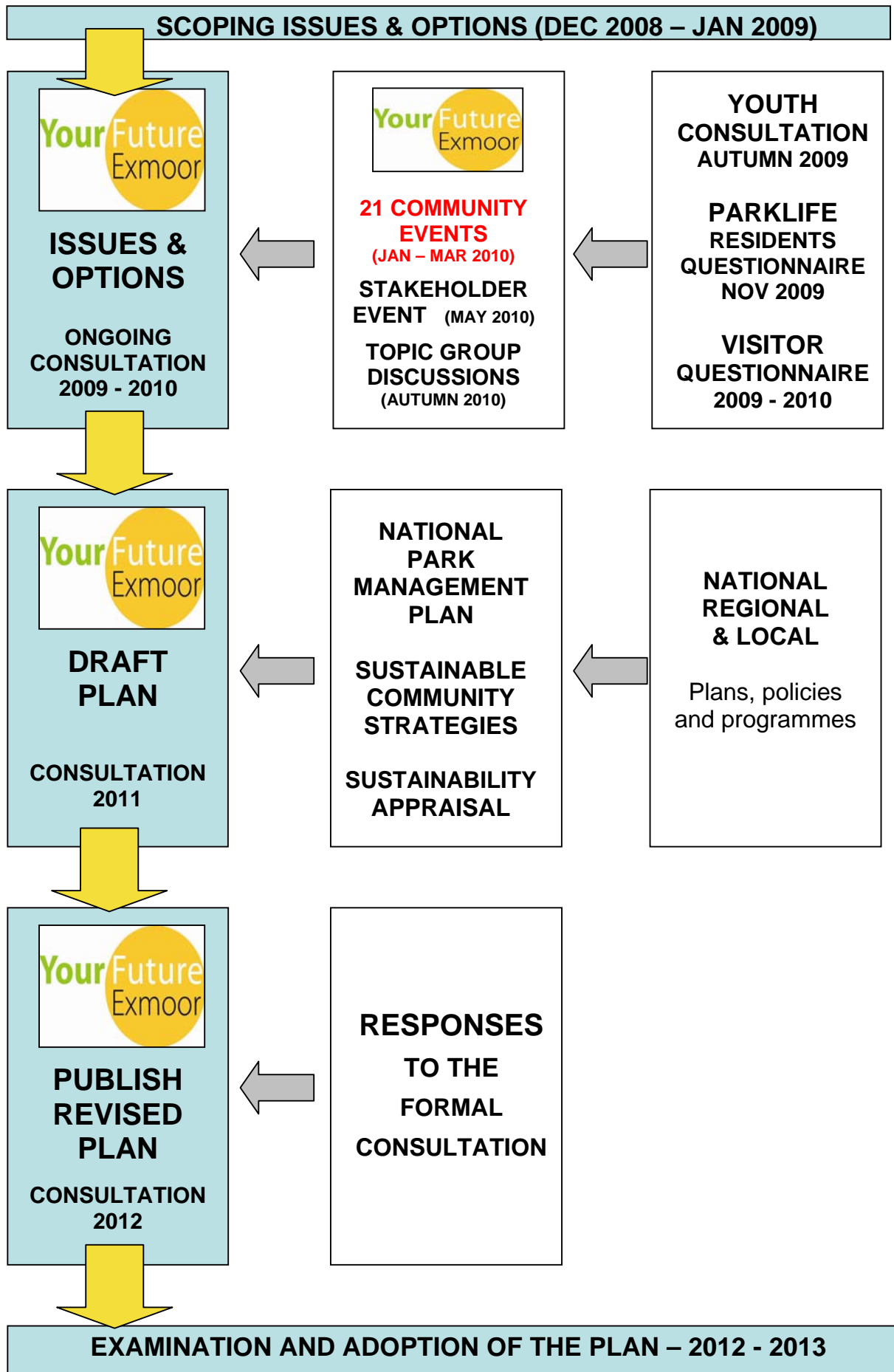
- Flexible options for home-working were supported such as: allowing home-working in houses, converted out-buildings, or through the provision of some small extensions, or new outbuildings close to existing properties. At the Allerford event, people also agreed with encouraging shared facilities for home workers such as meeting places and IT equipment.
- There was generally support for all the options presented to increase tourism's contribution to the local economy including providing support to tourism providers to provide year round facilities.
- People generally agreed with providing new self-catering accommodation through conversions of traditional buildings on farms and the reuse of other existing buildings. At the Allerford event there was support for the option to allow existing hotels/guesthouses to convert part of their business.
- In terms of holiday lets there was clear support for allowing holiday lets to become affordable housing for local communities, and be able to change back to holiday lets in the future.
- At the Allerford event the overall preferred location for new hotels and guest houses through the conversion of existing buildings was Lynton, Lynmouth, Porlock and Dulverton. There was no clear preference indicated at the Luccombe event.
- People attending the Allerford event thought the most appropriate use for unviable hotels/guesthouses was a mix of uses depending on viability and location. There was no clear preference expressed at the Luccombe event.

Transport & Infrastructure

There was a general level of interest in all the issues presented in this topic. The key points from the results were:

- At the Allerford event there was significant support for the retention and improvement of public transport provision. In both settlements there was support for linking the rights of way network within the National Park and ensuring new developments and other opportunities provide for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.
- Most people supported working with the highways authorities to address traffic speed, congestion and parking within settlements.
- Both parishes were keen on minimising road infrastructure and signage. Many people felt there were too many signs on the main route through Luccombe.
- There was clear support for undergrounding new electricity lines in the National Park and ensuring new telecommunication masts do not harm the National Park landscape. There was also support for ensure adequate water and sewage infrastructure is provided.
- A positive response was evident towards seeking complete mobile/broadband coverage of the National Park and improving the speed/quality of the service.

Preparing a New Plan for Exmoor



WHAT NEXT?

A series of three workshops with representatives of stakeholder organisations were held during December 2008 and January 2009 at Lynton, Allerford and Dulverton. These events aimed to scope the range of issues facing the National Park in terms of land use and development and find options to address them. The outcomes helped to develop the issues, options and questions which were displayed at the Your Future Exmoor events.

Following the community events there was an event for stakeholder organisations in May 2010 to provide them with an opportunity to respond to the issues and options. The format was similar to the community events.

A number of topic group discussions will be held during the autumn to explore some particular issues in further detail. We will be inviting representatives of stakeholder organisations and interested members of the public to attend these discussions.

All the information provided through the community and stakeholder events, youth consultations, and questionnaires will help us to produce a draft plan and we will be consulting widely on this document next year. We will continue to invite views from local communities which will help us to progress the plan and shape the future of the National Park.

The plan will set out the broad, over-arching policies for development and land use within the National Park – combined with some more detailed development management policies. The consultation responses will then inform a revised plan which will be formally consulted on before publication.

The plan will then be examined by an independent Inspector, and if it is found to be sound, it can then be formally adopted by the Authority.

**PLEASE USE THIS SPACE IF YOU WISH TO MAKE ANY
FURTHER COMMENTS ON THE FEEDBACK REPORT:**

Please complete this form if you are interested in attending a topic-based group discussion on *Your Future Exmoor*.

Name	
Organisation (if relevant)	
Address & Post Code	
Telephone	
Email	
<p>Please tick the topics you are interested in discussing:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Natural Environment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Environment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Settlements</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Housing</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Economy & Employment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Transport & Infrastructure</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Climate Change & Natural Resources</p>	
<p>Are there any <u>specific</u> issues you are interested in discussing?</p> 	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Please tick if you would like to be contacted for future 'Your Future Exmoor' planning consultations</p>	
<p>Please return completed forms to ldf@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk or Exmoor National Park Authority, Exmoor House, Dulverton, Somerset TA22 9HL BY FRIDAY 1st OCTOBER</p>	