

Holbeton News Climate Change & Environment

Dartmoor National Park review – worth a read

A recent review of the use of the moor for grazing has just been published by DEFRA. Unlike many reports it is actually interesting and I learnt a lot about the history of the moor's use and how and why it has been damaged. Start at [section 3, the context](#). The full link is below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-review-of-protected-site-management-on-dartmoor/independent-review-of-protected-site-management-on-dartmoor#section-3-context>

Section 12 on the current state of the moor is also worth reading. The moor is an important local contributor to the sequestration or capture of carbon by its peat bogs, which have been drying out.

It seems that there has been a breakdown of trust and communication between Natural England (NE) and the “commoners” who have grazing rights on the moor. The former has had its funding severely cut.



The report makes 42 recommendations and then lists the many contributors, among whom is Holbeton District Council.

Also read a [review of the report](#) by Tony Whitehead, a Dartmoor environmental campaigner.

Local Farming Soil Health Initiative

Holbeton Parish Council is providing financial support for a local farming group, the Erme to Yealm Farmer Cluster. This group includes the great majority of the farmed area in the parish.

They are looking at ways to improve soil quality with a regenerative approach to managing farm soils with an external facilitator. As part of this they are getting leading regenerative farmer and advisor to the King, Regen Ben to undertake extended soil sample tests from each of 15 participating farms and provide an in person soil health workshop.

This will allow a more individually tailored approach for each farm, with the expectation of improved carbon sequestration and biodiversity, and

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reduced water runoff from farm land with improved water quality in the River Erme.

Different farming practices have very different carbon footprints. For dairy and beef herds there can be an overall net carbon sequestration, thanks to the amount of carbon dioxide uptake by plants' photosynthesis.



The UK Impact carbon footprint tool shows for our parish an annual territorial based carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) output of 4,747 tons, representing 40% of Holbeton parish's calculated output, the largest single contributor.

This is calculated from the amount of farmed land in the parish and an apportionment from the national figures for farming activity. It does not reflect local farming practices. What it does do is to show the potential for farming to contribute to carbon reduction within the parish.

The group are also working on large scale biodiversity mapping projects with Exeter University to see where interventions to enhance biodiversity would be most beneficial and connect at a landscape level.

It is really good to see our local farmers coming together to look at improving their sustainability where possible. We hope to have a progress report next summer.

Tip of The Month

How to reduce your smartphone's carbon footprint... easily

Computers and mobile phones between them create the equivalent of 1.5% of the world's carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) emissions. Did you know that, including the internet, computers contribute 3.7% of all global CO₂e emissions, equivalent to all the airlines together.

An increasing contributor to this are smartphones (quite apart from the rare elements that go into them).

According to researchers from McMaster University in Canada, the carbon emissions linked to smartphone use have grown so much that they now dwarf the emissions contributed by PCs or laptops. The actual figures?

Globally, they've gone from 17 to 125 million tons of CO₂e per year in the decade from 2010 to 2020, a 730% increase!

Most of the carbon emissions from a smartphone are during manufacture. Apple state that the production cost of an iPhone 12 Pro is 82kg of CO₂e. This represents 86% of its overall emissions, with our usage contributing just 15%.

This being the case, the most eco friendly approach, short of not owning one, is to ensure that the phone continues to be used for as long as possible.



A smartphone currently has an average life span of 2 years 7 months. Only 1% of smartphones currently get recycled! Many factors affect a smartphone's lifespan, including the condition of the screen, the hardware, and the

battery's health. We should be aiming for a life span of at least 5 years, ideally longer.

Phone plans that encourage users to get a new smartphone every two years accelerate the rate at which older models become obsolete and leads to an extraordinary and unnecessary amount of waste.

Since the end of 2021 all smartphones sold in the UK must be unlocked, making them easier to pass on to someone else.

So, the environmental tip of this month is to extend the life of your phone either by continuing to use it for longer, making sure that you give or sell your perfectly good phone when you feel you must have the next model, or even buy a second hand phone... **and take good care of your smartphone!**

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Thermographic imaging for your home is now here!

Reduce heat loss from your home **COMFORT**

Reduce Fuel Bills **SAVINGS**

Reduce Fossil Fuel use **SUSTAINABILITY**

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Now that we are equipped and trained we'd really welcome you to get in touch with us, and we'll be in touch to arrange a visit.

We are able to help you see the areas worth considering taking action on. We'll also point you towards sources of information and advice regarding insulation and thermal efficiency. For some people there are grants available to assist in improvements.

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Yealm Community Energy has completed community ownership of 3 local solar farms

Yealm Community Energy is delighted to confirm successful ownership of 3 local solar farms at Newton Downs, Creacombe and Marlands. We would like to express our gratitude to all those of you in the local parishes that invested to make community ownership a reality. We really could not have achieved the purchase without your commitment to the project.

We will now be turning our attention to the operational governance of running the farms. We now have assets worth over £13 million to manage. A significant part of the project is the Community Benefit Fund and we will be launching the next funding round in February 2024.

YCE now need new directors to strengthen the team and carry the vision forward in the years ahead. If you are interested in joining for the next phase of the project, and have time to commit, do contact us on info@yealmenergy.co.uk

We have a new website courtesy of a grant from Power to Change. Do have a look and keep up to date with YCE news. www.yealmenergy.co.uk

Thank you for helping YCE unlock a substantial and lasting legacy for our local parishes and future generations.

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