

Chapter 1

Introduction and Background

1.1 Preamble

1.1.1 The NP represents the community's vision and priorities for how we would like to see the local area change in the coming years. In doing so, it sets out our local planning policies which will be considered, as and when any proposals for development come forward in the Parish.

1.1.2 The NP is not intended to cover every issue identified as being important to the community. It has a focus on responding to proposals for development and the appropriate use of land. It puts the community in the driving seat when it comes to having a say over what, how and where development should take place in situations where planning permission is required.

1.1.3 The NP covers the period from 2026 to 2034. We recognise that our Plan is a response to the needs and aspirations of the local community as understood today and current challenges and concerns are likely to change over the NP period. Lamerton Parish Council, as the Qualifying Body, will be responsible for monitoring for effectiveness and considering if circumstances have changed.

1.1.4 LPC as the Qualifying Body confirms that: -

- i. the NP relates only to the Parish of Lamerton and to no other area;
- ii. it relates only to the Designated Plan Area. By agreement with Dartmoor National Parks Authority (DNPA), the area of the parish excluded from the Designated Area will be governed by their Planning Authority (see Consultation Document Part 1 Appendices 1.c.i and 1.c.ii).
- iii. it is the only Plan in the approved designated area. No other Plan exists nor is in development for all or part of the designated area.
- iv. The NP does not deal with excluded development.

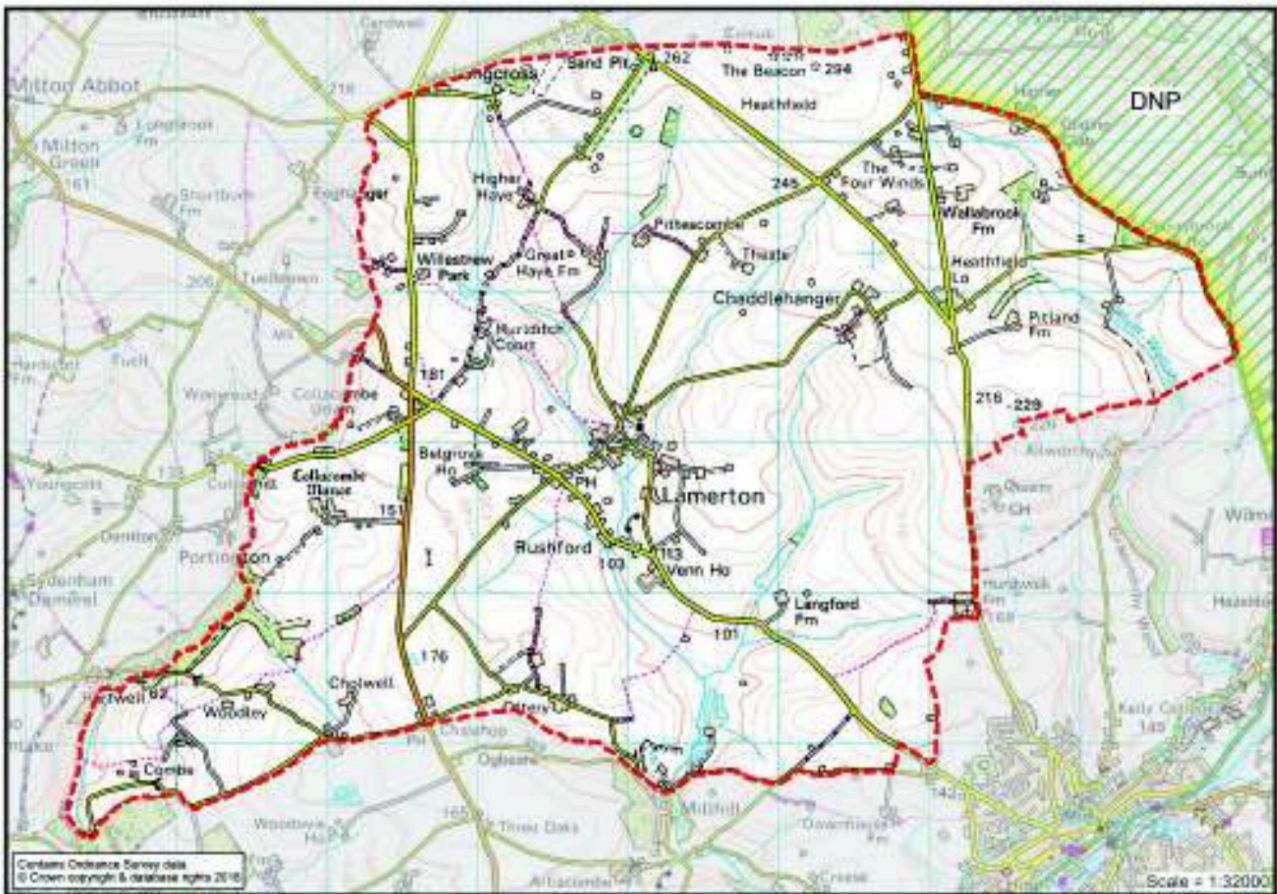
1.1.5 The NP and its policies reflect our Parish's characteristics and the ambitions of our community. There were no specific issues that the community was united in a desire to deliver through community led projects so this Plan does not include such aspirations.

1.2 Neighbourhood Plan designated area

1.2.1 Lamerton is a rural parish, and faces issues of limited public transport, reliance on car ownership, limited facilities, rural isolation, a local primary school with limited capacity, and concern about potentially inappropriate development and the impact on the environment.

1.2.2 In accordance with part 2 of the Regulations, application for designation of a plan area was made to WDBC; this was published and advertised for a 6-week consultation period, and approved on 19th October 2015. The area encompasses all of the Parish with the exception of the area within Dartmoor National Park to the NE.

Fig. 1 Lamerton Designated Plan Area (red line denotes boundary of area)



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1.2.3 The community, in January 2016, indicated a desire to have a voice in the local development that will occur in the decades ahead by supporting the creation of a Plan. Work commenced with the formation of the NPSG.

1.2.4 This version of the NP has been produced by the NPG constituted under Terms of Reference agreed by LPC in 2021 (as amended). The Group comprises members of the Parish Council with the majority being community volunteers working for, and on behalf of, the Parish Council and its parishioners.

1.3 Community engagement and consultation

1.3.1 The NP has been developed from the views of local people, businesses, community organisations including young people of primary school age and above. Views have been gathered using a variety of different consultation approaches; as much of the initial evidence from the first 4 years of development of the NP (2016 -2020) was considered out of date, the Group has, since 2023, held regular public evening meetings (subject to Locality funding).

1.3.2 Consultations have taken place through a survey conducted using a questionnaire (March 2023), including an online version available through Survey Monkey, a public face-to-face event (November 2023) held at the Community Centre (again with online versions available), regular updates through the Parish Council quarterly newsletter, through regular NPG Reports to Council put on the website, a dedicated email address and website “*contact us*” option. Events have been posted on the public notice board specifically for Neighbourhood Plan matters, as well as notified by newsletter and mail drops hand delivered to every household in the parish, and posters in prominent locations, and through email circulation to those joining the mailing list.

1.3.3 In addition to the resident’s consultation, a wide range of stakeholders were invited to give their views and share insights. Local businesses were asked to complete either a paper-based survey or respond online. With the assistance of the primary school, an event was held involving children in the 5 - 11 age group to encourage them to express their views of the place they live.

1.3.4 An independent housing needs survey, with questionnaires delivered to every household in the parish was commissioned from Devon Communities Together in 2021. The full results of the survey are included in Appendix IV of this document and more detail of the consultative process appears in Appendix I.