



Dartmoor Headwaters:

# Walkhampton Natural Flood Management

Westcountry Rivers Trust  
Project Report

June 2021

This report is an output of the Dartmoor Headwaters Natural Flood Management Project – Walkhampton Black Brook Element. The project was delivered by Westcountry Rivers Trust in collaboration with Dartmoor National Park Authority and the Environment Agency.

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The Westcountry Rivers Trust is an environmental charity (Charity no. 1135007, Company no. 06545646) established in 1995 to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of the rivers, streams, watercourses and water impoundments in the Westcountry and to advance the education of the public in the management of water.



The Walkhampton Black Brook NFM pilot project was funded by the Environment Agency and forms part of the Dartmoor Headwaters Natural Flood Management Project led by Dartmoor National Park Authority and the Environment Agency.



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# Summary Foreword

A Natural Flood Management (NFM) pilot project using SCIMAP modelling, wet weather walkovers, drone overflights and VESS soil surveys to ascertain potential flood sources and pathways that contribute to high flows of the Black Brook that can flood domestic properties in Walkhampton Village. The project has developed and installed bespoke, novel trial NFM interventions using local materials and local labour, with the aim of slowing these high flows.

These interventions, wherever possible, have then been monitored and modelled using HEC-RAS to quantify the flow attenuations.

Working within Dartmoor National Park on common and private land, a high level of stakeholder engagement was required for permissions and support to undertake surveys and implement interventions. Without this local stakeholder engagement, the project would not have been able to take place.

This project has been as much about communication, engagement and building social capital with local stakeholders as about surveys and trialling natural flood management interventions.



## Acknowledgements

The project team is most grateful to Joseph Hess Ltd on behalf of Maristow Estate for their understanding, support and permissions as owner of Walkhampton Common and much of the farmland in the catchment.

Graham Colton of J N Colton & Sons requires special thanks for positively engaging with the WRT Project Officer on such contentious issues as Dartmoor hill farming, flood management and Dartmoor Commons and in-by-land management. His open mindedness and local knowledge combined with his willingness to support the project made much of the achieved interventions possible.

David Landick, Secretary of Walkhampton Commoners Association was pivotal in relaying the project proposals to all of the Commoners, as was Richard Glanville with Walkhampton Parish Council. WRT are thankful for their assistance.

Thanks to Janet Jones of Welltown Cottage for allowing monitoring time lapse camera and stilling depth gauge to be installed in her garden through which the Black Brook flows.

Gratitude to Lee Bray DNPA Archaeologist for his interest and understanding of the potential interventions and the foresight to commission the required archaeological surveys so that all parties involved in the project were aware of the heritage assets, their significance and value and their location in relation to the proposed project intervention areas.

Kerry Smith of DNPA provided invaluable support and source of knowledge for all things Dartmoor and National Parks. When events seemed to be going the wrong way and obstacles appeared insurmountable, it was Kerry who provided the Project Officer with much appreciated counsel.

Final thanks to Tom Dauben and Rob Newton of the Environment Agency for their faith in the WRT Project Officer's intervention proposals and their support to continue work through the Covid 19 restrictions.

**Martin Harmer**

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