

Appendix 1: Examples of Baseline Data

Appendix 2: Moorland Fringe

Moorland Fringe

- 1.1 Moorland Fringe was not judged to be a Landscape Type in its own right, rather an area of land on the edge of *Open Moorland* (either inside or outside of the *Open Moorland* boundary) that was judged to be in a state of flux or transition (due to its past or present management and overall condition) resulting in the confusion and weakening of landscape character. This means there are areas that could lose their moorland character completely without much intervention (e.g. through cumulative, gradual improvement of soils) and, conversely, areas that could potentially return to having a distinct *Open Moorland* character, once again, without the need for significant management efforts.
- 1.2 Exmoor National Park Authority believes it is important that these areas are identified so that suitable measures can be developed for their future management. It may for example be deemed appropriate to attempt heather or grass moorland restoration that could see the reconnection of currently fragmented and disconnected moorland areas.
- 1.3 Although the mapping of Moorland Fringe has been very much based on perceptual judgments in the field (and the use of aerial photography), there are some general principles or defining characteristics that can be applied to help identify them:
 - Areas where the land has been improved for pasture but where moorland vegetation is re-establishing itself (due to reduced grazing for example). This creates a irregular patchwork effect where muted hues of the moorland vegetation jars with bright green improved pastures.
 - Pockets of land that have not been subjected to improvement (typically areas that are difficult to access e.g. steep slopes) but which are surrounded by areas of improved pasture; and

- Moorland that has been enclosed, typically with post and wire fencing, and used for more intensive grazing (improved farmland but without the traditional hedge bank boundary structures).

1.4 It is intended that this initial Moorland Fringe work be taken forward in the future to include further information and evidence (such as historic land use change) for a more detailed, integrated Moorland Fringe study.

1.5 The Moorland Fringe area has been mapped and overlain with the Landscape Character Map (**Figure 8**).