

Written submission to: **HOUSE OF COMMONS AGRICULTURE BILL COMMITTEE 2020**

Regarding: **Supplementary Information to Written Evidence AB01**

From Key Dartmoor Stakeholders

Re: Public Payment for Public Goods: Semi-wild Dartmoor Hill Pony herds

March 2020

We wish to support and endorse the written evidence AB48 submitted to the Committee by Professor Nigel Maxted (University of Birmingham) and Mr Julian Hosking (UK Plant Genetic Resources Group, former member of DEFRA Farm Animal Genetic Resources Committee).

One part of our submission (AB01) explains the need for current support for UK native Breeds to be widened to include Semi-wild populations such as Dartmoor's genetically-rare, native Dartmoor Hill Pony herds – see AB01 sections 5b) and 5c).

The written evidence AB48 explores in detail the larger argument for the Agriculture Bill to widen the support for genetic diversity to include breed/crop wild relatives. It explains how the wording of the Bill and selected amendments allow for this.

Applying the proposed principles of AB48 to Dartmoor further confirms the need to preserve the rare genetics of the Dartmoor Hill Pony by providing in-situ support in the first instance, with an ex-situ strategy to be implemented subsequently. Our submission argues that in-situ support can be provided by recognising our region's semi-wild pony herds as a Public Good, attracting public payment.

As explained in the Conclusion of AB01, Dartmoor Commoners' Associations have agreed a contract outlining the services they will provide to conserve the region's semi-wild pony herds in return for financial support. We would like to be included in ELM Tests and Trials (suggest CLA) in order to dovetail this proposed scheme with other proposed ELM management and funding on UK upland commons.