

Recreational Events Policy

Dartmoor National Park Authority, Dartmoor Commoners' Council and Dartmoor Common Land Owners' Association

1 Dartmoor Event Notification system

1(a) All events of over 50 people on foot, or 30 horses or cyclists, must be assessed through the Dartmoor Event Notification System before the event takes place.

The Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) administers this system which is supported by the Dartmoor Common Land Owners Association and the Dartmoor Commoners' Council. The details of the event will be passed to the landowner(s) and the local commoners.

1(b) All events must be notified to DNPA no less than eight weeks prior to the event.

- If the event is not notified to the Authority within the timeframe, DNPA, landowners and commoners **will not** support the event going ahead;
- Events **should not** be advertised before notifying and having support of DNPA and the relevant landowner(s);
- Event organisers **will be required** to use an agreed format for presenting maps and information.

1(c) The event will be assessed against a set of criteria including:

- Impact on farming operations and other businesses
- Ecological and environmental impacts
- Archaeology
- Path condition and erosion
- Potential impacts on other visitors (e.g. parking)
- Clashes with other events and number of events using the area/routes
- Timing of events
 - The moorland lambing, calving, foaling and main bird breeding season is 1 March to 31 July - this is when sheep, cattle, ponies and ground nesting birds are most prone to disturbance. During this season we will not normally support events involving more than 50 people on foot or 30 horses or cyclists (unless confined to hard, wide tracks with dogs on leads).
 - We will not normally support events on Bank Holiday weekends to avoid congestion and conflict with other users.

1(d) All events will be passed to the relevant Safety Advisory Group (SAG).

The SAG looks at events from a Health and Safety perspective and the overall planning of the event. They will expect to see:

- an Event Management Plan;
- a risk assessment; and

- the appropriate level of public liability insurance for the event.
 - All event organisers are advised to have public liability insurance for their event to a minimum value of £10 million.
 - Should a landowner have an alternative requirement they will notify the event organiser; either directly or via the DNPA.

1(e) Event organisers will be advised if their event is:

- Supported
- Supported with conditions
- Not supported (event organisers will be given an explanation if their event is not supported).

1(f) Organisers may be asked to postpone their event or implement a “plan B” if ground conditions are such that damage is likely to be caused (organisers will be notified from the outset if the DNPA or landowner feels this is necessary).

2 Well Managed Events

2(a) All event organisers will be required to sign a Code of Conduct for Events and provide a monitoring report at the end of each event. A feedback form will be provided to the event organiser if the event is supported.

2(b) All event organisers will be required to attend an annual briefing session as a pre-requisite to support from the DNPA, landowners and commoners.

2(c) If an event organiser cannot attend the annual briefing they will be required to watch a film that covers the event notification process, what to consider when organising and running an event and how to minimise impacts to farmers and local communities.

2(d) **Dogs** – Event organisers should discourage dogs at their events. If they are allowed the event organiser will need to outline clear reasons why this is appropriate and clarify how dogs will be managed during the event. Dogs will not be allowed on running, cycling and horse-riding events.

3 Night Events

There will be a presumption against all night events on Dartmoor, whatever the size. Events will be considered on a case by case basis and be dependent on the level of anticipated impact, including disturbance to stock, wildlife and local communities. For a night event to be supported it must have full support from all consultees.

4 Admin Fee and Donate for Dartmoor

For large and/or very complex events, requiring a lot of officer time, the Authority reserves the right to charge an administration fee. Landowners reserve the right to charge a fee for land use (where applicable) and administration at their discretion.

All event organisers are expected to support Donate for Dartmoor, details of which are available at www.dartmoor.gov.uk/donate. Donations will be used to help maintain Dartmoor's network of footpaths and bridleways and to support conservation projects on the moor.

5 Monitoring of Events

A selection of events will be monitored by National Park staff and/or by local farmers/commoners and common land owners, with a particular focus placed on sensitive sites and routes. Monitoring information will be shared with the event organiser and if issues arise, support for future events by the same organiser may be withheld.

Ten Tors – an exception to this policy

The Ten Tors expedition has taken place on Dartmoor since 1960. There are many challenging walks in Britain today, but Ten Tors is still the only event catering solely for young people. Its original aim to encourage participation from all backgrounds is still important today. Many young participants will remember the event with pride for the remainder of their lives and for some it can be a life-changing experience.

The event does not fit with the policy outlined above due to its timing in the middle of May. Many discussions have been held about the possibility of moving the date but it does not work with the school calendar.

The event organisers work closely with the National Park Authority, landowners and farmers to ensure that the event is well managed and has minimal impact on breeding birds, lambing and the environment. The routes are periodically reviewed to ensure that the physical impact on Dartmoor's landscape is minimised.

The event is closely monitored and the young participants together with their supervisors are made fully aware of the sensitive and fascinating environment that they are exploring. On balance, it is regarded that the event provides a positive contribution to Dartmoor for the benefits that it offers to young people - the future ambassadors for this special place.

Charter for Recreational Events on Dartmoor

Checklist	Completed
I have attended a DNPA briefing session and/or watched the online video	
I have read and understood the Guidance for Event organisers	
I have submitted my event to DNPA at least eight weeks in advance of the date of the planned event	
I have not advertised my event prior to the support of DNPA and landowners	
My promotional material includes a link to the DNPA website and I will ask all participants to watch and/or read the content relating to Dartmoor's special qualities and land management	
I have provided a detailed map using the on-line mapping tool. I will respond in a timely manner to requests for further information	
I have selected routes that are acceptable to DNPA, landowners and commoners and are not subject to undue wear or disturbance	
I have identified appropriate car parking, toilets and an event centre	
If allowing dogs on the event, I have outlined in my application how they will be managed	
I will support the local economy promoting local businesses for accommodation, food and drink. I will use local suppliers for any services or goods (including local food and drink) provided for the event	
I am responsible for the health and safety of my event and participants. I have completed a risk assessment (and Event Management Plan if appropriate)	
I have public liability insurance to a minimum level of £10m. I will provide a completed indemnity form if requested to do so by the landowner or DNPA as applicable	
I will provide the appropriate number of marshals to ensure that the event runs smoothly and to minimise disturbance	
Any agreed route markers, signs and other temporary infrastructure will be non-toxic and non-permanent, they will be erected no more than 24 hours before the event takes place and removed no longer than 24 hours after the event	
I will brief all participants at the start of the event, highlighting key issues	
I will ensure all litter is removed from the route immediately after the event	
I will provide feedback to DNPA about the number of participants and any issues that arose on the day. I will provide before and after photographs of the start and finish of the event	
I will provide a donation equivalent to at least £2 per participant for the Donate for Dartmoor scheme.	