



Planning Advisory Note – Field Shelters

October 2018

This note offers some guidance about the need for planning permission for field shelters within Dartmoor National Park.

Does a Field Shelter need planning permission?

Field shelters are structures designed to provide shelter for grazing animals. Some are designed to be permanently sited in one location, perhaps with a concrete base and a water supply; others are designed to be moveable, with 'skids' to make movement easier.

As a general rule, planning permission IS required to erect or site a field shelter on land, although a field shelter used by grazing animals on agricultural land may be permitted development, provided that a 'prior notification' application is sent to the planning authority BEFORE the field shelter is put in place.

What about a mobile Field Shelter?

Whether 'mobile' or not, field shelters are likely to require planning permission. The key test is whether the structure constitutes "development" as defined by planning law. The fact that a field shelter is capable of being moved is not an automatic exemption from the need for planning permission. Even if a field shelter is moved around a field from time to time, the correct legal test is that of "*permanence in the landscape*". Periodic changes to the position of a structure in a field are unlikely to alter its visual and landscape impact.

Further Advice

Further advice that may assist when considering buying or applying for a field shelter can be found in the Authority's '[Design Guide](#)' which has sections on new agricultural and equestrian development. Please note however that the bullet point referring to temporary, moveable structures on page 54 has been superseded by this advice note.

All of the Authority's planning documents, including the Development Plan and Design Guide, are available to view on our website at:

www.dartmoor.gov.uk/localplan

Alternatively, the Authority does provide a 'planning advice' service for which there is a small fee; details again are available on the website at:

www.dartmoor.gov.uk/living-and-working/planning/planning-advice