



Wales Expedition Network

2018 Season Report – Leaders

DofE.org

Introduction

The DofE Expedition season in Wales has been a busy one with more groups than ever before visiting one of the three Wild Country Areas which we manage from the DofE Office in Wales. Thank you for your part in making these expeditions successful for your young people.

In this report we have pulled together a summary of the years activity along with some other information. We hope that you find it useful but would be happy to receive any feedback either on the report or regarding our service to you over the year.

We have received a small number of complaints and issues this year. The small number we have received relate to; litter, gates left open, groups going off the paths across private land and going through harvest crop fields.

We would like to reduce these issues again next season and encourage groups to follow these basic principles:

Respect the interests of other people:

Acting with courtesy, consideration and awareness is very important. Respect the privacy, safety and livelihoods of those living or working in the outdoors, and the needs of other people enjoying the outdoors.

Care for the environment: Look after the places you visit and enjoy, and leave the land as you find it.



Quality and standards

Some issues have been highlighted by Leaders with regards to the quality and standards of expeditions being run across the UK. Licensed Organisations, Assessors and Supervisors are reminded of the 20 conditions to ensure that DofE standards are being adhered to. See [DofE.org/20conditions](https://www.dofe.org/20conditions).

Just a reminder that there is an updated Green form following GDPR, this can be found at: [DofE/expedition-downloads](https://www.dofe.org/expedition-downloads). The Green Form must be submitted electronically four weeks before the expedition with a map of the route. **If it is not received within this timeframe a notification number will not be issued.**

Access issues

Worlds End Estate, North Wales: this is private land which is being used as a base for DofE groups. The landowner is requesting that groups avoid using it as a meeting point/car park and we request that groups who are undertaking their DofE kindly co-operate.



Bronze expedition changes

Following the success of the trial, we've introduced a number of permanent changes to Bronze-level programmes – ready for LOs to make the most of during the 2019 expedition season.

We believe that offering greater flexibility in the 20 conditions for the Bronze Expedition section will help LOs meet the growing demand for participation in DofE programmes with the resources available to them without having a detrimental impact on the outcomes for young people. It will also make the DofE more attractive to young people – particularly for those who are put off by the idea of camping. These flexibilities include:

1: Indoor accommodation

Although indoor accommodation has always been an option for all Award levels, we'll be raising LOs' awareness of this option for Bronze level expeditions. This is to ensure that any Bronze DofE groups who can benefit from this flexibility, especially SEN groups, are encouraged to take it up.

2: Leader-set generic aim

Participants will be able to decide if they'd like to come up with their own aim for their Bronze level expedition or to have a generic aim set by their Leader or Expedition Supervisor. This will enable Leaders to give more support to Bronze DofE groups that are struggling to think of ideas or destinations, modes of travel and project themes.

3: No presentation

The presentation will no longer be a requirement for Bronze-level expeditions. However, Bronze DofE groups must still have an aim and there must be a thorough Assessor debrief at the end of the expedition to consolidate learning, which is supported by the Assessor debrief notes.

4: Combined Supervisor/Assessor

Bronze-level expeditions will be able to have one individual performing both the Supervisor and Assessor role. However, the individual performing both roles must be an accredited Assessor and have completed the DofE's EAAS course. They must also fulfil the LO's or AAP's requirements to supervise expeditions.

The Supported Assessment element of the EAAS course has been removed. The current EAAS course will continue, although a new course, which will contain the updated programme requirements and have more interactive elements, is being developed for 2020.

For more information, please see the Route to Accreditation and the updated EAAS/13 form.

5: No practice expedition

A practice expedition is no longer a requirement at Bronze level. However, participants are still expected to reach the skills and fitness levels appropriate for completing the remotely supervised, qualifying expedition.

The Bronze Training Framework has been updated to emphasise the need for participants to 'understand and demonstrate' specific skills before their qualifying expedition. It also includes some example methods of delivery to help Leaders and Expedition Supervisors.

Over the next few months, we'll be producing a set of expedition training resources to help Leaders and Supervisors run robust and creative training for their Bronze DofE groups.

We hope that by having a more positive experience of the great outdoors as a result of these changes, more young people will be motivated to continue their DofE experience by progressing to the Silver Award level.



2018: Snapshot of the expedition season

3,531 groups notified us they were going on wild country expeditions in Wales in 2018

TEAMS	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD
Number of qualifying expeditions received and assessed	0	13	121
Number of qualifying expeditions received and NOT Assessed by Network members	123	482	1,118
Number of practice expeditions notified	75	303	1,296
Total notifications received (including practice journeys)	198	798	2,535

Expedition areas



1,897 Beacons
193 Mid Wales
1,441 Snowdonia

Mode of transport

	Foot	3,506
	Cycling	9
	Canoe	13
	Horseback	3

121 Number of Assessors currently on the Wales Network

134 Number of expeditions assessed by the Network this season

38 Number of Assessors that assessed for the Network in 2018

18 Total assessments reached by one individual Assessor this year

932 groups' expeditions were delivered by AAPs 



July
was the record month with **1,097** groups going out



Over **100,000** hours in the hills



9,400 nights under canvas



21 complaints