

A photograph of two canoes with four people paddling on a river, passing under a large stone bridge. The scene is set in a lush, green forest. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The canoes are in the foreground, and the bridge spans across the background. The water is calm, reflecting the surrounding greenery.

Wales Expedition Network

2019 Season Report – Leaders

DofE.org

Introduction

Another busy expedition season for the DofE in Wales, with over 3,500 groups visiting our Wild Country Areas. 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 year's activity along with some other information, we hope that you find it useful.

Whilst we know that the vast majority of groups do not cause any issues, we've received an increase in the number of complaints again this year, relating to litter, gates left open, groups going off the paths across private land and going through harvest crop fields.

We'd like to reduce these issues next season and remind groups of 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 (printed opposite) to ensure that DofE standards are being adhered to.

[Download the revised 20 conditions here.](#)



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Hot spots/access issues

Over the season there are certain parts of Wales which are very popular for groups, please consider this and give extra consideration to landowners in these areas:

Newcourt Farm, Brecon Beacons

Newcourt Farm is a popular base for training and expeditions. There are a limited number of routes into and out of the camp site, some pass through or are close to properties and all pass through farmland where there is potential to meet livestock. Please ensure groups are respectful to neighbouring landowners and follow the signs on the ground. Familiarise yourself with the routes around the camp site and make sure that you brief your young people appropriately.

Dan Y Mynydd (Newcourt Farm)

You will note that the small holding has three rights of way across the holding. On arrival at the property please follow the footpath straight across from the entrance. Leaders please do not park in the entrance and use it as a checkpoint.

Neuadd Fawr, Brecon Beacons

Please note the permitted changes by Brecon Beacons National Park Authority to the footpaths running near Neuadd Fawr Farm, Llanbedr which are well signposted on site.

Worlds End area, North of Llangollen

Private land should not be used for parking or other activities without the landowners permission. In this area we have received reports that some leaders have not co-operated with the landowner when being asked to move. The roads here are narrow and can get congested with large vehicles – avoiding checkpoints, drop offs and pick ups in this area would be advisable.

The 20 conditions of the Expedition section

DofE qualifying expedition conditions		
Planning the expedition	1	The team must plan and organise the expedition; all members of the team should be able to describe the role they have played in planning.
	2	The expedition must have an aim. The aim can be set by the Leader at Bronze level only.
	3	All participants must be within the qualifying age of the programme level and at the same Award level (i.e. not have completed the same or higher level of expedition).
	4	There must be between four and seven participants in a team (eight for modes of travel which have tandem)
	5	The expedition should take place in the recommended environment. <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; width: 30%;"> Bronze: Expeditions should be in normal rural countryside – familiar and local to groups. </div> <div style="border: 1px solid grey; padding: 5px; width: 30%;"> Silver: Expeditions should be in normal rural, open countryside or forest – unfamiliar to groups. </div> <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 5px; width: 30%;"> Gold: Expeditions should be in wild country (remote from habitation) which is unfamiliar to groups. </div> </div>
	6	Accommodation must be by camping or other simple self-catering accommodation (e.g. camping barns or bunkhouses).
	7	The expedition must be of the correct duration and meet the minimum hours of planned activity. <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; width: 30%;"> Bronze: A minimum of 2 days, 1 night; 6 hours planned activity each day. </div> <div style="border: 1px solid grey; padding: 5px; width: 30%;"> Silver: A minimum of 3 days, 2 nights; 7 hours planned activity each day. </div> <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 5px; width: 30%;"> Gold: A minimum of 4 days, 3 nights; 8 hours planned activity each day. </div> </div>
	8	All expeditions must be supervised by an adult (the Expedition Supervisor) who is able to accept responsibility for the safety of the team.
	9	Assessment must be by an accredited Assessor. At Bronze level only, the Assessor may also be the Expedition Supervisor.
	10	Expeditions will usually take place between the end of March and the end of October. They may take place outside this period, if so, non-camping accommodation options should be considered.
Training and practice	11	Participants must be adequately trained to safely undertake a remotely supervised expedition in the environment in which they will be operating. <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; width: 30%;"> Bronze: Teams must complete the required training. </div> <div style="border: 1px solid grey; padding: 5px; width: 30%;"> Silver: Teams must complete the required training and a practice expedition of a minimum 2 days, 2 nights. </div> <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 5px; width: 30%;"> Gold: Teams must complete the required training and a practice expedition of a minimum 2 days, 2 nights </div> </div>
During the expedition	12	All expeditions must be by the participants' own physical effort, without motorised or outside assistance. Mobility aids may be used where appropriate to the needs of the participant.
	13	All expeditions must be unaccompanied and self-sufficient. The team must be properly equipped, and supervision must be carried out remotely.
	14	Teams must possess the necessary physical fitness, first aid and expedition skills required to complete their expedition safely.
	15	Groups must adhere to a mobile phone use policy as agreed with their Expedition Supervisor and Assessor. This agreement should also include use of other electronic equipment.
	16	Participants must behave responsibly with respect for their team members, Leaders, the public and animals.
	17	Groups must understand and adhere to the Countryside /Scottish Outdoor Access, Highway and Water Sports Codes (as appropriate).
Post expedition	18	Participants must plan an appropriate expedition menu, including cooking and eating a substantial hot meal on each day. This is optional on the final day.
	19	Participants must actively participate in a debrief with their Assessor at the end of the expedition.
	20	At Silver and Gold level, a presentation must be prepared and delivered after the expedition.

2019: Snapshot of the expedition season

3,501 groups notified us they were going on wild country expeditions in Wales in 2019

TEAMS	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD
Number of qualifying expeditions received and assessed	0	10	98
Number of qualifying expeditions received and NOT Assessed by Network members	98	476	1,182
Number of practice expeditions notified	31	279	1,327
Total notifications received (including practice journeys)	129	765	2,607

Expedition areas



1,890 Beacons

200 Mid Wales

1,411 Snowdonia

Mode of transport

	Foot	3,462
	Cycling	5
	Canoe	31
	Horseback	3

98 Number of Assessors currently on the Wales Network

108 Number of expeditions assessed by the Network this season

39 Number of Assessors that assessed for the Network in 2019

1,198 groups' expeditions were delivered by AAPs



July

was the record month with **1,043** groups going out



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



9,480

nights under canvas