



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Exmoor Information Pack

Useful information for DofE groups visiting Exmoor National Park

Welcome

Please find below information that will be useful if you are planning on visiting Exmoor National Park as part of your DofE delivery.

If your query relates to your route or you would like specific advice on which areas of the National Park to visit, please contact the National Park directly:

Tim Parish, Park Ranger:

M: 07772 989934

E: tgparish@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

To find out more go to the Exmoor National Park website <https://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/>

The majority of DofE expeditions to Exmoor National Park are incident free, however we would like to remind all Expedition Supervisors of the need for groups to respect the environment, landowners and farmers who are working the land. There have been a number of instances of DofE groups leaving gates open, which has caused stress to both livestock and farmers.

Advice from Exmoor National Park and the request from landowners is for all DofE groups to **shut any open gates, unless they are securely tied open**. Please ensure all groups are aware of and follow this advice. Please also ensure all groups are aware of the difference of being on open access land or on public footpaths by highlighting the colour differences seen on a 1:25,000 map that differentiate between these two areas (white for farmland and yellow/brown for open access land).

Thank you for your support with this to ensure all visits to Exmoor, by DofE groups, are incident free and do not cause any issues for landowners or the National Park.

Assessment

Generally, Exmoor National Park is considered most suitable for Bronze and Silver Award levels because the 'wild-country' area is too small to accommodate a 4-day expedition. However, the suitability really depends on the group's abilities and whether a route is considered by the Supervisor and Licensed Organisation to be appropriately challenging.

All expeditions, including practice journeys, are to be supervised by an experienced adult who must accept responsibility for the safety of the group. He or she must be satisfied that the participants are fully trained and properly equipped to undertake the expedition planned.

Horse riding expeditions

Exmoor National Park provides wonderful opportunities for horse expeditions, the terrain is an exciting mix of quiet, traffic-free minor roads and many bridleways. Equestrians are able to mount challenging expeditions, far removed from simple rides.

The facilities are ideal in this horse friendly area and offers support by way of stabling and blacksmiths. In all cases routes are undulating and strenuous, demanding physical fitness and plenty of riding preparation.

It is also essential that riders in such lonely areas should be practically experienced and capable of coping with any problems using their own knowledge and must carry necessary equipment for most incidents.

Cycling expeditions

Exmoor National Park provides wonderful opportunities for cycle expeditions, the terrain is an exciting mix of quiet, traffic-free minor roads and many off-road tracks. Cyclists are able to mount challenging expeditions, far removed from simple touring.

The facilities are ready made for modern mountain bikes, but routes are negotiable on well-maintained road bikes with experienced riders. In all cases routes are undulating and strenuous, demanding physical fitness and plenty of riding preparation.

It is also essential that riders in such lonely areas should be practically experienced and capable of tackling most mechanical problems from their own skill and stock of spares and tools. There are, of course, very occasional garages/workshops in the area.

Cross-country cycling requires careful adherence to the 'Mountain Bike Code of Conduct' and a useful publication is *Cycling Off Road and the La* by Neil Horton, which is available from C.T.C. Shop, 89 Meadow, Godalming, GUY 3H8.

Ideas for expedition aims

Here is a list, which is not exhaustive, of possible ideas for expedition aims:

- Antiquities
- Craft
- Height & Vegetation
- Literature
- Ancient Sites
- Dry Stone Walling
- Industrial Archaeology
- Medieval Crosses
- Conservation
- Habitats
- Leisure & Tourism
- Photographic Record
- Rivers
- Villages
- Weather
- Woodland
- Bridges
- Gates and Stiles
- Land Utilisation
- Moorland Life
- Churches
- Geology
- Leats
- Art
- Flora and Fauna
- Land Formation
- Mines
- Reservoirs
- Settlements
- Waymarks
- Wildlife

Camp sites

Please refer to the Accommodation list on our website: DofE.org/run/expeditionareas/exmoor/

If your query has not been answered by this information sheet, please the South West Regional Office:

T: 01225 874354

E: southwest@DofE.org