



# DARTMOOR OPEN GOLD

## PARTICIPANTS NOTES PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

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*“If you can see Dartmoor, it’s going to rain. If you can’t, it’s raining!” (Anon)*

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### Dates

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2011

### Map

You need to bring a copy of *OS Explorer / Outdoor Leisure Map - Sheet 28 - Dartmoor (Scale: 1:25,000)*. Dartmoor’s weather is unpredictable; we suggest you choose a laminated (Aqua3 / TuffMap) version. You can buy discounted Ordnance Survey maps from [www.chasetrainingsolutions.co.uk/maps/opengold/](http://www.chasetrainingsolutions.co.uk/maps/opengold/).

### Base Camp

Your ‘base camp’ for the expedition will be at *Broadleas Camping and Training Centre, Haytor, Devon, TX13 9XS* | GR: SX 765 771 | <http://broadleas.boys-brigade.org.uk/>

### Travelling

You must arrange transport to and from ‘Broadleas’ (base camp).

*Please allow plenty of time to travel to Devon, as this time of year is a very popular holiday period and ALL approach routes are often extremely busy. Consequently, normal travelling times can be doubled!*

### Public Transport

If you choose to use public transport, you can be met at Newton Abbot Railway Station. Please ensure that you arrive no later than 1315hrs.

*You must inform the organiser no later than two weeks before the event if you require collecting.*

### Arrival

Your Assessors and Supervisors will meet with and introduce you to the week at 1400hrs on the Saturday. It is important you are punctual, as you will then be divided into your respective expedition teams to plan your expedition route and undertake your pre-expedition kit check.

### Expedition

Your expedition will commence early on the Monday morning and, all being well, conclude on Thursday afternoon.

### Departure

You will be able to leave base camp from approximately 1600hrs on the Friday. Those using public transport will be taken to Newton Abbot Railway Station. Return journey departures must be after 1700hrs.

## Early Withdrawal

If you withdraw, (or in exceptional circumstances, are withdrawn) from your expedition early, you will be required to arrange your own journey home, at your own cost, as soon as is reasonably practicable. Arrangements will be made to get you to Newton Abbot Railway Station if required. There is no provision for you to shadow the operational Assessors and Supervisors or remain at base camp.

## Cost Inclusions

Your payment covers the cost of administration, assessment and safety supervision, accommodation, campsite fees, meals from Saturday evening until the start of the expedition and Fridays breakfast and lunch. Indoor accommodation has been arranged for Saturday, Sunday and the following Thursday nights.

## Cost Exclusions

As a team, you must bring your own food with you for the duration of the expedition (Monday - Thursday). It is strongly recommended that team members arrange this prior to arriving at base camp.

*You will need a further £10 - £15 to cover the cost of a 'celebratory take-away meal' on the Thursday evening, giving you the opportunity to share your achievement with the other teams at base camp.*

## Insurance

The Boys' Brigade is the DofE Operating Authority for the Dartmoor Open Gold expedition. Whatever your organisation, you are covered by The Boys' Brigade's insurance policy whilst you are a participant.

## Training

You must have finished all the training detailed in the Gold Expedition Training Framework and completed the required number of practice journeys to prepare you for your expedition in a wild country area.

If you have previously trained on Dartmoor, your qualifying expedition route must be through different areas. You must ensure that you are physically fit enough to undertake such an expedition.

## Record Books / Welcome Packs

You must bring your Gold DofE Record Book, with all training and practice elements fully signed off. Alternatively, if you are using an eDofE Welcome Pack, you must bring printed evidence of your completed Expedition Training Framework that must be leader approved.

*Failure to bring the above may result in your non-participation of the expedition.*

## Team Numbers

As soon as all participants names are confirmed, they will be divided into teams of between 5 and 7. Each team member will be told the names and contact details of the other team members, allowing preliminary introductions to be carried out and to make plans for and the purchase of expedition food.

By registering on the Dartmoor Open Gold expedition, you are agreeing for your details to be shared in this way. As you would expect, no confidential information will be disclosed to other team members.

Every endeavour will be made to pair off participants in accordance with any requests received at the point of registration and to keep members from the same DofE Award Centre together. It may also be necessary to add individuals to existing teams, even if those teams are over the minimum number outlined by the DofE. Teams will be regionalised as far as possible.

## Equipment

In collaboration with your team, you must provide all your own equipment and food for the duration of the expedition. The DofE Operating Authority insuring you requires that you carry ALL items included on their equipment list as a minimum, no matter what your past experiences are. Exceptions cannot be made. You can download a copy from [www.chasetrainingsolutions.co.uk/opengold/equipment](http://www.chasetrainingsolutions.co.uk/opengold/equipment). This forms the basis of your pre-expedition check conducted with each team on the Saturday.

*We are unable to provide or loan out any equipment to you. Any missing items must be purchased or obtained prior to the commencement of your expedition.*

You should travel in your ordinary clothes, ensuring a set of dry clothing for the end of the expedition. You can leave all non-expedition clothes and equipment at base camp for the duration of your expedition.

If you use public transport, you should ensure the content of your bag(s) is waterproofed for the journey. It may be carried on a roof rack between the railway station and base camp, whatever the weather.

## Mobile Phones

*You cannot take a mobile phone on the expedition for any secondary purpose, including using as a camera, alarm clock or torch.*

In line with guidance given by the DofE in conjunction with the requirements of the insuring DofE Operating Authority, one fully charged mobile phone can be carried by your team during the expedition. Prior to starting the expedition, the battery will be separated from the handset and both parts sealed and signed by an Assessor.

The mobile phone should only be unsealed and used in the case of a serious accident or emergency. If your team uses the mobile phone, you must inform an Assessor or Supervisor at the earliest opportunity. An Assessor will decide if the nature of the incident warranted its use.

If this Assessor decides that your use of the mobile phone was justly sensible and wise, the handset will be resealed and your expedition allowed to carry on (if possible, subject to the nature of the incident).

However, if this Assessor decides that your use of the mobile phone was unjustifiable or avoidable, the validity of your expedition will be reviewed, as it is likely the DofE Qualifying Expedition Conditions will not have been met.

## Food

In accordance with the DofE Qualifying Expedition Conditions, you should cook and eat a substantial meal each day. As you are required to be self-sufficient, this food must be present at the beginning of your expedition and must be carried. You should have no need to go into shops during your expedition.

There will be the opportunity for a nominated team member to purchase perishable food items on behalf of their team prior to the start of your expedition. This is not an opportunity to purchase your entire weeks food, and must not be treated as such.

*Failure to observe this instruction may result in your non-participation of the expedition.*

## Familiarisation

You will undertake a short familiarisation walk with your team on the Sunday to ensure you adjust to the routine of outdoor living and adapt to the wild country environment in which your expedition will be undertaken. You will not be expected to plan this walk; the route will be provided for you.

## Route Planning

Expedition routes will be planned during the Saturday. Teams will be transported from base camp to their chosen start point and transported back upon completion.

Your team can choose to start and finish the expedition from either car park at:

*Dartmeet* GR: SX 672 733

*Newbridge Hill* GR: SX 712 711

Your team can choose to finish the expedition from an additionally third car park at:

*Hound Tor* GR: SX 739 791

Your planned expedition route should be approximately circular, either clockwise or anticlockwise, with the majority of the route lying within areas 1 and 2, as shown on the attached Dartmoor map.

Your team must not travel along any 'A' or 'B' class roads and not more than about 8 kilometres on any other roads. The extended use of long distance footpaths is not acceptable, but short sections may be used when it is necessary to link up two rights-of-way. Villages and populated areas must be avoided unless it is impossible to do so.

## Expedition Aim

In accordance with the DofE Qualifying Expedition Conditions, every expedition must have a clearly defined aim. This should relate to the interests and abilities of your team members and be based on practical, first-hand investigations and studies, decided after consulting with your fellow team members prior to arriving at base camp.

Once decided, your expedition route should be planned around your aim. It is suggested you discuss the aim with the Assessors and Supervisors at the beginning of your route planning to establish its suitability.

The Dartmoor National Park website ([www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk](http://www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk)) contains extensive information on the area. We suggest this would be a good place for you to start planning your aim.

## Expedition Route Conditions

Your expedition route must be planned in accordance with the DofE Qualifying Expedition Conditions. The most important points are shown below:

*Duration: 4 days and 3 nights*

*Planned activity: A daily daytime minimum of 8 hours*

- *time associated with catering and overnight accommodation is not part of the minimum daily planned activity*
- *teams should plan how they propose to spend the minimum daily planned activity which should be a combination of journeying and exploring*
- *on each day, at least half of the minimum daily planned activity should be spent journeying, with appropriate rest breaks*
- *teams who choose to use most of their minimum daily planned activity for journeying must still make observations and recordings for their review and presentation*
- *teams undertaking journeying expeditions should aim to achieve a total distance of between 80 km to 96 km*

## Campsites

Wherever possible, the Dartmoor Expedition Network actively encourages teams to wild camp on unenclosed moorland, keeping within the general ethos of the DofE.

In short, you must not camp on moorland enclosed by walls, anywhere within sight of a road or house, in reservoir catchment areas, on very small commons or in areas that are used heavily for informal recreation. Camping within forests and on Forestry Commission land is dangerous and will not be allowed.

*Without exception, any team found to have set up camp in these areas will be moved to a more appropriate location, whatever the time and weather conditions.*

We recommend the use of the following, pleasant, wild campsites:

<i>Bray Tor Brook</i>	<i>SX 532 857</i>
<i>Nodden Gate</i>	<i>SX 532 862</i>
<i>Sherberton Farm</i>	<i>SX 646 733</i>

<i>Metherall Brook</i>	<i>SX 676 839</i>
<i>Nuns Cross</i>	<i>SX 606 698</i>
<i>Teignhead Farm</i>	<i>SX 635 843</i>

Other farm based sites where camping is permitted are:

<i>Beardown Farm</i>	<i>SX 602 753</i>
<i>Dury Farm</i>	<i>SX 661 779</i>
<i>Frenchbeer Farm</i>	<i>SX 674 858</i>
<i>Lanehead</i>	<i>SX 542 823</i>
<i>Runnage Farm</i>	<i>SX 668 791</i>
<i>Tor Royal Farm</i>	<i>SX 601 732</i>

<i>Cross Furzes</i>	<i>SX 699 668</i>
<i>East Okement Farm</i>	<i>SX 605 913</i>
<i>Huccaby Farm</i>	<i>SX 664 731</i>
<i>Moortown Farm</i>	<i>SX 664 891</i>
<i>Sheepstor</i>	<i>SX 560 676</i>

You are not limited to using only these campsites. You must discuss alternative locations you consider suitable with the Assessors and Supervisors at an early stage of planning for authorisation.

## Precautions

### Drinking Water

Water below habitation may be polluted by sewage. Animals often die in the water and they foul it. All stream water must be boiled (and allowed to cool if necessary) prior to drinking.

Water purification tablets or droplets may be used as an alternative to boiling water when extracted from high upland streams in wild country. Avoid this method if you are susceptible to infection.

Only take water from natural flowing sources or a tap. Avoid water from stagnant pools.

### Night Time

Should your team get benighted and unable to reach the planned campsite safely, it is advisable to locate a suitable 'wild' campsite on the moor and camp until daylight, before progressing on the planned route.

## Review & Presentation

Teams must prepare and present a verbal debrief and review of their expedition, related to the aim, to the Assessors and Supervisors and other teams, on the Friday after completion of the expedition.

Exploring expeditions require a considerable amount of preparation and additional work after the expedition and the Assessors will discuss this with teams prior to the start.

## Military / Army Ranges

A large part of Dartmoor's remotest moorland contains three designated military training areas (ranges), as outlined on Ordnance Survey maps of the area, shared with other moorland users. Your team may experience troops carrying out dry training with blank ammunition and pyrotechnics. They will be considerate to yourselves and other moorland users.

*The entire duration of your expedition is designated as a non-live firing period, thus it is quite safe to enter the 'Danger Area' of all ranges.*

*Do not touch any military debris - it may be dangerous. If you encounter any suspicious objects, mark the area, note the grid reference / location and inform an Assessor or Supervisor, the Training Area Commandant on 01837 650010, or the local police on 08705 777444.*

More detailed information can be viewed at [www.dartmoor-ranges.co.uk](http://www.dartmoor-ranges.co.uk)

## Questions

Hopefully all your questions will have been answered here. Further assistance can be sought from [www.chasetrainingsolutions.co.uk/opengold/](http://www.chasetrainingsolutions.co.uk/opengold/) or by contacting the expedition organiser directly.

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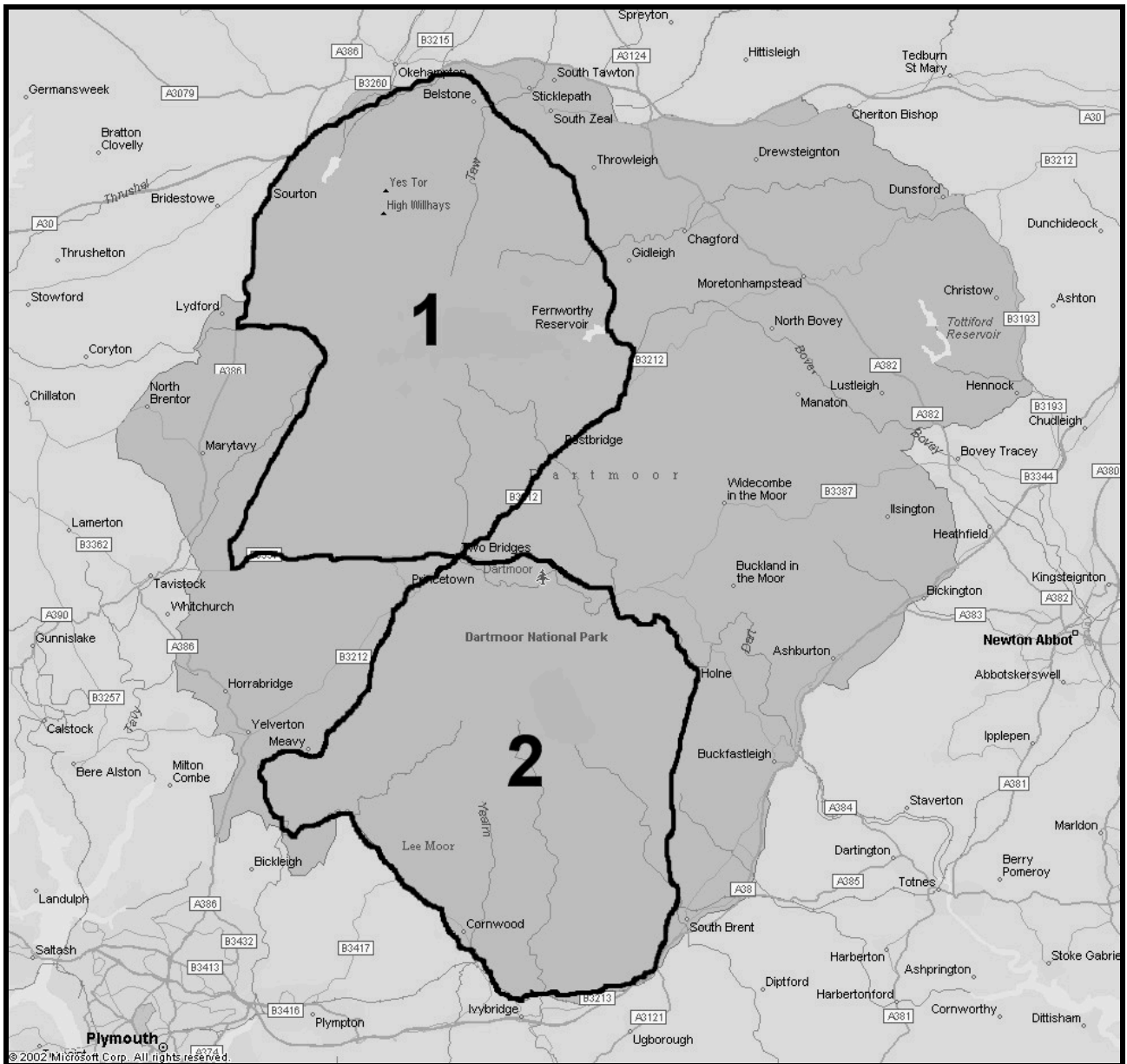
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***If you register for the expedition, don't forget to bring a copy of these notes with you.***

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## Recommended Expedition Areas



### Please Note

You should plan the majority of your route within areas 1 and 2 (this being the wildest part of the Moor).

*V3.4c (06/11/DR)*

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