

Dartmoor has been in continuous use for military training for well over 100 years; it was also used for training during the Napoleonic Wars almost 200 years ago. Okehampton Camp was built in 1893. More recently, in 1951, Dartmoor's unique character was recognised through its designation as a National Park.

Training Need And Management On Dartmoor. The Armed Forces train on Dartmoor to experience the extensive, remote, rugged moors and the changeable weather. It provides some of the most challenging training environments in which to hone their skills in the UK. Such training helps to develop self-confidence, trust in colleagues and equipment, and inspire the qualities of team work and leadership that instil and maintain operational effectiveness on the modern battlefield.

Since 1976, the MoD has worked closely with the National Park Authority, English Nature, now Natural England, English Heritage and other bodies to ensure that the interests of each one are reconciled with the aspirations and responsibilities of the others.

Military use of Dartmoor is guided by a statutory responsibility to have regard for the National Park's purposes of conservation and public access. Armed Forces personnel are taught and encouraged to understand and care for Dartmoor's landscape and its natural and historic environment.



Working with natural environments can help Armed Forces personnel to live, fight and survive. They are also taught to be considerate of others with whom they share Dartmoor. The Environmental Management System used for Dartmoor Training Area and an Integrated Land Management Plan describing how the military manages its responsibilities on Dartmoor is on the website (www.dartmoor-ranges.co.uk).

There is a presumption in favour of public access wherever this is compatible with operational and military training use, public safety, security, conservation and agricultural interests. Range danger areas are only closed for live firing. Guaranteed public access periods have been agreed within the Dartmoor Steering Group and six weeks notice is now given of the live firing programme; any cancellations are announced promptly.

The contribution made by the South West region to the defence of the UK has relied heavily on Dartmoor; in return the MoD makes a considerable contribution to the socio-economic wellbeing of the region. The Armed Forces personnel, who depend on Dartmoor as an area where they can develop their operational skills in a challenging and demanding environment, are grateful for your support.



From 8 Oct 07 the Environmental Appraisal will be available on:

www.dartmoor-ranges.co.uk

Send your comments to:

postmaster@dartmoor-ranges.co.uk

Or write to:

SO2 Environmental Protection, Dartmoor Project, Headquarters Defence Training Estate, Land Warfare Centre, Warminster, Wiltshire, BA12 0DJ

Multimedia Centre, Warminster Oct 07

PUBLIC INFORMATION LEAFLET



DEFENCE ESTATES
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Dartmoor - Environmental Appraisal

The MoD's principal licence to train on the Dartmoor Training Area expires in 2012. In order to ensure that the Armed Forces can maintain their high state of operational readiness, without interruption, an extensive process of study, review and public consultation prior to re-negotiation has been taking place.

This leaflet explains the process of study, review and public consultation, prior to re-negotiation of the MoD's licences, and how you can participate.

Prior to any re-negotiation, the Secretary of State for Defence requires clear evidence of the following assertions:

- There is a clear military need for both live firing (real ammunition) and dry training (blank ammunition) on the Dartmoor Training Area.
- Management of the Dartmoor Training Area for military activities will continue to be sensitive to environmental issues, farming and public access.

Military Need. A report produced by an independent consultant titled The Continuing Need for Military Training on Dartmoor (published in June 2005 and lodged on the website <http://www.dartmoor-ranges.co.uk>) concluded that 'Dartmoor makes an essential contribution to the delivery of light force training and therefore remains a key (MoD) asset'. A second report titled The Need for Training on Defence Training Estate South West (DTE SW) produced by HQ Defence Training Estate recommended that "no action should be taken to reduce in size or attempt to limit the scope of training carried out on any of the training areas and ranges located in DTE SW" (published in August 2007 and lodged on the website).

Environmental Appraisal. Having established the military need to train on Dartmoor, the Environmental Appraisal considers the potential environmental effects of activities associated with current and future military training on the Dartmoor Training Area.

Building on the Scoping Report, the Environmental Appraisal describes all significant potential effects of military activities on Dartmoor and identifies ways of mitigating these effects. It has been informed by many studies conducted on topics such as cultural heritage, vegetation, socio-economics, noise and landscape. Formal consultation has taken place with subject matter experts from the Statutory Bodies and issues have been discussed with other organisations. This Appraisal has been undertaken by Defence Training Estates with the support of Entec UK Ltd and is also available on the website from 8 October 2007.

The Environmental Appraisal and other information is on <http://www.dartmoor-ranges.co.uk>.

Your comments are important and will be welcomed by the MoD.

Defence Training Estates continues to manage the public consultation process to help facilitate the Environmental Appraisal:

Key Dates in The Consultative Process	
Environmental Appraisal Published	8 Oct 07
Further public consultation over 9 week period in order to resolve, where possible, potential conflicts.	8 Oct - 7 Dec 07
Public Exhibitions:	
Tavistock	23 Oct 07
Bovey Tracey	24 Oct 07
Okehampton	25 Oct 07
Environmental Appraisal finalised	11 Jan 08
Dartmoor Steering Group considers the EA and seeks to reconcile views	17 Jan 08
Defence Estates reports to Secretary of State for Defence and asks for approval to re-negotiate the licence	2008

The Dartmoor Steering Group is a Government appointed body that has a key role to play. It will monitor the consultation process, attempt to reconcile the views expressed and inform both the Secretaries of State for Defence and the Environment of any issues that cannot be resolved.

Continuing military activity on the Dartmoor Training Area does not require consent under the Town and Country Planning system. However, the Environmental Appraisal being undertaken will mirror the process used for an Environmental Impact Assessment, typically used in planning applications for major or sensitive developments.

This non-statutory process should provide a transparent and consultative assessment of any environmental effects and outline options and management measures for mitigating these effects in order to enable military training to continue on Dartmoor.

The Training Imperative. The British Armed Forces are held in the highest regard throughout the World. This respect has been hard-won and in recent years amply demonstrated in the Gulf, Sierra Leone, the Balkans and now Iraq and Afghanistan. Their thorough professionalism is only achieved through tough training in realistic conditions. Providing the right land for them to train on is vital to the success of our Armed Forces.

Defence Training Estate manages the land on which the Armed Forces train and endeavours to make better use of facilities, enhance conservation and improve public access.

Training Within National Parks. Nationally, approximately 3% of the total area of the National Parks overlap military training areas but this area represents almost one-third of all military training land in the UK. Using a small proportion of the National Parks for military training makes a major contribution to the Country's defence.

The Government acknowledges that there can be conflict in using National Parks for military training but believes that this can be resolved through co-operation with the National Park Authorities, as has been the case over many years on Dartmoor. The MoD continues to give a high priority to conservation and undertakes to allow public access whenever it is safe to do so.