



## PEAK DISTRICT EXPEDITION AREA

Supported by



### Guidance Notes – Expeditions in the DARK PEAK (Wild Country Area)

This document has been produced to assist you when planning your expedition to the Dark Peak. It should be used in conjunction with the following resources: **'Peak District Information Pack'** and **'Peak District Wild Country Boundary'** gpx file.

We expect that only Gold expeditions will take place in the Wild Country area, unless exceptional circumstances exist and a variation of conditions has been agreed in advance.

The Peak District National Park is one of the most accessible and well-used National Parks in the UK and we know that upwards of 6,000 young people undertake their expedition in the Dark Peak between the months of April and October each year. Whilst this should be a very rewarding experience, and we heartily welcome you to come, we must also recognise that standards must be maintained for the mutual benefit of everyone, including visiting teams, local residents, businesses and the DofE.

This document sets out some of the key standards that we expect from DofE teams visiting the Peak District as well as highlighting certain areas in the Peak District that we are aware of having specific access issues that you must consider when planning your expedition.

You must submit a Green Form for each expedition team that you bring to this area. Teams will not be issued approval and a notification number without having submitted a Green Form, route cards and route maps. We take a very dim view of requests for retrospective approval and teams who ask for this may well find that they will have to repeat their expedition at another time. The Green Form is available in the expedition download section on the website:

[www.dofe.org/run/expeditionresources/downloads/general/](http://www.dofe.org/run/expeditionresources/downloads/general/)

Additional advice and guidance can be obtained by contacting the Central England Assessor Network Administrator at [CentralExpeds@DofE.org](mailto:CentralExpeds@DofE.org)

### **Guidelines for the Dark Peak, from the Peak District National Park**

The Peak District National Park welcomes all DofE teams into the area but with more than 20 000 young people undertaking their expeditions in the Park each year we have to take care to ensure that these visitors do not adversely affect the people who live and work in the Park.

We know that most expeditions pass without issue and everyone involved acts sympathetically towards the Park and its residents, however, previously there have been issues and conflicts. We hope that by adhering to the guidelines below, all DofE expedition participants and associated adults will be well received within the Park.

These guidelines have been written in partnership with the Peak District National Park. They apply to **all** DofE participants, supervisors, assessors and accompanying adults. Please adhere to them.

Whilst in the National Park please ensure everyone follows laws, regulations and guidelines whoever they have been made by, (police, camp site owners, car park officials etc..).

If serious, local issues arise from expeditions, please report these to the Central England Assessor Network Administrator at [CentralExpeds@DofE.org](mailto:CentralExpeds@DofE.org) to allow us to address any problems with landowners and / or campsite owners.

This information has been summarised in a PDF presentation that can be shown to adults and youngsters alike: [The Peak District National Park and DofE](#)

## **Parking**

- Please avoid small villages and hamlets as a start, finish or check points. There are plenty of public car parks, some with facilities such as toilets and picnic benches. Vehicles can be parked here whilst you walk to the checkpoint to meet your team. Using these takes the strain off the local inhabitants and minimises disturbance. Find out about local car parks: [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/visiting/planning-your-visit/parking](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/visiting/planning-your-visit/parking)
- Please pay for any time spent in public car parks.
- Alternatively use large lay-bys in remote areas away from hamlets and villages. Please avoid busy town centre car parks.
- Please operate checkpoint or supervision systems with sensitivity, for example, drivers should not block access to properties or obstruct narrow lanes.
- Please do not use café, shop or pub car parks to park in or to meet teams. These are for legitimate customers only. Spending a pound or two in an establishment does not allow you to park there on DofE business.

## **Access & Navigation**

**Access / vehicular / parking restrictions apply to DofE assessors, supervisors and other associated adults; unfortunately, you are not entitled to any exemptions.**

- As with all farms and private property please ensure team members understand how to micro-navigate, to ensure concessionary (permissive) paths and rights of way are followed when surrounded by complicated navigational situations around houses, farms, buildings, yards & gardens.
- It is also vitally important that team members understand the difference between a public right of way and a private access road / track / path and only use those routes open to the public.
- Ensure teams follow the Right of Way when travelling through crop fields.
- Teams should not climb / cross walls and fences. If they come across an unexpected wall or fence, then they have probably taken a wrong turning and should therefore retrace their steps and return to the correct route.
- Ensure teams stop for their breaks in the open countryside and do not congregate around hamlets, houses and villages.

Within the Peak District there are areas that are designated Open Access, numerous Public Rights of Way and Concessionary Footpaths. For current information on access restrictions please see [www.openaccess.naturalengland.org.uk/](http://www.openaccess.naturalengland.org.uk/)

Leaders must ensure that teams can recognise these and avoid wandering into non-access land / private property. Trespass into private property can, and has, resulted in owners contacting the local police.

## **The Environment**

The DofE takes its environmental responsibilities very seriously and expects the same from teams. Litter in any form is unacceptable.

- Ensure teams tidy up after themselves at every stop, including the campsites. Litter can harm farm, domestic and wild animals. We suggest that team members look at the type of food and the packaging it comes in, not only to reduce the weight in their pack but also to be more environmentally friendly.
- Where checkpoint cards are used by teams, leaders should ensure that all are collected before the end of the expedition.
- Ensure all teams are familiar with the Countryside Code and follow it at all times whilst on expedition. A fun video that gets the message across can be viewed here: [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/learning-about/peak-curriculum/national-parks-the-bigger-picture/do-this-video](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/learning-about/peak-curriculum/national-parks-the-bigger-picture/do-this-video)
- If you would like your team to take more responsibility for the environment, and / or to help with their expedition aim, you might like to encourage them to undertake a John Muir Award whilst on expedition. More information can be found at: [www.johnmuirtrust.org/john-muir-award](http://www.johnmuirtrust.org/john-muir-award)

## **Behaviour**

- Ensure that team members are impeccably behaved at all times, especially on the campsites where rules must be adhered to, noise kept to a minimum at all times, but especially in the evenings and early mornings. Ensure all litter is disposed of properly.
- It is also important that assessors / supervisors behave responsibly and that the supervisor takes responsibility for their team(s) at all times.

## **CRoW Act – Open Access Land**

For all Open Access Land, landowners have a discretionary right, under the CRoW Act, to exclude access on their land for up to 28 days in any one year (subject to some timing restrictions). This does not apply to public rights of way across Access Land. Details of any restrictions can be found using the Access Maps at: [www.openaccess.naturalengland.org.uk/](http://www.openaccess.naturalengland.org.uk/)

Only 5 working days need to be given as notice by the landowner. As such, it is necessary for teams undertaking expeditions on CRoW land to check the Open Access website for such restrictions. This check should be made within 5 working days of the start of any expedition. We also recommend that you check during the expedition.

### **Advice on Nesting Season Of Moorland Birds**

We have issued the following advice due to the decline of rare moorland birds that nest on the ground, found in the Peak District National Park.

- The nesting season is at its most sensitive period between **mid-April** and the **end of June**.
- Please make participants aware of the existence of moorland birds and the possibility of disturbance especially during the nesting season.
- Encourage teams to follow recognised and worn paths only on the moors and to avoid cutting across stretches of heather and other vegetation.
- If a team becomes aware that they might have disturbed a nest, they should move on immediately.

### **Grouse Shooting Season – Moor Closures**

This will affect teams if their expedition falls within the grouse-shooting season, **12<sup>th</sup> August – 10<sup>th</sup> December** and if the route goes through **Access Land**.

Moors are not usually closed for grouse shoots. If there is a shoot, there will usually be marshals on site who will advise on rerouting or ask the team to wait whilst the shoot takes place.

Occasionally moors are formally closed to allow a shoot to take place and this will be publicised by notices on and around the area concerned, particularly at access points.

#### Please note:

- Although rights of way are **not** affected, and will not be closed, they can shoot across them.
- No shoots take place on Sundays.
- Details of moor closures are not usually published in advance. Look out for notices placed at access points.
- Grouse shoots are not always marshalled. Teams should be aware of the possibility of encountering a shoot.

### **Fire Risk on The Moors**

There could be a **high / extreme** risk of fire on the moors during the period of the expedition, possibly resulting in closure of some or all moors.

- Make sure that all team members are fully aware of the risk of starting fires accidentally. A fire could be started by carelessly discarding a cigarette, a match or piece of glass or using a stove on the moors. As always, teams must ensure they take every, single piece of litter away with them.
- If the team detects a fire, then they should first call their supervisor, if that fails they should call 999 and ask for the Fire Service.
- If there is a longer spell of dry weather, you may wish to contact Edale Information Centre to check the situation shortly before your arrival: 01433 670207
- Find out more about the risk of wild fires to the moorlands:  
[www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/enjoy-the-moors/be-fire-aware](http://www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/enjoy-the-moors/be-fire-aware)

### **Wild Camping**

Please note that within the Peak District, planned wild camping is not permitted. Team members should use designated campsites only. Out list of DofE friendly campsites is available in the downloads section on the dedicated Peak District expedition area webpage.

### **Specific Areas of Note**

The areas listed below are particularly sensitive so please be extra vigilant and be sure to follow the guidelines in these areas. Please check [www.dofe.org/run/expeditionareas/peakdistrict](http://www.dofe.org/run/expeditionareas/peakdistrict) and [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/visiting/crow/crow-restrictions](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/visiting/crow/crow-restrictions) as this is where you will find updates on any new areas of concern before your visit.

**Fairholmes Visitor Centre / Derwent Reservoir** – The roads on the west side of Derwent and Howden Reservoirs beyond the visitor centre are closed to traffic during all weekends and bank holidays. There is no vehicular access, please do not attempt to take vehicles up this road. Using this road with vehicles, when closed, may result in you receiving a ticket from the police. There is no vehicular access at all on the road on the eastern side of the reservoirs.

**Hayfield / Kinder Bridge** – Vehicles should not be driven up the Kinder Road past the Bowden Bridge car park.

**Kinder Plateau** – As part of the ongoing moorland regeneration project, there are fences around the Kinder Plateau, to keep sheep out. If teams encounter some of this fencing, they must use a gate or stile to cross it. These should be easily visible along the fence, or in poor visibility can be found by walking a few metres in either direction, following the fence.

**Moscar Lodge** - Please take care to avoid upsetting the locals and do not enter the area known as Parson's Piece to the west of Moscar Lodge. Instead, keep to designated Rights of Way where dogs are required to be on a short fixed lead (2 metres) during the DofE season. Leaders should not take dogs onto the CRoW Access Land in this vicinity as the land is under a CRoW Act Dog Restriction Order, which is enforced by the private landowner.

**Wood Cottage (A57 Snake Road)** - Please note that there is no right of way through Wood Cottage on the A57 to gain access from or to A57 / Cowms Moor.