



## PEAK DISTRICT EXPEDITION AREA



### Guidance Notes – Expeditions in the WHITE PEAK & Staffordshire Moorlands

This document has been produced to assist you when planning your expedition to the White Peak and the Staffordshire Moorlands. It should be used in conjunction with the following document: **'Peak District Information Pack'**

We expect that only Bronze and Silver expeditions will take place in these areas, 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 it has been known that upwards of 16,000 young people undertake their expedition in the White 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.

We no longer require teams going on expedition in the White Peak and Staffordshire Moorlands to submit a Red Form.

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 White Peak & Staffordshire Moorlands, 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 enforces them (police, campsite owners, car park officials etc.).

If serious, local issues arise from expeditions; please report these to the Central Expeditions 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 don't use café, shop or pub car parks to park 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.

**Please see the recommended parking areas for the White Peak and Staffordshire Moorlands below.**

## **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.
- Be aware that walking routes may follow minor roads, tracks and byways which are shared with other users; eg horses, bikes and motor vehicles. Team Members should be aware of the risks that this poses and be alert to the 'shared' nature of these routes.

Within the Peak District and Staffordshire Moorlands 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 use their expedition as part of a John Muir Award. 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 To be taken into account if the expedition area includes the moors around the Goyt Valley, South West Peak & the Staffordshire Moorlands**

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 To be taken into account if the expedition area includes the moors around the Goyt Valley**

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:  
<https://www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/enjoy-the-moors/be-fire-aware>

### **Recommended Parking Areas and Specific Areas Of Note**

**Alstonefield/ Wetton Area** - A popular area for DofE teams but there have been several issues raised previously. Please avoid the area if possible and use the car park on the Tissington Trail near Alsop-le-Dale: [SK156 549](#). If you cannot avoid Alstonefield, please see [www.alstonefield.org/tourist-info/car-parking/](http://www.alstonefield.org/tourist-info/car-parking/) for guidance on which car parks to use.

#### **Bakewell is a very busy town well used by locals and tourists**

- Try to avoid using Bakewell town centre as a start or finishing point.
- Ensure teams walk on the footpaths around the town centre, rather than through it. Pavements are narrow and are usually very busy. The teams should be self-sufficient and be journeying in the countryside.
- If you cannot avoid using Bakewell, please park on the main showground car park, on the edge of the town (entrance at [SK223 678](#)). An alternative is the car park at Hassop Station on the Monsal Trail, [SK218 706](#). Short-term is available at the back of the café and shop.
- Please do not use any town centre car parks.

**Carsington Pastures** – There are many disused mine shafts in the area between Winster and Bonsal and around Middleton and Via Gellia which require care. Footpaths are safe but areas away from footpaths may be dangerous; teams MUST stick to footpaths in any areas of disused mine shafts.

**Crowdecote** – If using this area please use the car parks at Sparklow (Hurdlow), SK127 659 or Parsley Hay, SK147 637.

**Edensor / Chatsworth Area** – If using this area please use the public, pay & display car park and public toilets at Baslow, SK258 721.

**Haddon Hall** – Whilst Haddon Hall has a car park, it is intended for visitors to the Hall rather than DofE teams. If you would like to use the car park, the owners request that you contact them in advance for permission. There is a charge. Vehicles left in the car park outside of normal opening hours risk clamping.

**Hartington** – Please use the car park on the Tissington Train at Hartington Station: SK150 611.

**Hulme End** – This is a small hamlet that can get overrun by DofE teams. Please avoid the area if possible.

**Millers Dale** – Please use the public car park on the Monsal trail, SK138 733.

**Mod Training Area (near Upper Hulme)** - It would be wise to avoid the footpaths that cross the MOD Training Area north east of Upper Hulme and running alongside the eastern side of the A53. Exercises take place in this area which stretches east as far as Lum Edge, SK062 604. If teams decide to walk across these areas then they should stick to Rights of Way which are accessible at all times. There is NO access to the Danger Area marked on the OS 1:25 000 White Peak map. If red flags are flying then there is live firing and it is highly recommended that groups find an alternative route. For further information on live firing times contact the booking cell during office hours on: 01785 763159 or 01785 763132.

**Monyash** – If using the area around Monyash, please use either the car park at Sparklow (Hurdlow), SK127 659 or Parsley Hay, SK147 637.

**Onecote** – If using this area please park in the public car park at Grindon SK085 545 rather than parking in the hamlets.

**Sheldon** – If using this area, there are large laybys on the lane that bypasses Sheldon at SK158 685 and a public car park near Sheldon on the A6 at SK171 706. Please use these rather than Sheldon hamlet itself.