

AMPLIFICATION OF TEN TORS CHALLENGE RULES 54, 55 56 AND 57-**1. Introduction**

- 1.1** The new tracker system has given Ten Tors' organisers a greater awareness of the trail taken by teams during the Challenge. Examination identifies non-compliance with the Rules and the risks taken by some teams. Examples include entry into the Rare Bird Nesting Areas (RBNA), walking across private land, crossing rivers at dangerous places, and risking road traffic collisions by walking on public roads. In addition to teams placing themselves at unnecessary risk, which the location of the Safety Controls and Checkpoints are positioned to avoid, in breaching the Rules the teams place the Ten Tors Challenge in jeopardy by undermining agreements made with landowners, the National Park Authority, Natural England and the Commoners Council.
- 1.2** To assist in overcoming these problems, this Annex amplifies the Ten Tors Rules, especially Rule 56, and the routes have been revised to reduce opportunities for non-compliance.
- 1.3** The Ten Tors routes are devised on the presumption that as all team managers have affirmed their commitment to comply with the Ten Tors Rules that both they and their teams will strive to complete the Challenge as set. Whilst the Challenge is not a race, in fairness to all, the degree of difficulty should be similar. Whilst inexperience or quality of training issues may result in some non-compliance, the tracker data suggests some may be opportunistic, with teams and/ or their team managers appearing to attempt the shortest possible interpretation of their route, without regard to the Ten Tors Rules and the supporting material provided via the website. This risks bringing the Challenge into disrepute.
- 1.4** As the quality of tracker data available for Ten Tors 2014 far exceeds that which was previously available, it is likely that many of those who 'misinterpreted' their routes were unaware how easily they risked being caught out. For Ten Tors 2014 only the most blatant mistakes have been drawn to the attention of the respective Team Managers. However **ALL** team managers are now on notice that active use will be made of the tracker system to monitor teams' compliance with the Rules during the Challenge. Teams that break the Rules risk, at the Director's discretion, being sanctioned.

2. Out of Bounds areas

- 2.1 Rare Bird Nesting Areas (RBNAs)** The RBNAs have been established by the Dartmoor National Park Authority. To protect the nesting areas, the restrictions apply between 1st March and 15th July each year. The Challenge routes and the associated rules have been revised to minimise the risk of RBNA incursion, with the aim of making it easier for everyone to contribute to the delivery of our partnership commitments.
- 2.1.1** With the sole exception of the Knack Mine Track through the Oke Tor and Steeperton Gorge RBNAs, no Ten Tors team may enter any designated RBNA other than in a genuine emergency during training and the Challenge. Although the Ten Tors Challenge requires teams to be self-sufficient and to plan their own routes, Team Managers must check it to ensure compliance with Ten Tors Rule 57.1.
- 2.1.2** Teams using the Knack Mine track through the Oke Tor and Steeperton Gorge RBNAs, or crossing a RBNA when dealing with an emergency, may not stop, linger, picnic or camp.
- 2.2 Private land and areas of exclusion as the Dartmoor Training Area Military Map**
- 2.2** Other than where access is specifically authorised, there is no access whatsoever to all land shown in WHITE on the Dartmoor Training Area map unless there is a marked public right of way.

Ten Tors Rules Annex A 7 Oct 14

2.3 Cross hatched areas on the military map, such as Nuns Cross Farm, and the solid brown of East Okement Farm are specifically out of bounds.

3. Road and track access restrictions

3.1 The restrictions are designed to minimise walkers' exposure to road traffic hazards and to avoid impeding other road users going about their business.

3.2 During the Challenge, no team is permitted within 300m of the Princetown crossroads [SX590734]. Please continue to make full use of Princetown's many facilities during training.

3.3 All of the permitted lengths of metalled road are detailed in **dotted blue** on the Ten Tors 2015 Road Access document. All other metalled roads, which are not so marked, are OUT OF BOUNDS to all teams during the Challenge.

3.4 Several tracks – shown **dotted black** - which lie on private land and would otherwise be 'out of bounds' are accessible by permission either during training and the Challenge or only during the latter; please see the associated notes on the Ten Tors 2015 Road Access document for details.

4. River Crossings

4.1 To enhance resilience and minimise the risk of harm for all, if necessary, contingency planning arrangements, which will limit the permissible river crossings, will be announced through Safety Controls/ Check Points and publicised via teams' trackers.

4.3 **River instructions** All river crossings are potentially hazardous and teams must exercise common sense; if any river crossing appears to be too hazardous for the least able member of the team, always seek a safer alternative. Irrespective of river levels, the Tavy and East Dart may ONLY be crossed via the named crossings below:

- **East Dart** - ONLY via the road at Postbridge [SX648789]
- **Tavy** - ONLY via Standon Steps FB [SX539815]

If higher rivers flows are experienced during the Challenge, the Director may put contingency plans into effect directing teams to follow the instructions below relating to the named rivers. Team Managers are required to ensure that their teams are familiar with these instructions, the locations of the named crossings and the implications of any associated restrictions.

- **Taw** - no crossing below Ockside Ford [SX609872], other than via Knack Mine Ford [SX 614885], Horseshoe Ford [SX620914] or Belstone FB [SX621933] **NB** Owing the Steeperton Gorge RNBA, irrespective of the river level, the Taw may **NOT** be crossed between 1st March and 15th July between SX609875 and SX618889 other than via Knack Mine Ford – see 2.1.1 above.
- **Walla Brook** - no crossing below Wild Tor Well [SX627873] other than Wallabrook FB [SX653871]
- **North Teign** - no crossing below the S boundary of the Teignhead newtake wall [SX625833] other than via Teignhead FB [SX639844], Manga Rails [SX639860] or Teign-e-ver FB [SX653870]
- **South Teign** - only via the FB below the Fernworthy Reservoir dam [SX671844] or via the marked tracks in Fernworthy plantation.
- **West Dart** - no crossing below the newtake wall [SX610785] other than at the Lych Way ford [SX606780], Devonport Leat weir [SX608779], the road at Two Bridges [SX607750] and Dartmoor Training Centre/Moorlands Farm bridge [SX626738] or below the latter crossing

Ten Tors Rules Annex A 7 Oct 14

- **Cowsic** - no crossing below Broad Hole [SX591786], other than the FB [SX594770], Devonport Leat takeoff [SX595767] and Beardown Farm bridge [SX603753]
- **Blackbrook** - east of Princetown only via FB on the public right of way at SX606738
- **Walkham** - either crossing only via upstream ford at SX 572806 or no crossing below Deadlake Foot other than via the Merrivale road bridge [SX549750]
- **West Okement** - no crossing below Kneeset Foot [SX578866] other than via Vellake Corner weir/FB [SX556903] or the Meldon Dam walkway [SX562916] **NB** Owing the West Okement Valley RNBA, irrespective of the river level, the West Okement may **NOT** be crossed from 1st March and 15th July between SX577871 and SX559900