

A message from the National Park Chief Executive

Dartmoor is one of ten National Parks throughout England. It has been designated as a National Park to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural environment and to promote opportunities for people to enjoy and understand the special qualities of the National Park.

Ten Tors provides an opportunity for people to enjoy the National Park and experience the wildness, remoteness and sense of challenge that can characterise the moorland areas. It is vital, however, that any large scale recreational activities that take advantage of this living, working landscape do so in ways that do not compromise efforts to conserve its special qualities. That is why the Dartmoor National Park Authority works very closely with the Ten Tors Committee and needs the active support and engagement of all involved in Ten Tors to ensure that damage is avoided.

Ten Tors training and the event itself take place in winter and spring when the ground is soft and more easily eroded, when ewes are lambing, cows calving and when many ground nesting moorland birds are breeding. The National Park Authority is ever mindful of the consequent pressure from farmers and conservation bodies for Ten Tors to take place later in the year. However, we have accepted that for many practical reasons this is not currently possible. Therefore, I ask every manager and every participant,

both in training and during Ten Tors, to do all that is possible to minimise their environmental impact on the moor and consider the needs of other users. We hope that you will use Ten Tors to learn a bit more about the natural environment and the National Park whilst also enjoying yourselves! You can find out more about Dartmoor National Park and the work of the Authority from our website:

www.dartmoor.gov.uk.

A responsible approach to training and the event itself will help ensure that Dartmoor can continue to offer a high quality experience and challenge to the generations of young people still to come.

If you (and your participants) have enjoyed Dartmoor's experience it would be great if you volunteered to do some conservation work with the National Park Ranger Service. Details of how you (as individuals or teams) can help us look after the National Park can be found at:

<http://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/aboutus/vi-volunteers>.

Enjoy Dartmoor. Enjoy Ten Tors. And good luck!

Kevin Bishop
Chief Executive,
Dartmoor National Park Authority