



# Dartmoor and other Wild Country in Britain

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Covering an area of 954 sq km (368 sq miles), Dartmoor contains the largest and wildest area of open country in the south of England. By virtue of its outstanding natural beauty it is one of the National Parks of England and Wales. The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949, made provision for the designation of National Parks in England and Wales. Between 1951 and 1957 ten National Parks were confirmed. In 1989 another area, the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads, was given National Park status. In 1999 the Government announced that two new National Parks in England were to be created. The New Forest National Park was designated in 2005 and the South Downs National Park was created in 2009.

There are two National Parks in Scotland designated in 2002/03. They are Loch Lomond and the Trossachs and the Cairngorms.

Unlike many National Parks in other countries, for example the USA, those in England, Wales and Scotland are not owned by the state. The term National means that they have been identified as being of specific importance to our national heritage and as such are worthy of special protection and attention. Within each National Park there are many landowners, including public bodies and private individuals.

Importantly National Parks are places where people live and work.

The statutory purposes of the English and Welsh National Parks as stated in the Environment Act, 1995 are:

- to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Parks.
- to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Parks by the public.
- The National Park Authorities also have a duty to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the area.

The Ten Tors event organisers and the Dartmoor National Park Authority have a symbiotic partner relationship. Joint work behind the scenes ensures that the Event conserves and promotes Dartmoor in line with the statutory purposes, whilst the training period and Event support the duty to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities.

The Dartmoor National Park is always looking for volunteers to undertake conservation work with the Ranger Service. If you would like to give something back please contact us via [rsteemson@dartmoor.gov.uk](mailto:rsteemson@dartmoor.gov.uk) or on 01626 831006