



EXMOOR
NATIONAL PARK

**AN
INFORMATION
GUIDE FOR
TEACHERS
&
GROUP LEADERS**

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Exmoor we know today is the result of centuries of human occupation and exploitation of the natural landscape. Its 692 sq km (267sq miles) encompass a wide variety of semi-natural habitats including moor-covered hills, deep tree-lined valleys (combes), fast running rivers and high cliffs falling to stony beaches. It is the home of the red deer and the indigenous Exmoor Pony. About half the population live in the small towns of Dulverton, Dunster, Porlock and Lynton and the rest in scattered farm hamlets and picturesque villages. Sheep farming, traditionally Exmoor's main occupation, has now been overtaken by tourism.

VISITOR CENTRES

There are visitor centres at Combe Martin, County Gate, Dulverton, Dunster, Lynmouth and Porlock. At each centre is a display about Exmoor together with helpful staff who can provide useful advice and information about the local area. Free leaflets as well as material for sale are on display. There is an Education Room available at Dunster that can be booked by prior arrangement via the education team. Groups are welcome to use all visitor centres without prior arrangement but space is limited so large groups should be split into smaller units.

The visitor centres are generally open from Easter to early Autumn except for Dulverton and Dunster Centres which have limited opening hours in winter as well.



Exmoor National Park is an ideal outdoor classroom offering tremendous opportunities for study and recreation in every area of learning and experience and to every age. Subjects to study range from the human impact on the landscape through planning and conservation issues to source to mouth river studies and designing for the environment. Educational recreational opportunities are vast and varied, with safe but challenging sites in abundance year round.



This pamphlet is designed to help you plan your visit and make it as successful as possible. It includes information about Exmoor National Park Authority's education service; details of residential and other centres offering courses in environmental education; sites to visit as well as some ideas of what to study; a detailed map showing routes, sites, amenities etc.; a contacts list and much much more.





**Pinkery is the
EXMOOR
NATIONAL PARK
AUTHORITY'S
Residential Outdoor
Education Centre**

**At 410 metres above
sea level we believe
it is the highest
educational
establishment in
the country!**

PINKERY CENTRE

Pinkery began life as one of the farms created by the Knight family as part of their scheme to tame Exmoor. It was not a very successful farm and in 1969 Somerset County Council bought the buildings and opened them as an outdoor education centre. In 1994 the Exmoor National Park Authority took over responsibility for the management of Pinkery and has since developed it as a centre of excellence for outdoor education.

The Centre offers comfortable, secure accommodation for groups of 32 students plus accompanying staff, from which they can explore the wealth of opportunities offered by Exmoor's varied environments. Accommodation is in small bedrooms, some with en-suite facilities. The Centre's facilities include a well-equipped kitchen, dining room, lounge and teaching room.

PINKERY

Programmes are designed specifically for each group to reflect its particular aims. Our users include the whole school age range, further education, college and university groups, as well as community-based groups of all sorts - in fact any group who will benefit from the opportunities that Exmoor offers. Suitable study topics include work in art, biology, design and technology, ecology, environmental studies, geography and history. Additionally the Centre can offer experiences such as abseiling, climbing, expedition training, conservation work, mountain biking, novice canoeing, orienteering and a range of on-site activities.



Qualified, experienced Centre staff are available to help with planning and with the delivery of the programme. Our aim is to facilitate a safe and enjoyable experience. Activities take place under the Centre's AALA (Adventure Activities Licensing Authority) Licence.

To find out how we can help you to achieve your aims contact
Pinkery (01643) 831437
or e-mail
educ@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk



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USEFUL CONTACTS

Devon Local Education Authority

Tel: 01392 382011

Email: dshare@dial.devon-cc.gov.uk

Devon Wildlife Trust

Tel: 01392 279244

Email: devonwot@cin.co.uk

Exmoor National Park Authority

Tel: 01398 323665

Email: educ@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

Environment Agency

Tel: 01392 352476

Email: annabelle.lillycrop@environment-agency.gov.uk

Field Studies Council

Tel: 01984640520

Email: fc.nettlecombe@ukonline.co.uk

Kilve Court Residential Education Centre

Tel: 01278 741270

Fax: 01278 741551

National Trust

Tel: 01643 862452

Email: whood@smtp.ntrust.org.uk

National Trust - Exmoor Base Camp

Tel: 01598 741101

Email: dextj@smtp.ntrust.org.uk

Somerset Wildlife Trust

Tel: 01823 451587

Email: somwt@cin.co.uk

Sustainable Somerset (county council)

Tel: 01823 355400

Email: Sladams@somerset.gov.uk

Quantock AONB Service

Tel: 01278 732845

Email: quantockhills@somerset.gov.uk

Venworthy Lodge (Oxford LRA Centre)

Tel: 01598 741266

Email: occlayone@emple.co.uk

Dunster Castle

Tel: 01643 823004

Email: wdagon@smtp.ntrust.org.uk

Museums

Allerford

Tel: 01643862529

Email: info@motorcycle-collection.co.uk

Web site: www.devonmuseums.net/lynton

Combe Martin

Tel: 01271882346

Lyn & Exmoor

Peacock

Tel: 01643 862529

South Molton

Tel: 01769 572951

Watchet

Tel: 01984 633117

Brass Rubbing Centre

Tel: 01598 752529

Email: education@englishheritage.org.uk

Clare's Abbey

Tel: 01984 40377

Email: combomartinpark@hotmail.com

Combe Martin Wildlife Park

Tel: 01271 882486

Email: bcresources@aol.com

Combe Sydenham Country Park

Tel: 0800 7828572

Dunster Water Mill

Tel: 01643 821759

Exmoor Falconry

Tel: 01643 862816

Email: exmoorfalcon@falconet.co.uk

Exmoor zoological Park

Tel: 01598 763352

Email: enquiries@exmoorzoo.co.uk

Tropiquaria

Tel: 01984 640688

Fax: 01984 640688

CONTACT US

Education Services

Exmoor National Park Authority

Exmoor House, Dulverton, TA22 9HL

Tel: 01398 323665

E-mail: educ@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk



"Working to ensure that Exmoor remains beautiful for all to enjoy, in harmony with a thriving community"

www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

SUGGESTED EDUCATIONAL SITES

SITE	GRID REF	ACCESS	FACILITIES	EDUCATIONAL USE
Alcombe Common	SS 972 442	Via A39 Minibus only at SS 971 443		Moorland recreation management
Birch Cleave	SS 774 394	B3224 Minibus only (poor for coaches)	Toilets	Woodland studies (pack available) River studies, Access to Wheal Eliza, Cow Castle
Blackmoor Gate	SS 648 433	Via A39	Picnic site, Interpretation, Toilets	Traffic studies
Bosington (NT)	SS 898 480	Via A39 - good, Coaches to green only	Toilets	Beach studies, Breached shingle ridge, Settlement tourism
Burridge Woods	SS 913 279	Via Duverton - Coaches	Toilets, Trails	Woodland, Barle Valley
Combe Martin	SS 578 474	Via 399 - Minibus only	Toilets, Visitor Centre	Beach studies, Industrial history, Development of settlement and land use
County Gate	SS 794 487	Via A39 - Coaches	Toilets, Visitor Centre	Access to Doone country, Coastal Vegetation, Gierthorne Trail
Dunikary (NT)	SS 892 416	Via B3224 - Coaches to SS 804 420 (from the South only), Cloutsham Trail		Upland management, Footpath erosion
Dunster	SS 994 439	Coaches	Toilets, Visitor Centre, Lecture Room, Castle (NT)	Mill, Priory, Church, Tourism, Woolen industry, Traffic study
Haddon Hill	SS 970 285	Via B3190 - Coaches	Toilets, Interpretation	Moorland recreation management, Exmoor ponds, Wimbeibal dam
Hawcombe Woods	SS 865 455	Via A39 - Parking at SS 855 463 No vehicular access to woods		Ancient oak woodland, Habitats and management
Holdstone Down	SS 623 474	Via A399 - Minibus only		Coastal health
Horner (NT)	SS 898 455	Via A39 - Coaches	Toilets, Interpretation	Woodland, River studies, Recreation management
Hunters Inn (NT)	SS 655 481	Via A39 - Minibus only	Toilets, Interpretation	Coastal vegetation, Tourism, Lime kiln
Lymouth	SS 724 495	Via A39 - Coaches	Toilets, Visitor Centre	Beach studies, Harbour, Tourism, Flood disaster
North Hill	SS 954 475	Via Minehead - Minibus only		Coastal health, Archaeology, Moorland and woodland management
Nutcombe Bottom	SS 977 423	Via A39 - Minibus only	Picnic Site, Trails	Wildlife, Forestry, Archaeology, Mountain bike routes
Pinkery ENPA outdoor centre	SS 723 412	Via B3358 - Parking at SS 725 404 - one coach maximum	Various	Exmoor's uplands, River sources, Renewable energy
Valley of Rocks	SS 708 498	Via Lynton - Coaches	Toilets, Interpretation	Landscape studies, Tourism
Watersmead (NT)	SS 744 487	Via A39 - One coach maximum	Toilets, Interpretation	River studies, Tourism, Ancient oak woodland
Wimbeibal Lake	SS 965 308	Via B3190 - Coaches	Picnic Site, Toilets, Interpretation, Trails	Wildlife, Recreation management, Mountain bike routes

BEACHES IN THE NATIONAL PARK ACCESSIBLE ON FOOT (Check the tides before beginning any beach study)

BEACH	GRID REF	PARKING AND ACCESS	COMMENTS
Combe Martin	SS 575 474	Combe Martin car park, Limited coach space	Geology, rock structure and minerals
Heddon's Mouth	SS 656 497	Hunters Inn, Minibus only, 30 minutes level walk	Storm beach, geological history
Woody Bay	SS 677 491	Woody Bay, Minibus only,	Good rock pools at low tide
Lee Bay	SS 694 493	Lee Bay, Minibus only, Sandy at low tide	Small rock pools and rocky areas,
Lymouth West	SS 721 497	Lymouth car park, Coach access and parking	Estuary and rock pools at low tide
Lymouth East	SS 726 497	Lymouth car park, Coach access and parking	Rock pools at low tide
Gore Point	SS 860 484	Porlock Weir car park, Minibus only, 15 minutes level walk	Rock pool life at very low tide
Porlock Bay	SS 868 477	Porlock Weir car park, Minibus only	Deposition, Coastal vegetation, (salt marsh), Submerged forest, Breaching of shingle ridge
Bosington Beach	SS 892 484	Bosington car park, Minibus only, 20 minutes level walk	See Porlock Bay, Also lime kilns, Hurststone Point

Top Tips

- Best friend - OS 1:25000 map
- Preparation not panic
- Precautions not problems
- Patience not pushy



Planning Checklist

1. Make a preparatory visit to obtain background information and check out accommodation, walks and study sites.
2. Make sure leaders have the relevant qualifications/training and adhere to the local authority guidelines (refer to *Safety in Outdoor Education, DES 1989, Somerset County Councils Safety in off site activities guidelines or your own local council's*).
3. Check facilities such as toilets, car parking etc. in advance. Make bookings where necessary. Avoid holiday periods if possible.
4. Plan for bad weather, tides and accidents. Have alternative arrangements prepared.
5. Make sure you and your party are suitably dressed, equipped and fit for your activity.

Precautions

Mist can envelop a group quickly, stony, steep and muddy paths can cause falls. Remember access to telephones is limited and reception for mobile phones is particularly poor on the coast and in combs. Responsibility for safe practice in all aspects of outdoor education rests with the leader - be aware and have contingency plans.

Ticks can be a problem on Exmoor and can cause Lyme Disease, whilst Weil's Disease can be transmitted through cuts and mucous membranes from water contaminated by mammal urine.

Transport

The map shows roads and amenities suitable for cars, minibuses and coaches. Remember OS map's yellow and white roads are generally less than four metres wide.

Access

There are many places on Exmoor where you may leave the road and walk over moorland or through woods as long as you use the footpaths and bridleways which are designated rights of way. All rights of way are clearly shown on the 1:25000 Ordnance Survey maps and must be followed. Most of the land you will want to walk on is privately owned, please keep to the rights of way, respect the landowner's wishes and adhere to the country code. Careful preparation will ensure that the group helps to conserve the environment by minimising disturbance to the countryside. If you would like to study on private land the National Park Authority Education team can help you identify landowners and give advice on the choice of sites for study.

Key
