

Responsible Walking on Dartmoor - Off Tracks

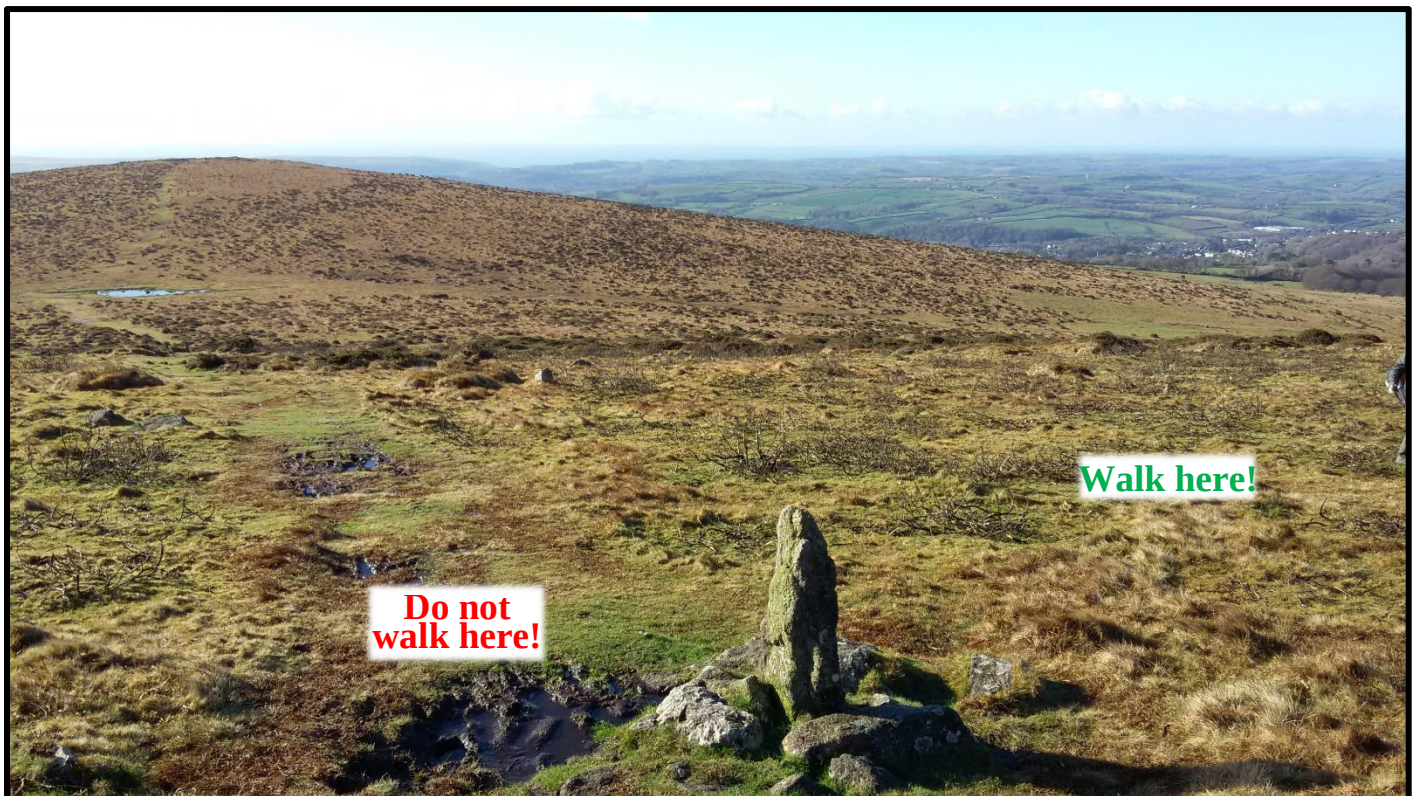
Ground Wear and Erosion on Southern Dartmoor

Increasingly heavy use of certain routes on the open commons of southern Dartmoor is leading to an unprecedented level of wear and erosion. This is mainly caused by a combination of walkers, riders, cyclists (usually illegal) and livestock. Dartmoor's peaty soil, if bare, erodes easily, polluting rivers and causing loss of habitat and carbon storage. Plants can recover, but soil is lost forever. Even walkers' boots contribute to climate change through oxidised soil carbon.

If you walk, run or ride on unmetalled routes (i.e. anywhere without a stone surface) on southern Dartmoor, please help to reduce wear and erosion by following these simple rules of conservation.

- Alter your route each time you go out.
- Unless otherwise directed, spread out from tracks on soft ground, and weave your way through areas with a strong, healthy sward.
- If you walk in a group, do not follow each other but spread out.
- Avoid walking through any area where there is bare mud or peat, or where the sward is so weak that your boots will break through.

Please help to conserve Dartmoor – do not speed its degradation!



Other essential responsibilities

- Keep dogs under close control. Dogs must always be on a lead between 1st March and 31 July.
- Do not leave any litter. Take all rubbish away with you. There is no one to pick it up for you.
- Respect the areas around the moor that are not access land or rights-of-way, and do not enter them.
- Don't create an emergency! Always take a map and compass: mist can descend rapidly and even experienced walkers can get lost on the featureless moor.
- You have a right of access to many areas, but it comes with the responsibility of not causing damage.

Responsible Walking on Dartmoor – Hard Tracks

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If you walk, run or ride on paved tracks (i.e. anywhere with a stone or hard gravel surface) on southern Dartmoor, please help to reduce wear and erosion by following these simple rules of conservation.

- Keep on the track!
- Unless otherwise directed, do not spread out from tracks on to soft ground.
- If you walk in a group, keep together on the hard track.
- Avoid walking through any area where there is bare mud or peat, or where the sward is so weak that your boots will break through.

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