



Dartmoor Educators' Forum

Sustainability Principles

The Dartmoor Educators' Forum *Sustainability Principles* are a voluntary set of guidelines created at the 2006 and 2007 "Dartmoor Educators' Forums". As educators we are role models for the people we take into the outdoors and all of us recognise both the value of the Dartmoor environment and our responsibility to impart appropriate behaviours to those who accompany us. The *Sustainability Principles* are only guidelines and should act as a starting point for our own personal practice and for conversations with peers and clients. They are for all of us engaged in providing direct experience to people in Dartmoor's beautiful, inspiring and challenging environment.

By signing up we are demonstrating a personal and organisational commitment to sustainability that should provoke discussion, that shows we consider our environmental impacts and that could help us find new ways of doing things.

SIGNED:.....

ORGANISATION:.....

DATE:.....

Dartmoor Educators' Forum
Bringing together people and organisations that use Dartmoor for education and those providing accommodation for visiting young people.





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Sustainability Principles

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Sustainability Principles - headlines:

- ◆ Plan ahead and prepare
- ◆ Reduce the impact of transport use
- ◆ Minimise impact on the land, wildlife and local community
- ◆ Manage waste properly
- ◆ Monitor and evaluate
- ◆ Communicate the message!

The Dartmoor Educators' Forum *Sustainability Principles* - detail:

Plan Ahead and Prepare

- ◆ Know the regulations and special concerns regarding the area you may visit (e.g. 'At Risk Zones', Bird Nesting Zones, Salmon spawning sites)
- ◆ Use group briefings so everyone knows about the issues
- ◆ Plan to minimise transport use
- ◆ Consider the impact of purchasing and resource use
- ◆ Include a sustainability section in session plans
- ◆ Consider the effect of weather on your choice of site (e.g. increased erosion in wet weather)

Reduce the impact of transport use

- ◆ Choice of site / routes to minimise travel
- ◆ Choice of vehicle to increase efficiency
- ◆ Park with consideration
- ◆ Minimise staff travel

Minimise impacts

- ◆ Minimise disturbance to wildlife
- ◆ Use equipment carefully
- ◆ Avoid damage or pollution of the ground (e.g. erosion)
- ◆ Avoid altering or polluting watercourses
- ◆ Respect other users and the local community
- ◆ Avoid damaging sites of historical interest
- ◆ Employ a policy of 'leave no trace'

Manage waste

- ◆ Plan to minimise waste
- ◆ Brief the group
- ◆ Remove all litter
- ◆ Dispose of waste appropriately (recycle if possible)

Monitor and evaluate

- ◆ Use group reviews to assess perceptions
- ◆ Check sites after sessions
- ◆ Monitor frequently used sites over time
- ◆ Report real or potential damage, hazard or injury to people, wildlife or landscape to the relevant authorities
- ◆ Liaise with other users and landowners

Communicate the message

- ◆ Be explicit about the steps you take to protect the environment
- ◆ Model good practice
- ◆ Encourage respect for the environment
- ◆ Use impacts as points for discussion
- ◆ Highlight current local issues
- ◆ Provide contacts for more information e.g. Countryside Code, DNPA leaflets.

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