PUBLIC ACCESS CONSULTANCY

FOR THE ARMY TRAINING ESTATE

Regional Report - ATE South West

Consultation Draft

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December 2003

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1 Introduction

Overall Aims of the Study

1.1 RPS was commissioned by Headquarters Land Command (HQ Land) and Defence Estates (DE), to undertake an independent study of public access by land and sea across the Army Training Estate (ATE). Other MOD sites outside the ATE do not form part of this study.

1.2 The Study will be taken forward within the context of the Strategy for the Defence Estate, “In Trust and On Trust” (referred to as the Estate Strategy) and the emerging Countryside and Rights of Way legislation.

1.3 Within the Estate Strategy, the Charter for the Defence Estate states the following:-

“There is a presumption in favour of public access to the rural estate although operational, safety and conservation interests necessarily restrict unlimited access”.

1.4 With this in mind, the Strategy explains that “Although subject to intensive military use, there will continue to be a presumption of public access wherever this is compatible with its primary military purpose. Where our duty of care to the general public, safety and security considerations permit, we will seek to increase the overall amount, quality and certainty of access to the estate. Against this, we will have to balance the interests of our tenants and protect fragile aspects of the environment”.

1.5 Taking these commitments into account, the Public Access Study has been carried out with the following aim:

“To review the existing opportunities available for public access across the Training Estate and to make recommendations that could be implemented to enhance public access opportunities commensurate with military training requirements and public safety, in line with Government policy. Any recommendations must therefore take into account nature conservation, cultural heritage and other issues/constraints.”

Approach and Methodology

1.6 It has been agreed to focus the study on each of the 12 ATEs that make up the Army Training Estate separately. This allows consideration of the regional context of each ATE and the unique nature of public access resources and demand in different regions throughout the UK. Figure 1 illustrates the location of ATE South West (ATE SW), the focus of this report, in relation to the other 11 ATEs. ATE SW comprises Training Areas within the counties of Cornwall, Devon, Dorset and Somerset as shown on Figure 3.
Figure 1: ATE SW in relation to the whole of the Army Training Estate
1.7 The method employed for the study involved visits to most sites within ATE SW and interviews with selected staff. A proforma was devised to ensure all relevant information was collected for each site, included in Appendix A of this report.

1.8 Information was also collected from various sources on each region in general, including the demographics and current access resources, to give a regional context to each of the 12 reports. A final document will be produced which will highlight all the strategic issues arising from the 12 ATEs.

**Report Structure**

1.9 Each regional report will follow a similar structure, with a review of the existing public access and recommendations about how those opportunities could potentially be improved and enhanced.

1.10 Chapter 2 of the report is an overview of ATE SW, summarising the training facilities and use. Chapter 3 then sets the regional context of the report, providing an overview of the key characteristics of the South West region of England, including its demographics and the general public access resources. Chapter 4 summarises the current situation of public access on ATE SW and the key opportunities arising from the research. Individual reports for each site within ATE SW are included in Appendix B.

1.11 It should be noted that the recommendations made in this report have not been costed, nor has funding been identified to meet any such cost. If the recommendations were implemented, this would be part of a rolling programme of improvements.

1.12 In addition, this study has been undertaken at the same time as the implications of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act) are emerging. The report reflects the current situation in relation to ATE SW at the time of production of the report.

1.13 In the wider context, this study does not take into consideration any change in the current situation that may arise in light of the review of the primary legislation affecting military byelaws that is currently being carried out by DE.

**Consultation Process**

1.14 The consultation process adopted for all 12 regional reports is to prepare draft reports for internal consultation within ATE and DE, prior to sending an initial confidential draft to the Countryside Agency (or its equivalent in Wales and Scotland), the relevant local access/highway authorities and other relevant statutory bodies. Following their comments, the consultation report will be more widely distributed at the regional level to all interested parties.
1.15 It is expected that the individual site reports and proposals will be incorporated in the development of the MOD’s Environmental Management System (EMS) for each ATE, and further consultation will be undertaken as the recommendations are implemented.
2 Army Training Estate South West

Training Areas – Summary Details

2.1 ATE South West comprises eight separate Training Areas which offer the training opportunities shown in Table 1 below. The location of the sites is shown in Figure 2.

Table 1 Details of Training Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Total Area (ha)¹</th>
<th>Dry Trg²</th>
<th>Ranges</th>
<th>Field Firing</th>
<th>AFV</th>
<th>OBUA</th>
<th>Driver Training</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antony</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bodmin Moor (Davidstow Moor, East Moor and Cardinham Moor)</td>
<td>2,614</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Braunton Burrows</td>
<td>808</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓**</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dartmoor (Okehampton, Merrivale, Willsworthy, Cramber and Ringmoor)</td>
<td>13,040</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓**</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penhale</td>
<td>383</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓**</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staddon Heights</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyke Regis, Chickerell and Verne Yates</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yoxter</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓**</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16,757</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Source: Areas as reported by Standing Orders for ATE South West and LANDSO 1406
2 Dry Trg: dry training, which encompasses tactical training using blanks and pyrotechnics and, for the purposes of this study, non-tactical training such as fitness, navigation and adventure training
* Small arms field firing and demolitions which are considered to be live firing
** Use by BV206 vehicles

2.2 Of the 16,757ha, some 14,219ha of the land is licensed or leased to the MOD (Bodmin, Braunton Burrows, most of Dartmoor (excluding Willsworthy) and part of Wyke Regis Training Area). Training land is also used for low intensity livestock farming, where practical. At Staddon Heights, some of the Training Area is let to the local councils for use as open space for public recreation and there is a public access agreement for the Willsworthy freehold land.
Figure 2: ATE South West
Training Area Management and Use

2.3 HQ ATE SW lies within 5 Division, 43 (Wessex) Brigade and is commanded by Commander ATE SW based at Wyvern Barracks in Exeter. Responsibilities devolve from Land Command through the Commander ATE to the Commander ATE SW for the overall safety, command, control, allocation, administration and maintenance of Army training facilities within ATE SW. He exercises his responsibilities through the Commandants and Training Area Supervisors at each of the principle locations. A commercial partnership has been formed which will not alter this relationship.

2.4 Usage of the facilities is dominated by:
   • Regular Units (Army, Navy and Air Force);
   • Territorial Army Units;
   • Cadets.

They are also used by:
   • Police and civilian gun clubs;
   • Other non-MOD bodies.

2.5 A large spectrum of military training facilities exists with ATE SW, which offer a wide variety of activities to all three Armed Forces and cadet organisations.
3 Public Access to the South West of England

Regional Make-up

3.1 The aim of this chapter is to describe the setting of ATE SW in terms of public access by looking at demographic and economic characteristics, general geography and access resources.

3.2 For the purposes of this report the ATE SW Study Area includes the counties of Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall, with Poole, Plymouth and Torbay. This area is illustrated in Figure 3. The wider South West region is also referred to as the regional administrative area and includes the above local authority areas along with Bristol, North Somerset, Bath & North East Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire.

Demographic and Economic Characteristics

3.3 Table 2 shows the actual population for 2001 and projected population to 2010 for the local authority areas within the ATE SW Study Area plus the wider South West region and England for comparison.

Table 2: Actual and Predicted Population within the Regional Administrative Area (thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Population 2001</th>
<th>Projected Population 2010</th>
<th>% Change 2001-2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cornwall and Isles of Scilly</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>525</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devon</td>
<td>704</td>
<td>749</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorset</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>422</td>
<td>7.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somerset</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>524</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH WEST*</td>
<td>4,928</td>
<td>5,245</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGLAND</td>
<td>49,139</td>
<td>51,948</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


* Cornwall and Isles of Scilly, Devon, Dorset, Somerset, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Bath & North East Somerset, Bournemouth, City of Bristol, North Somerset, Plymouth, Poole, South Gloucestershire, Swindon and Torbay
3.4 The projected change by 2010 shows that the population in all these areas is expected to increase. The highest growth is forecast for Dorset and Devon and which also have projected increases above that for the South West region as a whole. It could therefore be argued that the potential for recreation pressure particularly in these areas would also increase in the ATE SW Study Area. Table 3 below shows further longer term projections for 2016 and 2021. It is clear that the population of the ATE SW Study Area is expected to continue to increase in the long term, and whilst this may result in an increase in local visits to recreational resources, the majority of pressure for increased access will still arise from holidaymakers.

**Table 3: Longer Term Population Projections**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cornwall and Isles of Scilly</td>
<td>529</td>
<td>540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devon</td>
<td>758</td>
<td>776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorset</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somerset</td>
<td>532</td>
<td>544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH WEST</td>
<td>5,333</td>
<td>5,452</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.5 In terms of the wider South West region, the Countryside Agency (2000) reports that the region has a high proportion of older people and a low proportion of younger people and children compared to other English regions. Furthermore, a very large proportion of the population live in rural areas, with 53.46% living in rural districts (Countryside Agency, 2001). The latest Countryside Agency report on the state of the countryside (Countryside Agency, 2002) maintains that in percentage terms, the rural population (in England) is growing almost three times faster than the urban population. In the region the population has increased by 4.49% in the period 1991-2001 (national average 2.02%), whilst the rural population has increased by 6.80% over the same period (national average 4.92%) (Countyrside Agency 2003). The region’s households are predicted to grow from 2 million to 2.5 million by 2011. The quality of the countryside is also indicated by the level of in-migration from other areas of the UK, often for retirement.

3.6 The England Rural Development Programme (MAFF, 2000) finds tourism to be an important sector within the South West economy. Tourism accounts for 10% of the regional GDP, although this figure is proportionally greater in the west than the east of the regional study area. For instance, some 60% of all UK tourists visit Cornwall, Devon and Dorset (west) for holidays. Most of such visits are related to the environmental amenities of the region. However, more UK tourists visit Somerset and Dorset (east) for short breaks including visits to friends and relatives and business trips than Cornwall and Devon. As a consequence, the east has a much faster growth in UK tourism than the west reflecting the strength of these specific types of trips. Recent research undertaken to assess the economic benefit of the South West Coast Path (SWCP) underlines its importance both as a recreational resource and as a driver in the region’s economy. It is estimated that 27.6% of visitors are drawn to the region because of the SWCP and it generates around £300million annually to the region’s economy (Countryside Agency 2003).

3.7 Therefore, pressure for further access and recreation opportunities within the ATE SW study area is likely to increase due to a growing local population and rapid growth in short visits in Dorset and Somerset.

Access Resources

General Geography

3.8 The Countryside Agency (2000) describes the South West region’s countryside as “its most distinctive characteristic and of central importance to its economy”. The whole South West region is the least industrialised in England with 80% of the land in agricultural use (MAFF, 2000). As a result of the natural landscape, access opportunities are varied from the linear
SWCP to the more open area access on Dartmoor and Exmoor. Use of public access resources by local people and tourists alike help to boost the local economy.

3.9 Somerset is a varied county ranging from the uplands of Exmoor to the carboniferous limestone of the Mendips, the clay/sand complexes of the Blackdown Hills with the red soils of the Quantocks and the peat/clay levels in between (MAFF, 2000). Most of Exmoor National Park is situated within Somerset (Somerset County Council, 2000).

3.10 Dorset consists of clay vales in the west, chalk downland in the middle and heathland in the east. Half the county is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and most of the coastline is Heritage Coast (Bournemouth, Dorset & Poole Structure Plan, 2000).

3.11 Devon contains the moorland of Dartmoor, rolling hills to the south and heavy culm clays to the north (MAFF, 2000). Dartmoor National Park lies within the county as does part of Exmoor National Park along with five AONBs. In total, these designations cover one third of the county’s area (Devon County Council, 2002).

3.12 Cornwall contains both uplands and lowlands, the former created by the granite outcrops around Bodmin Moor, St Austell, Lands End and Falmouth interspersed with rolling hills and fertile river valleys. The Cornwall AONB, which is heavily fragmented, includes stretches of the Cornwall Heritage Coast and comprises some of Britain’s finest coastal scenery. In the north the Tamar Valley AONB spans both Cornwall and Devon.

3.13 Much of the coastline in the study area has been designated Heritage Coast and has a considerable resource of beach access, which is a mainstay for the Region’s tourism industry (Countryside Agency, 2002). In short, there is a wealth of important landscapes and attractive places to access within the ATE SW Study Area.

**Linear Access**

3.14 There are an estimated 34,747 kms of public rights of way (PROW), incorporating footpaths, bridleways, roads used as public paths (RUPPs) and byways open to all traffic (BOATs), within the South West region (Countryside Agency, 2000).

3.15 In England, around 25% of all day visits are to the countryside (with walking being one of the most popular activities), however, this proportion is higher in the South West region at nearly 35% (MAFF, 2000).

3.16 Within the ATE SW Study Area there is a total of 20,194km of PROW. The different types of PROW, split into the local authority areas are shown in Table 4 below. Somerset has the highest length of PROW within the study area, whilst Cornwall has a relatively low length of PROW compared to other counties within the ATE SW Study Area.
Table 4: Lengths of Public Rights of Way (PROW) by Type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Footpaths (km)</th>
<th>Bridleways (km)</th>
<th>BOATs (km)</th>
<th>RUPPS (km)</th>
<th>Total (km)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cornwall</td>
<td>3,533</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4,238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devon</td>
<td>4,200</td>
<td>1,250</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorset</td>
<td>2,790</td>
<td>1,730</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somerset</td>
<td>4,760</td>
<td>910</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>5,916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>15,283</td>
<td>4,417</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>20,194</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Countryside Agency, 2001

3.17 It is useful to determine the availability of PROW in the context of the likely demand. A comparison of the length of PROW available to each person within each local authority area provides a crude assessment as shown in Table 5. Statistics for England are also given in order to provide a comparison. It should be noted that this is a crude assessment as it does not take account of people travelling to another area, visitors from outside the area travelling in, the proportion of routes that are unavailable for use (e.g. because they are blocked), or areas of open access.

Table 5: Indicator of Supply and Demand for PROW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total of PROW (km)</th>
<th>Population 2001 (thousands)</th>
<th>Length of PROW per person (km)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cornwall</td>
<td>4,238</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>0.0085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devon</td>
<td>5,500</td>
<td>704</td>
<td>0.0078</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorset</td>
<td>4,540</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>0.0116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somerset</td>
<td>5,916</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>0.0118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South West Region</td>
<td>38,898</td>
<td>4,928</td>
<td>0.0079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGLAND</td>
<td>188,531</td>
<td>49,139</td>
<td>0.0038</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Countryside Agency 2001 and Census, 2001
3.18 Table 5 indicates that all the areas within the ATE SW Study Area have lengths of PROW higher than England as a whole. Thus, it can be concluded that the ATE SW Study Area has a wealth of PROW, although as described in 3.17, this does not reflect visitor pressure.

3.19 Some PROW are promoted as long distance routes as shown in Table 6 below. This Table also includes long distance cycle routes. The Ramblers’ Association promote the following types of long distance routes:

- **National Trails** – nationally recognised in England and Wales, designated and managed by the Countryside Agency/Countryside Council for Wales.
- **Recreational Routes** – usually created with the involvement of the local authorities and local people.
- **Unwaymarked routes** – unofficial routes that follow existing public paths, described in print but not necessarily waymarked as a promoted route.

**Table 6: The Principle National and Regional Walking, Riding and Cycling Trails in the South West Region**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Significance</th>
<th>Route</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>European</strong></td>
<td>E9 European Coastal Path (at Staddon Heights, and Wyke Regis) British section – Plymouth to Dover, 705km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>National (National Trails and Sustrans Long Distance Cycle Routes)</strong></td>
<td>The Devon Coast to Coast Cycle Route Plymouth to Ilfracombe, 144km The West Country Way Cycle Route Padstow to Bristol/Bath, 403km (adjacent to Fremington Camp) <strong>The South West Coast Path National Trail (at Wyke Regis, Staddon Heights, Tregantle, Penhale, Braunton Burrows) Minehead to South Haven Point (Nr. Poole Harbour), 1014km</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regional (including Recreational Routes, Unwaymarked Routes and Sustrans Day Rides)</strong></td>
<td>Bridgewater and Taunton Canal Towpath (Day Ride) 22km Jubilee Trail (Dorset) Forde Abbey to Bokerley Dyke, 145km Macmillan Way West (near Braunton Burrows) Castle Cary to Barnstaple, 163km West Mendip Way (west of Yoxter) Uphill near Weston-super-Mare to Frome, 80km Monarch’s Way (east of Yoxter) Worcester to Shoreham (via Somerset), 982km Severn Way Near Plynlimon, Powys to Severn Beach near Bristol, 338km Saints’ Way – Forth and Syns Padstow to Fowey, 42km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significance</td>
<td>Route</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tarka Trail (Braunton Burrows)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Two trails commencing at Barnstaple, 288km</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Camel Trail - Bodmin to Padstow (Day Ride)</td>
<td>29km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Plym Valley Path Towards Dartmoor (Day Ride)</td>
<td>14km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camelford Way (west of Bodmin Moor)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moorland Walk (west of Bodmin Moor)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watermill Walk (west of Bodmin Moor)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inny Valleys Walk (east of Bodmin Moor)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Valleys Walk (south of Bodmin Moor)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Moors Way</td>
<td>Ivybridge to Lynmouth, 166km</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Main Sources: Ramblers Association, Sustrans, Defence Estates*

*Note: Those routes passing through or adjacent to ATE SW Training Areas are shown in bold type*

### Area Access

3.20 In addition to the use of PROWs, the public has access to open spaces such as country parks, picnic sites and some woodlands. The Dartmoor Commons Act was introduced in 1985 and gave a statutory right of open access on foot and on horseback over the unenclosed common land within Dartmoor National Park. In effect, this was a precursor to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act). Within the MOD freehold at Willsworthy access agreements have been reached with Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) bringing MOD freehold under the same status for public access as the rest of Dartmoor.

3.21 The CROW Act has further implications for access in the area. Public rights of access will be created for open country on moorland, mountains, heath and downland, as well as registered commons and land dedicated by the owner for permanent access. It is estimated that eventually 1.2 to 1.8 million hectares will be opened up nationally (Countryside Agency website “Access and Rights of Way”).

3.22 Under the CROW Act, maps are being prepared by the Countryside Agency for all open country and registered common land in England. There are two map areas that are applicable to the ATE SW Study Area.

- “Central Southern England” (Area 3) covers South Gloucestershire, Bristol, part of Somerset (excluding West Somerset and Taunton Deane), Wiltshire, Berkshire, Dorset, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The provisional map was published for Central Southern England during June 2003 and is also relevant to ATE SP and ATE HC.
• “South West” (Area 6) covers Cornwall, Devon and part of Somerset (including West Somerset and Taunton Deane). The draft map was published for the South West during May 2003.

3.23 Provisional maps are scheduled to be issued between 6 and 8 months after the issue of the draft maps (dependent on the volume of comments received), and conclusive maps will be issued between 6 and 12 months after the issue of the provisional maps. A section on the CROW Act and its implications for ATE SW is included in the next chapter.

Conclusion

3.24 The population within the ATE SW Study Area is expected to increase. The highest increases are anticipated for Dorset and Devon. Cornwall’s population is expected to increase at a lesser rate than the South West as a region.

3.25 Tourism is an important sector of the South West economy. The eastern part of this region has a higher proportion of short breaks compared to the western section and has a much faster growth in UK tourism than the western counties. Therefore, the projected population increase and the growth in short visits to this area suggests increased pressure on access resources.

3.26 Nevertheless, there is a wealth of access opportunities to attractive areas within the ATE SW Study Area. There are nationally important landscapes including two National Parks, five AONBs and Heritage Coast. In terms of linear access, all areas within the ATE SW Study Area have proportionately higher lengths of PROW per person than for England as a whole and there are a large number of promoted routes. The region has a considerable resource of open land and beach access, which are important for the area’s tourism industry. The Dartmoor Commons Act 1985 created a statutory right of access on foot and on horseback over common land on Dartmoor. Furthermore, there is likely to be an increase in access opportunities in the future due to the CROW Act.

3.27 Thus, whilst population figures are expected to increase there is already a very good supply of opportunities to accommodate a growing pressure for access to the countryside within the South West region, of which the ATE SW Training Areas represent a small part.
4 Access to the Army Training Estate South West

Introduction

4.1 The Training Areas of ATE SW are situated in some of the most rural regions of the UK, in a remote and distinctive landscape. The region offers extensive access for both locals and visitors. This chapter summarises the data provided on access onto the ATE in the individual site reports (see Appendix B) and explores where there are opportunities to improve the current situation with reference to the Rural Elements of the Estate Strategy (REES), in terms of quantity, quality and certainty. More detailed descriptions of each site are given in the Site Reports at Appendix B.

Current Situation

Quantity

4.2 The Training Areas of ATE SW have PROW across them, including both footpaths and bridleways, as shown in Table 7. These PROW, totalling around 61.8 kilometres in length, are illustrated on the figures included with the Site Reports in Appendix B. The South West Coast Path is also a predominant feature within or adjacent to the coastal Training Areas (Braunton Burrows, Penhale, Tregantle, Staddon Heights and Wyke Regis).

Table 7 Approximate Lengths of Paths within ATE South West

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training Area</th>
<th>Public Footpath (km)</th>
<th>Public Bridleway (km)</th>
<th>Permitted Path (km)</th>
<th>Total length of South West Coast Path within Training Area (km)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antony</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>*0.8</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bodmin Moor</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Braunton Burrows</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dartmoor</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penhale</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staddon Heights</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyke Regis</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yoxter</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>35.8</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>13.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Ordnance Survey

* Not including proposed permitted path through Tregantle Range
4.3 In addition to PROW there is also access onto the ATE in certain places in the form of area-wide access and by licence, for example:

- On Dartmoor the land used for military training is shared with the public when live firing is not published.
- On Bodmin Moor and other sites, where access is not restricted due to live firing, tracks have developed over time and general *de facto* open access is allowed in accordance with MOD policy (i.e. access occurs irrespective of the legal right to exercise such access).
- A Registered Common allowing public access is located at Wyke Regis Training Area on Chesil Beach.
- The MOD freehold beach at Antony Training Area is open to the public when live firing is not published.

4.4 The number of days public access is available to the live firing ranges is an important factor in the quantity of area access to Training Areas. On Dartmoor, for example, guaranteed public access is available at fixed periods to Merrivale on about 195 days each year, on 253 days to Okehampton and 135 days to Willsworthy. In addition once detailed programming has taken place, about a third more days are currently announced as open for the public.

4.5 Access to the training estate is also granted via a licensing system to a wide range of organised activities. Licences are issued by DE in consultation with the Commandants. The following are examples of the types of activity undertaken under licence:

- Conservation Groups
- Guided nature walks
- Orienteering
- Abseiling/ Climbing
- Hunting
- Use of ranges by civilian clubs
- Picnic areas
- Organised visits to sites of archaeological interest
Quality

4.6 The definition of quality of access is subjective and will reflect an individual’s differing needs and values. However, for the purposes of this report, quality of access can be considered as a function of the following criteria:

- Condition of the paths/open access areas;
- Linkages between paths/open access areas;
- Facilities provided by organisations/landowners in the area;
- What there is available to see during the visit;
- Less tangible aspects of quality including quiet enjoyment, freedom to wander, remoteness and level of use;
- Level and type of information available detailing access opportunities.

4.7 Where there is no open access the condition of PROWs is important. Condition can be measured in several different ways including overall ease to find, ease to follow and ease to use. Ease to use will take account of such practical issues as incidence of obstacles, which may render a path unusable and level of signposting (Countryside Agency, National Condition Survey 2000). Within the South West as a whole this survey found that there has been a positive improvement in the level of signposting and only 3-4% of PROWs are impossible to follow. Whilst no formal condition assessment was undertaken of PROWs across the ATE during the site visits, they were found to be free from obstruction and easy to follow on the ground, especially the South West Coast Path which runs through or adjacent to many of the Training Areas.

4.7 DE in association with WS Atkins has been developing a survey methodology for assessing the condition of paths on some MOD sites. The methodology has now been tested in a pilot study and it is anticipated that this survey programme will be extended to other Training Areas in due course, including those in ATE SW.

4.8 Linkages are important where opportunities are provided for circular routes and connections between urban areas. Within the ATE SW Training Areas, many of the PROWs link in with others crossing surrounding land, and therefore provide useful contributions to the overall PROW network of the area. In particular the South West Coast Path where it passes through for example, the Staddon Heights, Penhale and Wyke Regis Training Areas, provides important linkages to other PROWs and between settlements. Similarly PROWs across Merrivale on Dartmoor provide links with other routes connecting local villages to the east and west.
4.9 Facilities are provided where there is a large local population (e.g. adjacent to the Training Areas near Plymouth) and where there is an interesting landscape. Local authorities have provided car parks on land provided by MOD adjacent to Staddon Heights, at Antony and at Willsworthy, with the aim of controlling access to popular areas and reducing verge parking.

4.10 A variety of landscape types attract visitors including large areas of open spaces (e.g. Dartmoor), mountains and coastline environments. The Training Areas occupy areas of high interest in terms of ecology and general landscape value, many with national or international designations (SSSIs and/or cSACs) and some within AONBs. On Dartmoor, within the Training Area around High Willhays, there are certain points which provide extensive views across the landscape. At Antony in south east Cornwall, Tregantle and Scraesdon Forts provide points of interest due to their historic military significance.

4.11 Many people value remoteness, peace and quiet in the countryside; conversely others enjoy company. Remoteness is valued as, amongst other reasons, it may be a challenging environment, provides a contrast with the more populous areas, and provides a ‘wildness’ experience. On Dartmoor and on parts of Bodmin Moor, remoteness combined with rough terrain and extremes of weather contrast with walking at Staddon, which is close to the metropolis of Plymouth.

4.12 An individual’s perception of quality of access is also affected by the availability of free-ranging access, although this depends on the user; for example walkers value this while mountain bikers often require defined routes. The quality of visit would also depend on the amount of other people in the area at the same time. Over-use of an area is difficult to define and will depend on the nature of the site, tradition and expectation of visitors (National Trust, 1995).

4.13 During 2002, WS Atkins carried out two visitor surveys: a pilot survey at Willsworthy Training Area and another at Cramber Tor. The Cramber Tor survey was then repeated by WSP Environmental. For the Willsworthy pilot visitor survey a random sample of people accessing Willsworthy were asked about the quality of their visit to the Training Area. On the whole visitors reported a high quality experience with 80% rating it either excellent or very good. The main positive factors that influenced their visit were the scenery and ease of access, although there were some negative ones including military presence. When asked for particular reasons as to why the military was seen in a negative light, those respondents identified damage to the environment and restricted access as the two most common. Nevertheless, when asked what could be done to improve quality, over 30% said the area should be kept as it is. The most repeated improvement sought was to improve the car parks. They also stated that better information/maps/interpretation and litter bins should be provided.
4.14 The Cramber Tor Visitor Survey was used to establish the quality and quantity of access and recreation on the Training Area. Most visitors (94%) were aware that the area is used for military training and the majority reported that the military presence had no impact on their experience. Visitors reported a high quality experience, with 82% rating it either excellent or very good and a further 17% rating it good. The main attractions of the site were scenery, ease of access, proximity to A386 (stop off point) and isolation. Although the responses from visitors were mainly positive, a number of opportunities to improve the visitor experience were identified. These included the provision of more information/interpretation (relating to Cramber Tor/MOD activity), improved signage (particularly of footpaths), improved management and maintenance and clearing up of litter.

4.15 The MOD has been proactive in producing information on the access opportunities across ATE SW. This is an important element in the quality of experience for the visitor and the certainty of access as discussed in 4.16 below.

Certainty

4.16 The certainty of access for recreational purposes of the Training Areas and Ranges will depend upon the understanding of the general public as to where they can go and when. To promote this understanding over the availability of access a comprehensive system exists to publicise those occasions when live firing curtails public access. The most basic of these is the hoisting of warning signals and the posting of notices and signs. On Dartmoor, for example, in addition to red flags, lamps and signage, guaranteed public access and firing programmes are published on the internet, in newspapers and distributed widely, and the local radio announces times of firing. Notice boards are also used on the Dartmoor and Penhale Training Areas to display information about the training activities, conservation aspects and public access. However, at some sites it has been highlighted that the signage could be improved (see Appendix B).

4.17 Three of the sites with ATE SW are covered by military byelaws (Tregantle Ranges, Dartmoor Training Area and Chickerell Ranges). The aim of the byelaws is to ensure safety of the public by regulating access to Training Areas. The details of each set of byelaws is set out in the relevant site report (see Appendix B) and will be dependent on the type of military activity taking place and the associated risks. In general, public access is only restricted during periods of live firing.

4.18 The MOD promotes open access to its training areas on Dartmoor, which is featured in the latest edition of the Walks on MOD Lands booklet. Access opportunities to the other sites are described on the DE website (www.defence-estates.mod.uk) and a public information leaflet describing the ATE SW training areas is available from HQ ATE SW in Exeter and on the ATE website (www.army.mod.uk/ate). MOD have also produced an information leaflet for the Dartmoor Training Area entitled ‘A Guide for Walkers and Riders’ that is available from
tourist information centres. In addition there is a Dartmoor Training Area (DTA) website (www.dartmoor-ranges.co.uk), which provides guaranteed public access opportunities, firing programmes and other military information.

4.19 DNPA has produced various promotional leaflets about the National Park including the ‘Archaeology of the Open Moor’, and a free newspaper called ‘The Dartmoor Visitor’ covering many topics of interest for visitors and locals.

4.20 Some other routes are promoted by the Countryside Agency, local authorities and other interested parties e.g. the South West Coast Path and Tarka Trail and general promotion of the PROW network by the relevant highway authority rights of way departments.

Pressures and Constraints

4.21 This study has highlighted both pressures and constraints in providing public access to the sites of ATE SW.

4.22 There are no definitive figures regarding how many people visit the Training Areas. However, the DNPA has indicated that the area attracts some 3.8 million day visits each year (DNPA Performance Plan 2002). The DNPA has also indicated that some 46% of visitors come from the surrounding towns, especially Plymouth, Teignbridge and Torbay. The rest of the visitors generally come from elsewhere in the UK, particularly the South East of England. Pressure for access therefore needs to be balanced against the military training requirements as discussed within the Dartmoor Site Report (Appendix B). The Ramblers’ Association, Open Spaces Society and Dartmoor Preservation Association represent groups of people who request more access to DTA.

4.23 Other Training Areas including Antony, Penhale, Staddon Heights and Wyke Regis also contain or are located adjacent to a valuable national recreational resource - the South West Coast Path. This may result in increased pressure from members of the public for access to further parts of these Training Areas adjacent to the coastal path.

4.24 There are a number of constraints that the existing provision of public access must work within, and these would need to be fully taken into account in the further development of access within ATE South West. The principal constraints are described below.

Operational and Military Training Use

4.25 Much military training is inherently dangerous by nature and furthermore uncontrolled access can interfere with the proper achievement of training objectives. The requirements of military training do change as new weapons or equipments are introduced into service and the MOD Training Areas must retain the flexibility to adapt to this.

Public Safety
4.26 The MOD, as with any other landlord, has a ‘Duty of Care’ towards those who use the Training Areas. This responsibility is exercised by the Training Area Commandant, who is required to conduct an annual risk assessment. For the public’s safety, access has to be restricted when live firing is programmed or dangerous activities are taking place. Many of the Training Areas have a historic legacy of unexploded ordnance (UXO). While the MOD makes substantial efforts to clear this, resources are finite, in some areas significant environmental damage would be caused and, particularly in areas of peat, there can be no guarantee that everything has been destroyed.

**Security**

4.27 The MOD must ensure that the Training Areas including camps are, as far as possible, secure from theft, vandalism and terrorist attack. Fly tipping and other illegal activities also pose a significant problem.

**Conservation**

4.28 The MOD has a duty to maintain and enhance nature conservation, the historic environment and the landscape of the Training Areas. These require sympathetic management to protect their value and prevent potentially detrimental effects from other land uses. Access opportunities must therefore be discussed with the appropriate statutory bodies and other stakeholders.

4.29 With reference to the latter point, the nature conservation interests of the Training Areas are of particular significance. The following list gives details of national and international designations, although the list is not exhaustive.

- Okehampton, Willsworthy and Merrivale Training Areas lie within the Dartmoor candidate Special Area for Conservation (cSAC).
- Braunton Burrows is a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and a cSAC for the habitats on the dunes.
- The Penhale Dunes are also a cSAC.
- Wyke Regis Training Area uses part of Chesil Beach and The Fleet which have been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the Chesil Beach and the Fleet cSAC, Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site.

4.30 In total there are 19 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) within ATE SW, all but one of which is also either a SPA or cSAC. Increased pressure for future public access to the ATE necessitates the MOD continually to seek to improve the management of these designated sites, to ensure that any potential damage is kept to a minimum.
Private Land

4.31 Large parts of the ATE SW Training Areas are not owned by the MOD but are subject to a variety of leases or licences. Access opportunities on these areas are developed in partnership with the landowner and in consultation with the local Statutory Bodies.

Agricultural and other Tenants

4.32 Much of the land on the Training Areas is farmed. Farmers and other tenants contribute to the management of the Training Areas, helping to create and maintain a working landscape, providing a realistic environment for military training and supporting conservation objectives. A thriving agricultural community is therefore important, requiring farmers’ and tenants’ needs to be taken into account.

Resources

4.33 There are many competing demands on the MOD Training Areas budget and resources are finite. Where access opportunities carry a resources bill, the MOD must make a judgement as to the benefits that might accrue.

Future Changes and Opportunities

Introduction

4.34 The constraints relating to the military need, safety, conservation and other land issues dictate the opportunities for increasing the quantity, quality and certainty of public access to the Training Areas that constitute ATE SW. Proposals will be incorporated into the EMS for each site, through the Integrated Land Management Plan (ILMP) or Integrated Rural Management Plan (IRMP) process.

4.35 The proposals below are offered as indicative of the types of improved access that could be offered but without full consideration of constraints. Where the proposals will potentially have an impact on SACs or SPAs (i.e. habitats that are designated under the Habitats Directive for their European importance), an appropriate assessment would need to be carried out.

4.36 Some of these opportunities have been identified as best practice from other sites; some are already being explored by MOD/DE; others may involve a proactive approach that would
involve third parties (e.g. neighbouring landowners, user representatives, other statutory bodies).

4.37 The initial section focuses on the impacts of the CROW Act to ATE SW and the actions that will need to be taken, along with additional recommendations to consider. Following this, the main recommendations on improving access are summarised.

Impact of the CROW Act

4.38 The CROW Act will create a right of access to open country (mountain, moor, heath and down) and registered common land in England and Wales (separate legislation is being taken forward in Scotland). It will also allow land to be dedicated by the landowner for public access under Section 16 of the CROW Act and some coastal land if the Secretary of State chooses to invoke the power provided under Section 3.

4.39 Schedule 1 of the Act defines certain types of land use to be ‘Excepted Land’, which will, whilst being defined as open country, not be designated as access land. One category of such ‘Excepted Land’ is land covered by military byelaws.

4.40 Owners of land subject to the right of access will be able to close this land to the public for up to a maximum of 28 days per year, within certain rules and restrictions. The CROW Act also provides the opportunity for additional closures for particular reasons of land management (Section 24), safety (Section 25) and the need for defence or national security (Section 28).

4.41 The ATE SW Training Areas are split between different regions in relation to the mapping programme of the Countryside Agency. As defined in Chapter 3, the provisional maps for Central Southern England have been published which feature Yoxter and Wyke Regis Training Areas. The draft maps for the South West, covering the other Training Areas were published in May 2003.

4.42 After receiving comments on the draft maps, the Countryside Agency produces provisional maps. Beyond this stage, only someone with an interest in land mapped as access land will be entitled to appeal against the land's inclusion on the maps, if they feel they have grounds to do so.

4.43 Conclusive maps have not yet been produced for all of the sites within ATE SW, so it is not possible to specify the exact extent of access land as a result of CROW Act mapping. However, the results of the mapping process to date are shown in Table 8.
Table 8: Results of CROW Act Mapping

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training Area</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Area 3 (Central South)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyke Regis</td>
<td>An area of Registered Common Land has been identified on the licenced MOD land on Chesil Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yoxter</td>
<td>Two areas of Open Country have been identified within and adjacent to the range danger area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Area 6 (South West)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antony, Penhale and Staddon Heights</td>
<td>No areas identified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bodmin</td>
<td>All of Davidstow Moor &amp; Cardinham Moor and most of East Moor are identified as Registered Common Land. One small area of Open Country has been identified on East Moor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Braunton Burrows</td>
<td>One small area has been identified as Registered Common Land within Grey Sands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dartmoor</td>
<td>The majority of Okehampton &amp; Merrivale have been identified as Registered Common Land with additional smaller areas of Open Country.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Majority of Willsworthy have been identified as Open Country with northern area identified as Registered Common Land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Majority of Cramber have been identified as Open Country.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Majority of Ringmoor have been identified as either Open Country or Registered Common Land</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.44 The areas mapped are illustrated in the Site Reports, with details of the approach that the MOD intends to take for each area. A procedure has been established by the MOD for reviewing and commenting on these maps. The MOD/DE are involved in discussions on how the new access rights will be publicised and how ‘Excepted Land’ will be communicated on maps and other documents.

4.45 Part II of the Act (Rights of Way) will provide opportunities for landowners to apply for diversions or closures of public rights of way (PROW). It will also empower the public to apply to the local highway authority for orders to remove obstructions. There may be opportunities to modify the PROW network in some places to everyone’s advantage, although in practice these may be difficult to effect.

4.46 The CROW Act also requires access authorities (Highway and National Park Authorities) to prepare Rights of Way Improvement Plans (RoWIP) and to establish Local Access Forums (LAF). LAFs will have a responsibility to consider a wide range of access issues, not just
issues related to Part I of the CROW Act. MOD has developed policy that states representation on these fora will be at observer status.

**Proposals for Improvements to the Existing Access Situation**

4.47 As the access infrastructure within the countryside helps sustain the rural economy in the South West, it is important that the access provisions are maintained and if possible improved. The following considerations describe the potential improvements at a strategic level, across the freehold areas of ATE SW Training Areas.

- **Environmental Management System (EMS)**  Full opportunity should be taken in developing EMS, to review the impact of military training on public access, ensure that effective mitigation is in place, measure performance and conduct audits, in order that public access opportunities are maximised in line with the MOD Strategy for the Defence Estate. This will be aided by MOD good practice guidance notes.

- **Information Boards**  At appropriate points within the Training Area, information boards should be established which provide visitors with interpretative information on the Training Area and military use. Some sites already provide such information (e.g. Dartmoor, with the agreement of the DNPA). The provision of information gives the visitors a much better understanding of the Training Area and an information board, customised for each area, would include:-
  
  o  General information on the area, including the geography/geology of the area and any ecological and archaeological points of interest.
  o  A map illustrating the area and what public access is available, where and when.
  o  Information on the military history of the area and current military training activities.
  o  ‘Easy to Understand’ version of the byelaws.
  o  Where to get further information on non-firing times or other details on access opportunities.

- **Opportunities for the disabled**  With regard to the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, a review of access provisions for the disabled and less able should be undertaken and measures considered to improve access by adopting BS5709 regarding gaps, gates and stiles.

- **Signage**  Consideration should be given to the wording of MOD signage both across the ATE and the MOD as a whole, to make it more user friendly, in line with the review of signage that took place on Dartmoor in 1995 to make the signage more welcoming.
• **Working with local bodies**  Approach local landowners and associations e.g. the National Trust, Wildlife Trust and the local bodies who are working to promote access and/ or conservation in the area, to discuss ideas of working together to enhance and promote the access opportunities in the area (e.g. at Penhale and Yoxter).

• **Public Access Leaflets**  Although it is recognised that DTA has developed a detailed information leaflet ‘A Guide for Walkers and Riders’, a further suggestion would be to develop individual leaflets for each Training Area or walk. These leaflets would provide information on the current access opportunities, with detail on specific points of interest (e.g. industrial archaeology on Bodmin Moor and Chesil Beach World Heritage Site). The leaflets could be placed in local tourist information centres or local hotels for easy distribution to the local population and visitors to the area.

• **Recreation Officer**  Other ATEs (e.g. ATE Otterburn) have appointed a recreation officer to oversee access provision and to develop sustainable tourism initiatives. At ATE SW the Commandants undertake these duties but in order to develop access and recreational provision further this role needs strengthening.

4.48 In addition to those proposals of a strategic nature, this study has highlighted a few specific opportunities for some ATE SW Training Areas. These are summarised in Table 9 below. A fuller description is provided in the reports for each site in Appendix B.

**Table 9  Summary of Proposals and Recommendations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Proposals and Recommendations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Antony     | • The liability issues surrounding trespassing, should be addressed and possible methods of how it could be prevented implemented. A waymarked permissive route should help to alleviate the problems of trespass through the range during non-firing periods.  
• Quality of existing access opportunities to be improved by the design and siting of interpretative information boards, in particular at the entrance to the existing permissive path leading to Long Sands beach where one clear sign with an information board would be better.  
• Further discussions could be held with Cornwall County Council/Caradon District Council regarding the provision of information boards at Wacker Quay. |
| Bodmin Moor| • Byelaws to be introduced for Millpool Range so the PROWs across the danger area can be closed during periods of live firing.  
• On Millpool Range MOD to consider invoking either Section 28 (need for national defence) or Section 25(1)(b) (on grounds of
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Proposals and Recommendations</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>public health and safety) on account of both natural and man made hazards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• In consultation with landowners, information boards and the byelaws should be placed at access points to the range danger area to inform the public of the significance of the warning signals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Braunton Burrows</td>
<td>• Continue to support the initiatives from the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve management programme, including:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- plans to develop a visitor centre, currently under discussion with English Nature and the Christie Estate;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- the provision of information boards and leaflets informing the public of the ecological importance of the Reserve and the influence of the MOD in maintaining the habitats and providing benefits to the local economy;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- the provision of waymarked routes to steer visitors away from the most sensitive areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dartmoor</td>
<td>• The Intervisibility Study should be completed, the recommendations examined within the Dartmoor Steering Group and those agreed and supported by DNPA be implemented.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The public information publications and notices should continue to advise the guaranteed public access periods and cancellations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The DTA website (<a href="http://www.dartmoor-ranges.co.uk">www.dartmoor-ranges.co.uk</a>) should be developed to include more public access information and links to other sites.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The freephone (0800 4584868) firing information should be updated daily to include any further opportunities for public access due to cancellations.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The effort to reduce the disparity between live firing published and actual firing should continue. The statistical summary should continue to be made available to the public.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The proposed move of the Okehampton and Merrivale range danger area boundaries to allow easier access to Cut Hill via the North West Passage when Okehampton range danger area is not active should be implemented as soon as the byelaws can be amended.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Supervision of training by competent persons to ensure that, where possible, the National Park purposes are supported should be continued.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Consideration should be given to publishing the firing notices earlier to enable the public to plan walks and access.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penhale</td>
<td>• Bring the following issues to the attention of the cSAC Management Team, so that they can be considered and incorporated, where relevant, into the management plan which is due to be completed by the end of 2004:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Site Proposals and Recommendations

- **Proposals and Recommendations**

  - Review, in association with English Nature, the design, content and siting of interpretative information boards, so the public is informed of the military use, nature conservation issues, safety issues and means to access the dunes by licence;

  - Investigate the improved delineation and waymarking of the SWCP route, in conjunction with the permissive route along the existing desire line (red & white pole line) to develop a circular route.

  - Consider possible works that could improve the visually unattractive structures associated with the SWCP and the area around it, particularly where the path passes Penhale Camp;

  - Investigate additional methods of informing the public of their access rights across the Training Area.

- **Staddon Heights**

  - Erect information boards informing the public of access opportunities.

  - Undertake additional survey work on this site to identify all the relict military defences and carry out works to make them safe should members of the public encounter them.

  - Research the possibility of preserving and restoring the relict military features which would involve some vegetation clearance, provision of interpretation boards, and in the future, maintenance of these areas.

  - If the defences were to be revealed and made safe, educational leaflets should be distributed to local school children and the local tourist information centre.

- **Wyke Regis**

  - If at any time in the future, training requirements were to alter at Wyke Regis, consideration should be given to divert the South West Coast Path adjacent to The Fleet at the Bridging Hard.

- **Yoxter**

  - Consider the introduction of new byelaws to restrict access to the range danger area at times of live firing.

  - Prior to implementation of new byelaws, use Section 28 restrictions to restrict access only to right of way. Appropriate signage should be put in place at the MOD boundary.

  - Amend Annex H to ATE SW Standing Orders to state that there is one public footpath within the dry training area, but no public access within the range danger area.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Proposals and Recommendations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Investigate the potential to develop a circular route within the dry training area, e.g. at Chancellor’s Farm, in liaison with the Somerset Wildlife Trust and English Nature.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix A

Proforma for Site Visits
# Public Access Study

## Proforma for Baseline Studies and Reporting

### Basic Information

| 1. ATE:   |   |
| 2. Training Area/Facility: |   |
| 3. Managed by (HQ Land, ATRA etc): |   |
| 4. Size: | Acres/Ha |
| 5. Map Attached? |   |
| 6. Are any areas not owned freehold by the MOD? |   |
| 7. If Yes, give brief details and explain any use restrictions/limitations: |   |
| 8. Is there any registered common land (& give details): |   |
| 9. Training Activities (✓?): | AFV live firing (LF) | AFV manoeuvre |
| | arty LF | Mortar LF |
| | Field firing | Small arms ranges |
| | RAF/heli LF | FGA/Heli trg (dry) |
| | Engineer trg | FIBUA trg |
| | Dismount. Dry trg | Other dry trg |
| 9a. Is there a guide to the Training Area/ATE for visiting units (if yes, obtain copy)? |   |
| 10. Major Users: |   |

### Danger Area

| 11. Does the Training Area map show (a) land Danger Area(s)? |   |
| 12. Size of the land Danger Area: | Acres/Ha |
| 12a. Confirm that firing templates always remain within this/these Danger Area(s)? (if no – explain) |   |
| 13. Is there also an inner Impact Area? |   |
| 14. Is there also a Sea Danger Area? |   |
| 15. Size of the Sea Danger Area? | Acres/Ha |
| 16. Copy of the Sea Danger Area attached? |   |
16a. Other information (e.g. pattern of use):

**Byelaws**

17. Is any part of the Training Area/facility covered by byelaws?

18. When were the byelaws last reviewed/updated?

19. Copy of the byelaws attached?

20. Does the byelaw boundary follow the Danger Area boundary?

21. Explain any differences:

22. Do the byelaws enable parts of the byelawed area to be managed independently?

23. If so, describe:

24. Do the byelaws describe any local arrangements or exceptions?

25. If so, describe:

26. Which activities do the byelaws require MOD to restrict access for?

27. Are there byelaws covering a sea Danger Area?

28. Explain the operation of these byelaws:

29. Other byelaws information:

**Live Firing Notification**

30. Does the Training Area issue a live firing warning/notice in advance?

31. How often is this published? Weekly / Monthly / Bi-monthly / Quarterly / Yearly
32. How far in advance of the period covered is the notice published?

33. Where is the notice published?

34. Attach copies of the notices for the training year 1999/2000:

35. Do the notices show that individual Danger Areas are managed separately (where possible?)

36. Do the notices provide any public access info. as well as basic firing info?

37. Are the notices compiled strictly on the basis of bids received? (or is ‘slack’ built into the programme)

38. Give any reasons for ‘no’ to questions 31, 32 and 33:

39. What happens if training is cancelled and a booked area is free from training. Are flags etc taken down?

40. If no, why not?

41. What other measures are taken to let people know?

42. What are the normal live firing hours:

43. How many nights of night firing per month?

44. What hours constitute “night firing”?

45. Are there any planning conditions or other agreements that set max. live firing levels/hours etc?

46. If yes, provide details:

**Dry Training**

47. Does dry training involve the use of blank ammo/BATSIM/pyrotechnics/trip wires?

48. If so, please detail use of relevant areas?

49. Are any measures adopted currently to minimise conflict with public access e.g. no use of blanks near footpaths?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50. If yes, provide details:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extent of Public Access</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51. Is there any area-wide access at present within the Training Area?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52. If yes, explain basis and provide details:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53. Are there any public car parks, picnic sites, holiday accommodation, visitor centres or other formal facilities within the MOD estate? (NB include facilities provided by tenants)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54. If yes, provide details:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55. Are any of the rights of way set out at Table 1 below part of a National Trail?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56. If yes, provide details:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57. Are any of the footpaths set out below part of any other promoted walks/trails e.g. by Sustrans, the County Council?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58. If yes, provide details:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59. Are there any routes within the byelawed area that are available for public access at all times?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>60. On what basis is this access provided?</td>
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<tr>
<td>61. Has the MOD produced or collaborated on any leaflets/guides/books on local access opportunities?</td>
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<tr>
<td>62. If yes, provide details:</td>
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<tr>
<td>63. Has the MOD ever received requests for new access routes within the Training Area/estate?</td>
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<tr>
<td>64. What was the outcome?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>65. Does the MOD have any aspirations for new routes, as yet unfulfilled?</td>
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<tr>
<td>66. If Yes, what has prevented progress?</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Question</td>
<td>Answer</td>
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<tr>
<td>67. Are there any special projects/programmes that will improve access opportunities, e.g. Millennium projects? (If yes – give details)</td>
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<tr>
<td>68. Are there any ongoing problems of trespass or misuses of access opportunities (lawful or unlawful)? (If yes – give details)</td>
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<tr>
<td>70. What is the public allowed to use/do on non-firing days?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>71. Are any certain non firing days always available every year, e.g. by custom, agreement etc (e.g. lambing, Bank Holidays etc)?</td>
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<tr>
<td>72. If yes, provide details:</td>
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<tr>
<td>73. Have the location of warning signs and flags ever been reviewed?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>74. If yes, when and with what result?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75. Is there any other info for the public “on the ground” other than red flags and lamps, warning notices and copies of the byelaws?</td>
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<tr>
<td>76. If yes, provide details:</td>
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<tr>
<td>77. Are there any other opportunities as yet unmentioned, e.g. organised motor sport events, access for climbing, water sports, orienteering etc?</td>
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<tr>
<td>78. Please provide details:</td>
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<tr>
<td>79. Are there any arrangements for liaison with the public/groups about access issues, e.g. through ESG, Conservation Group, access group etc?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80. If yes, provide details:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>81. Does any educational access take place, e.g. visits by University courses?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Question</td>
<td>Answer</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>82. If yes, provide details:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83. Are any areas affected by unexploded ordnance (UXO)?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84. If yes, provide details and/or obtain copy of any map:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Management of Access</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85. What is the general Training Area/facility policy or practice towards access?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86. Who is responsible for managing access and how is this done?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87. Is there an ILMP or Estate Management Plan in either draft or final form? What does it say about current and future access (obtain copy if possible):</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix B

Site Reports
ATE South West

Antony Training Area

1. Geography

The Antony Training Area, which includes the Tregantle Ranges, lies in Cornwall and is situated west of Plymouth. It stretches from the sandy beaches of Whitsand Bay in the south across 350 hectares (865 acres) of pasture to the mud estuary of the River Lynher in the north. The whole Training Area is MOD freehold land down to the low water mark. The farming land to the north is let on two agricultural tenancies. All land is available for training provided standing crops, buildings, walls, fences and hedges are not damaged, and farming operations and stock are not unduly disturbed.

There are two forts within the Training Area, Tregantle and Scraesdon Forts, which were built in the 1850's as part of a ‘ring of fire’ to protect the naval port of Plymouth. Created out of granite and limestone, Tregantle Fort stands prominently on the Cornish coastline. Scraesdon Fort is located inland and is maintained to a lower standard.

Public roads pass through the Training Area including the B3247, located to the north of the danger area on Tregantle, and the A374 passes to the north of Antony Training Area.

2. Designations

The cliffs and sands within the Tregantle Ranges form part of the Rame Head & Whitsand Bay SSSI and are designated for both biological and geological reasons. The SSSI is also listed in the Geological Conservation Review (GCR).

The Lynher River, north of Wacker Quay forms part of the Plymouth Sound & Estuaries candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC) which is designated under the EC Habitats and Species Directive for the protection of habitats and (non-bird) species.

The Lynher River is also designated under the EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds, namely the Tamar Estuaries Complex Special Protection Area (SPA).

The Training Area is partly within the Tamar Valley AONB that encompasses land adjacent to the River Lynher.

The South West Coast Path National Trail is directed between Antony Dry Training Area and Tregantle Ranges.

Tregantle Fort and Scraesdon Fort are scheduled as Ancient Monuments.
3. Training Use

There are five ranges at Tregantle (C, D, E, F and M) and all firing (except M) is directed downhill, at an angle of about 30°. There are four gallery ranges used for small arms firing and there is a 100m .22 rimfire and 25m pistol Range in Tregantle Fort’s moat (M range). Tregantle Ranges are heavily used between three and four days a week and often at weekends. Firing often takes place at night and the ranges are used by all three services. The Antony Training Area is used for dry training (amphibious training, parachute drops and cliff assault), often incorporating use of the ranges at Tregantle.

Scraesdon Fort is used for abseiling and OBUA. Amphibious training and watermanship also occurs at Wacker Quay from the tidal River Lynher, and Whitsand Bay may be used for parachute drops into the water. There also is helicopter access onto the Fort and Antony.

4. Danger Areas

Tregantle Range danger area extends over the sea as indicated on Figure 4.

5. Byelaws/Control

The danger area is covered by the Tregantle Ranges Byelaws, 1982. The byelaws state that “the Danger Areas may be used for the military firing of pistols, carbines, rifles, machine guns, hand grenades, rifle grenades, other small arms and pyrotechnics and for all activities ancillary to such firing”.

The land danger area is divided into the ‘Eastern Danger Area’ and ‘Western Danger Area’. This is relevant to the control of access to the permissive path (see Section 6) used by the public to access the beach. As stated in the byelaws, “Public Access will ordinarily be allowed to the footpath to Longsands Beach [the permissive path] across C Range…when firing is not taking place on that Range. When either the Eastern or Western Danger Area is in use…access to the beach within that Danger Area is prohibited. There is no restriction on public access to those sections of beach when the Danger Areas of which they are part are not in use for military purposes”.

This indicates that access is allowed to the permissive path when no firing is taking place on C Range. When live firing is taking place, the training unit provides three sentries as lookouts and a sign is put in place saying, ‘Don’t Pass This Point’. If members of the public enter the western danger area, these sentries order the firing to stop by triggering horns and lights to flash, and in addition, they have the use of a loud speaker.
Entrance to Permissive Path on C Range

The byelaws also describe the limits of the sea danger area. During firing three lookouts, one on top of Tregantle Fort, are positioned to see incursions into the Training Area and to stop firing when, for example, a vessel enters the sea danger area. If any vessel is within either of the Danger Areas when it is being used for military purposes, an additional red flag by day and an additional red light by night be hoisted below the other flags. The additional red flag/light may also be hoisted half an hour before firing is due to start to notify masters of vessels in the vicinity of the Danger Areas that firing will shortly take place.

6. Public Access Resources/Facilities

Approaching the Training Area from the east, the South West Coast Path (SWCP) moves away from the cliff edge and follows the boundary of the Training Area inland, along the B3247. At the western end of the Training Area, the path returns back to the cliff edge, moving away from the road, across a field.

As identified in (5), there is a permissive path through the Training Area down to Long Sands beach (see Figure 4). The byelaws permit access to this footpath and the beach when red flags are not flying. The gate to the permissive path is open when C Range not in use.

Access through Antony is available on the public roads. Wacker Quay, on the edge of the River Lynher, is leased to the Cornwall County Council for public use (a picnic area), although Caradon District Council hope to take over this lease from Cornwall County Council.
7. **Other Existing Access Opportunities (licenced/organised activities)**

There is a carpark just outside the Training Area off the B3247, which services the permissive path through C Range down to the beach.

A recent initiative is an annual open day, organised by Commander ATE SW, with organised tours of Tregantle Fort and access to the Training Area. This has proved to be very popular, particularly with the local people. In addition to this, the Quartermaster shows the public around the fort on an *ad hoc* basis (e.g. tourists arriving at the local area ask permission to access the site).

8. **Signage**

When the danger areas are in use, red flags are hoisted during the day, and red lights are displayed at night at 7 places. The sea danger area is indicated by signs on the cliff, and is marked on nautical maps. The signage on the road gate needs improving.

The MOD boundary is well fenced with signs stating “MOD Land” and “Keep Off”. These signs are particularly prevalent around the gate allowing access to the permissive path.

9. **Live Firing Warning/Notification**

According to the byelaws, live firing notification must be “given by sending notices, not less than seven clear days before the day or night of firing, giving the particulars of the intended date, time and duration of the firing” to the local parish councils, the local Harbour Masters, the nearby Post Offices, the local HM Coastguards, two Yacht Clubs, public library, air traffic control at Plymouth Airport and two newspapers (Cornish Times and The Western Morning News). This notification is organised by the booking desk at HQ ATE SW. They receive all bids for training and send out the notification a week in advance to the relevant bodies. The red flags go up and down in line with usage in accordance with MOD policy. The firing programme can also be obtained by telephoning the following number: 01752 822516.

Furthermore, in light of the Standing Orders for the South West, units allocated to the Training Area are to inform the MOD tenant farmers of their training programme so that appropriate action can be taken.

10. **Non-Firing Days/Periods**

At the beginning of each year, a set number of non-firing days are allocated. These include:
• Three weeks in August, to provide access to Long Sands beach during the busiest part of the tourist season.

• A number of set maintenance days.

• Bank holidays.

• Alternate weekends.

11. Management of Site

The Standing Orders for ATE SW advise on measures to be taken to facilitate public access/recreation and minimise any conflict between such access and military training. For example, on PROWs it is stated that troops must only move in small groups of 10 or less, not carry arms or carry out any tactical exercises and not inconvenience the public in any way.

12. Promotion

The SWCP is promoted by the South West Coast Path Association (SWCPA) in their various pamphlets and publications. There are also Countryside Agency guides to the SWCP which are published jointly with the Ordnance Survey. The SWCP also features in a number of other walking guides, books and tourist information literature and has a designated website. In addition, 2003 marked the 25th anniversary of the SWCP and accordingly many special promotional events have been held to increase the public's awareness of the trail.

13. Third Party Aspirations/Pressures

The MOD had many discussions with the SWCPA about the creation of an additional permissive route, so that when the Range is not in use, walkers can retain a view of the coast (through the middle of Tregantle Range). Both the coast path and Whitsand Bay are popular attractions with tourists and local residents from the surrounding area. DE met with representatives of the SWCPA and mapped a proposed route, which largely follows existing Range roads to the south of Tregantle Fort. During periods of live firing, gates will be locked at each end of the route and the public will be expected to follow the usual public footpath along the B3247, which will remain the formal South West Coast Path. This new permissive path was officially opened on 9 December 2003 to coincide with the Silver Jubilee of the South West Coast Path.

A further aspiration arises from Caradon District Council that has expressed some interest in developing the area around Wacker Quay, upon taking over the lease from Cornwall
County Council. This would include putting up information boards illustrating the bird interest in relation to the SPA and cSAC, see (2), and has the support of MOD.

In the past, there has been some pressure to open up Scraesdon Fort to the public. However, considerable capital expenditure would be required to make it safe for general access and this would conflict with military requirements.


There is a significant trespass problem caused by visitors to the beach, especially during August when the Range is not in use and is not manned. The gates to the Training Area are locked but trespassers still cut across the Range to the beach and steal wood for fires etc. The work required to repair the damage caused, including broken or damaged gates/fences, is estimated to cost between £4,000 - £5,000 each year. There are also potential problems of liability should an accident occur involving a trespasser.

15. Unexploded ordnance (UXO)

There was an UXO issue relating to mines on the beach at Tregantle, although the area was cleared last year. In addition, there is a potential UXO issue on the Ranges resulting from historic uses, where trespassers may be exposed to risk. There is no UXO issue on Antony.

16. Future Opportunities/Issues to be Addressed

Discussions should continue regarding the liability issues surrounding trespass and the problems associated with UXO must be addressed and possible methods of reducing trespass considered.

Additionally, the quality of existing access opportunities could be improved by the design and siting of interpretative information boards, in particular at the entrance to the existing permissive path leading to Long Sands beach and consideration of other forms of information provision.

A review of signage on the Training Area should be undertaken, particularly the quality and quantity of signs at the entrance to the existing permissive path. At present the signs are misleading and may put off potential walkers along this path (see photograph on Page 3 of this site report).

Further discussions could be held with Cornwall County Council regarding the provision of information boards at Wacker Quay on Antony and with regard to parking provision.
17. Sources

- Discussions with ATE SW staff, 16th October 2000 and 10th April 2003
- Site visit 20th October 2000 (Tregantle Fort)
- LANDSO 1406
- Standing Orders for the Army Training Estate South West
- A Guide to Training Areas, Ranges and Camps in Devon, Dorset and Cornwall
- The Tregantle Ranges Byelaws, 1982
- The South West Coast Path, 2001 Guide
- The South West Coast Path Association (correspondence to RPS on 20/08/02)
ATE South West

Bodmin Moor Training Areas Including Cardinham, Davidstow and East Moors

1. Geography

Bodmin Moor Training Area is situated in Cornwall, some 10 miles west of Launceston. The principal Training Area is Davidstow Moor and West Moor (Figure 5), just north of the A30 trunk road, which contains a disused airfield. Additional Training Areas are Cardinham Moor (Figure 6) to the west, which includes the Millpool Gallery Small Arms Range and East Moor (Figure 7) to the south.

The landscape of Bodmin is a high plateau of barren land with granite outcrops. The area has a long history of mining, and relicts of this activity (e.g. old infrastructure and mine workings and a deep lake) can be found, particularly on Cardinham Moor.

The whole of the Training Area is licensed or leased from farmers, most of whom earn their living from comparatively small farms on the Moor. Davidstow Moor is leased under formal licence from the Manor of St. Germaine Estate. East Moor is licensed from the Commoners, an unusual practice unique to Bodmin. The Moor is thus home to a large number of cattle, ponies and sheep throughout the year and consequently use of the Moor is particularly sensitive during the breeding season. The Training Area covers a total of 2,614 hectares of licenced/leased land: 1416 hectares on Davidstow Moor, approximately 720 hectares on East Moor, and a further 478 hectares on Cardinham Moor.

2. Designations

The whole of Bodmin Moor is classified as an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) and North Bodmin Moor is classified as a SSSI. The site is of particular importance for ecology as the only upland massif in Cornwall and for the extensive area of semi-natural vegetation supporting a number of rare plants.

Bodmin Moor is also designated part of the Cornwall AONB for its characteristic granite tors, wealth of mineral deposits, and unusual river profiles.

3. Training Use

Bodmin Training Area is used by the Army, the Navy and Air Force. The principal activity is dry training, which includes use of the disused airfield on Davidstow Moor. There is a helicopter landing zone and parachute dropping zone on Davidstow Moor. Blanks and pyrotechnics may be used in this area.
East Moor is used only for dry training, bivouacking and parachuting. Used in conjunction with Davidstow Moor, it allows specific activities to be carried out including advances to contact, and also infiltration and withdrawals to be practised.

Millpool Range on Cardinham Moor is the only area where live firing takes place. This is a Gallery Range used for small arms firing.

4. Danger Areas

There are no danger areas on Davidstow Moor or East Moor.

There is a danger area on Cardinham Moor for Millpool Range. In the south, adjacent to the rifle range, there are negotiated ‘Over Firing Rights’ for the section of the danger area over unlicensed land.

5. Byelaws/Control

There are no byelaws for the danger area on Cardinham Moor. Use of the Training Area is governed by the ATE South West Standing Orders.

Section 2 of the Standing Orders states that live firing at night on the Millpool Range is not permitted.

6. Public Access Resources/Facilities

At present, Bodmin Moor as a whole is a rural common with access rights along PROW. However, de facto open access occurs and the general public has a tendency to walk where they want. A public road passes through the northern end of Davidstow Training Area, giving access to the disused airfield and surrounding area.

There are three public bridleways on Davidstow Moor, and on Cardinham Moor (Millpool Ranges), there are six public footpaths and one bridleway crossing through the site, five of which cross the danger area. The site visit indicated that an alternative route had been formed around the site boundary of Cardinham Moor. A MOD standard wire fence restricts public access onto the site.

The A30 runs along the north west boundary of Cardinham Moor. There is a small layby on the southern side of this road, which may encourage traffic to stop close to the danger area.

Numerous public footpaths and bridleways, forming part of promoted routes, link the three Training Areas, encouraging long distance walkers to use the area including the Camelford Way, Moorland Walk, Watermill Walk and the Camel Trail which all lie to the
west of the Training Areas linking Camelford and Bodmin. The Inny-Valleys Walk is located to the east of the Training Areas.

7. Other Existing Access Opportunities (licenced/ organised activities)

The MOD has no authority to licence or organise non military activities. However, a civilian Air Sports Club is licenced by the landowners (not MOD) to use Davidstow Airfield. Although the Services have priority in the area, some restrictions may be applied so that civilians can also use the Airfield.

8. Signage

There are no signs indicating MOD land on Davidstow Moor although the boundary is marked by a stone wall and/ or wire fence which, though broken in places, surrounds the area.

There are no signs indicating military training on East Moor, although the Training Area is outside the wooded area and there are no field boundaries.

Poles and signs mark the danger area at Millpool Range, and the MOD boundary is fenced. There are signs to inform the general public of the activities on the range and safety notices at the entry points to the range.

Signage at Millpool Range
9. Live Firing Warning/Notification

The red flags fly when there is live firing on Millpool Range.

10. Non-Firing Days/Periods

The licence for Millpool Range from the commoners, allows use of the range on 150 days each year with priority for the Armed Forces and their cadet organisations for that year up until 31 January. There are no set non-firing periods.

11. Management of Site

As there are no boundary markers delimiting the Training Areas on Bodmin Moor, there is a tendency for the units to spread beyond the site boundaries during dry training. ATE SW employ a ‘Training Area Supervisor’ on Bodmin Moor (a civil servant or contractor) who briefs the units on the whereabouts of rights of way, areas of heavy public use, and local walks etc.

The Standing Orders advise on measures to be taken to minimise any conflict between training and public access/recreation. Annex D refers specifically to Bodmin and stipulates that:

- Blank and pyrotechnics may only be used on the Davidstow Training Area and Millpool Range, north of Altarnum and Camelford Road.

In addition, Section 4 advises that:

- Blank ammunition, smoke, pyrotechnics and trip flares must not be used within 100m of public roads or members of the public or livestock or within 200m of occupied buildings.

- Trip flares should be kept under surveillance at all times. Should a civilian approach the flare, he/she should be warned of the danger and escorted away.

12. Promotion

ATE SW is not aware of any specific promotion of access on or in the immediate vicinity of the Training Areas. The walks mentioned in (7) above are regional walks promoted by Cornwall County Council, and are also advertised on the OS Explorer Map 109.
13. Third Party Aspirations/Pressures

None known.


Safety concerns may arise because there are no byelaws to restrict access onto Millpool Range during live firing (although there is the physical barrier and slight deterrent of a MOD boundary fence).

15. Unexploded ordnance (UXO)

No UXO issue.

16. Future Opportunities/Issues to be Addressed

In order to address the safety issues of people accessing the range on the PROW during periods of live firing, byelaws need to be introduced so the PROW across the danger area can be closed during these periods. Information boards (showing the byelaws) should be placed at access points to the danger area to inform members of the public the significance of the red flags.

Draft maps were produced for the South West area under the CROW Act in May 2003, and the majority of Davidstow Moor, East Moor and Cardinham Moor have been identified as Registered Common Land. In addition a small area on East Moor has been identified as Open Country. *De facto* open access is already permitted on Bodmin Moor dry training areas (East and Davidstow Moors), so the new legislation would not significantly change the existing situation. However, the lack of byelaws at Millpool Range would mean that this site would not be exempt from this legislation. Thus, the MOD may therefore consider invoking either Section 28 (need for national defence) or Section 25(1)(b) (on grounds of public health and safety). In any event, it would be wise to monitor incidences of trespass, to ensure that any restrictions/exclusions are followed both in light of the live firing activities and the hazards caused by remnants of the industrial past on the Training Area.

17. Sources

- A Guide to Training Areas, Ranges and Camps in Devon, Dorset and Cornwall
- Discussions with ATE SW staff, 16th October 2000 and 10th April 2003
- LANDSO 1406
• Ordnance Survey Explorer 109

• Site visit 19th October 2000 (Millpool Range)

• Standing Orders for the Army Training Estate South West
ATE South West

Braunton Burrows Training Area

1. Geography

Braunton Burrows Training Area (including Instow Sands and Grey Sands) is situated adjacent to the Estuary of the Rivers Taw and Torridge and is land under lease from the Christie Estate amounting to some 808 ha. Fremington Training Camp is located on the Taw Estuary 5 miles to the west of the town of Barnstaple.

The Training Area is of interest to several scientific and nature conservancy societies on account of the dune systems (see 2 below). Braunton Burrows is one of the largest dune systems in Britain, about 5km long north-south and 1.5 km wide, with an extensive system of variably-flooded areas, grassland and scrub inland of a wide sandy foreshore. Thus, there are a variety of habitats for many flowering plants, birds and invertebrates. Several species are nationally rare or vulnerable. There are also features of geological interest.

Braunton Burrows

2. Designations

The following are the environmental designations associated with the Training Area:

- UNESCO International Biosphere Reserve
- Braunton Burrows cSAC for the habitats on the dunes
- Braunton Burrows SSSI for its geological and biological attributes
- County Structure Plan Nature Conservation Zone
- Nature Conservation Review listed site
- within the North Devon AONB
- Mineral Consultation Area.

The site was also declared by English Nature as National Nature Reserve (NNR) but in 1996 this status was removed because of a decline in the quality of the dune grassland. Since de-declaration, MOD has drawn up and agreed an effective management plan. However, re-declaration of the site as a NNR depends on the implementation of grazing to restore the quality of the dune grassland.

3. Training Use

The Training Area may be used for small arms field firing for up to 30 days/year (due to planning restrictions).

Braunton Burrows has a demolition zone, which officially has a capacity of up to 100lbs of explosives, but 30lbs is considered the maximum. The Services cut wood and concrete with charges within the demolition zone and their use is considered to be live firing, although a smaller danger area template may be used. Blanks and pyrotechnics are normally used between first light and midnight.

The Training Area is also used for dry training and driver training. The Burrows are used for all types of driver training although the exercises are confined to particular areas within the Burrows. The primary reason for the military retention at Braunton Burrows is because the gently sloping beach provides perfect conditions for troops to train for amphibious landings. It is also the base for the Royal Marines for amphibious training.

4. Danger Areas

The danger area is identified on Figure 8. The demolition zone is situated within the danger area.

5. Byelaws/Control

There are no byelaws, although the use of the Training Area is governed by the ATE South West Standing Orders (Annex E). The Range Standing Orders for demolitions are issued by the Commandant at Fremington Training Camp.

The Training Area is managed having regard to military use, public access demands and nature conservation issues where “care must be taken to conserve the area”. In terms of interactions with the public, “special care is to be taken to maintain good relations with the
public, and reasonable requests from local residents are to be dealt with sympathetically”. Correspondingly, “use of the Training Area is to be kept to a minimum in July and August, on Wednesday afternoons, during weekends and public holidays...The public may only be excluded from Braunton Burrows Training Area on 30 days per year... when [live firing or] demolitions are taking place, or when classified trials are in progress”. At Instow Sands “the public are not to be excluded from this area at any time, but small areas are to be roped off as a measure for safety and/ or security to prevent members of the public crowding around vehicles and equipment.”

6. Public Access Resources/Facilities

A public bridleway runs through part of the Training Area to the east of Braunton Burrows. The South West Coast Path and Tarka Trail follow the line of this bridleway, but in practice walkers tend to follow the boundary or a track as defined by the alternative route of the trails.

Generally access is available to the Dunes and this is popular with local people and tourists in the area. Occasionally live firing or demolition activity is carried out and at these times public access is restricted.

A public footpath lies directly to the east of Fremington Camp. A disused railway line lies due north of the Camp which now plays host to the Sustrans National Cycle Network Route 3 and the South West Coast Path and the Tarka Trail. There are no public access provisions within the Camp.

7. Other Existing Access Opportunities (licenced/organised activities)

The Training Area Supervisor runs guided walks within the Training Area.

8. Signage

The northern boundary is marked by 1m high concrete posts. Warning signs are found around the range danger area.

9. Live Firing Warning/Notification

Live firing and demolition activities occur on a ‘clear danger area’ principle where red flags are raised around the danger area and sentries are positioned at strategic locations. The Commandant publishes notices of demolition 28 days in advance with the police, coastguard and local paper.
10. Non-Firing Days/ Periods

In general, demolition activities are not carried out during August.

11. Management of Site

The MOD employs a permanent warden on the Burrows, who previously spent many years working there for English Nature.

The Braunton Burrows Training Area has its own management plan which is separate from the Biosphere Reserve Management Plan. The Training Area plan is designed to facilitate military training without impact on the ecology of the site and will be incorporated in the Biosphere Reserve Management Plan.

Under the Braunton Burrows Training Area management plan reference is made to:

- grazing Portland sheep and Red Devon cattle on dune grassland to expand the area of short turf;
- harvesting of Atlantic salmon sea trout and sea bass in traditional local fisheries;
- harvesting ulva and laver in a traditional way; and
- keeping the dune system dynamic, so that geomorphological and successional processes can continue.

During the salmon netting season (1 Apr to 31 Aug), the estuary is not to be used 2 hours before and after low water. However on occasions, specific use of the estuary is required by the military, and mutual arrangements are made with the salmon netters.

12. Promotion

The Tarka Trail is promoted by Devon County Council and the Ordnance Survey (Explorer 108).

The SWCP is promoted by the South West Coast Association in their various pamphlets and publications. There are also Devon County Council and Countryside Agency guides to the SWCP, which are published jointly with the Ordnance Survey. The SWCP also features in a number of other walking guides, books and tourist information literature and a designated website.

13. Third Party Aspirations/Pressures

None known.

Due to the sensitive ecological nature of the Training Area, it is essential that recreational activities are managed on the Burrows. A small area at Grey Sands has been identified as Registered Common Land on the Draft Map produced under CROW.

15. Unexploded ordnance (UXO)

No UXO issue.

16. Future Opportunities/Issues to be Addressed

It is apparent that special care is taken to ensure that there are good relations with the public in accordance with the Standing Orders for ATE SW and this should be maintained for the future.

It is important that initiatives from the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve management programme continue to be taken forward, particularly with regard to its primary objectives of education and scientific research. These should include:

- Furthering of plans to develop a visitor centre, which is currently under discussion between English Nature and the Christie Estate;

- the provision of notice boards, leaflets and other information telling the public of the ecological importance of the Reserve and the influence of the MOD in maintaining the habitats and providing benefits to the local economy;

- the provision of waymarked routes to steer visitors away from the most sensitive areas, in consultation with the local highway authority;

A general need has been identified to review the signage requirements on the Training Area, so that they are consistent with, and reflect actual access provision.

17. Sources

- A Guide to Training Areas, Ranges and Camps in Devon, Dorset and Cornwall

- Discussions with ATE SW staff, 16th October 2000 and 10th April 2003

- LANDSO 1406

- Ordnance Survey Explorer 108

- Standing Orders for the Army Training Estate South West
- South West Coast Path, 2001 Guide
- The South West Coast Path Association (correspondence to RPS on 20/08/02)
- www.devon.gov.uk
- www.unesco.org
ATE South West

Dartmoor Training Area (including Merrivale, Okehampton and Willsworthy Training Areas and Cramber and Ringmoor Dry Training Areas)

1. Geography

The Dartmoor Training Area (DTA) consists of 13,040 hectares of moorland, which contains fixed and field firing ranges, dry training areas and two camps. In addition to the 13,040 hectares of military land, an additional 12,140 hectares of unenclosed land can be used for transit purposes. Only Willsworthy Training Area is owned freehold by the MOD, amounting to some 1,354 hectares. The remainder of DTA is licensed from the Duchy of Cornwall, the Maristow Estate, South West Water and others (see Figures 9 & 10).

DTA amounts to just under 14% of the total area of the Dartmoor National Park, with most of the north west inaccessible except on foot or by helicopter, although some tracks exist. The uneven moorland plateau is surrounded by areas of enclosed land, the whole being more or less intensively grazed. What tracks there are tend to provide access to the moor rather than across it and, for the most part track maintenance is only carried out by the military.

Willsworthy Training Area
2. Designations

DTA lies wholly within the Dartmoor National Park.

North Dartmoor, containing the Okehampton, Willsworthy and Merrivale Training Areas, forms part of the North Dartmoor SSSI, which contains one of the largest areas of upland semi-natural habitat in southern Britain and includes Black Tor Copse, of national importance for lichens, and Black Ridge Brook, which is of national geological importance. North Dartmoor SSSI is also a component of the Dartmoor cSAC which includes blanket bog, North Atlantic wet heaths, European dry heath, old sessile oak woods, Atlantic salmon and otter.

Cramber and Ringmoor lie adjacent to the South Dartmoor SSSI, which is also a component of the Dartmoor cSAC. This SSSI contains some of the most extensive areas of blanket bog, mixed valley mire and unimproved acidic grassland/heathland mosaic in south west England. It also includes Blacklane Brook, which is of national geological importance.

3. Training Use

Military training has taken place on Dartmoor since the early 1800's, being used intensively for tactical exercises with live ammunition during the Second World War. A complete review of the MOD land holding for defence purposes was undertaken by the Defence Lands Committee (Nugent Committee) in 1973, including land within Dartmoor National Park. This was followed in 1975-76 by a non-statutory public inquiry, conducted by Lady Sharp, into the continued use of Dartmoor by the MOD for training purposes. Recommendations made in the Sharp Report resulted in southern Ringmoor being replaced by dry training facilities around Cramber Tor.

Today the main designated Training Areas within DTA are located at Okehampton, Merrivale and Willsworthy, where live firing is permitted. In addition, there are a number of other Training Areas where dry training takes places, including Cramber and Ringmoor. These facilities, under the management of ATE SW, are used by all three of the Armed Services, including their reserve and cadet forces.

The Willsworthy Training Area complex consists of three fixed firing point ranges, a 9 lane gallery range extending to 800m, a 12 lane Electric Target Range (ETR) and a 6 lane Mechanised Moving Target Trainer (MMTT) range. Firing at longer distances has to be carefully co-ordinated with other users due to the close proximity of the ranges. Field firing may also take place on Willsworthy and there are positions for artillery and mortars to fire from.
Three live firing movement boxes are normally used on Merrivale. Bagga Tor is primarily used for individual battle shooting with the rifle, the light support weapon (LSW), the General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG) and the 94mm Anti Tank Weapon's Outdoor Trainer. Mis Tor is used for field firing, GPMG, sniper and demolitions. Holming Beam provides for field firing in both the attack and defence. Gun and mortar positions are also available for providing fire support.

Okehampton is the largest of the Dartmoor ranges and has space for team tactical training with infantry weapons including mortars and anti tank weapons. Fire support can be given by artillery (less high explosive rounds) and mortars.

When the Training Areas are not used for live firing, they provide dry tactical training areas where all phases of war can be practised up to battalion level and beyond. Even when live firing is taking place, there are areas outside of the range danger area at Okehampton and areas on the South Moor (Cramber and Ringmoor) where dry training can be carried out. Outside the licenced Training Areas shown on Figures 9 and 10, there are areas of unenclosed land, which are used for non tactical training such as adventurous training, navigation exercises, fitness and approach marches. Users are encouraged to use areas away from main access points into the National Park and the MOD has an agreement with the Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) to keep dry training away from popular tourist spots.

4. Range Danger Areas

The range danger areas are depicted on Figure 9. They are used for live firing on a limited number of days each year. When the ranges are not being used for live firing the public has access on foot.

5. Byelaws/Control

Separate byelaws cover each of Merrivale (1979), Okehampton (1980) and Willsworthy (1980) Training Areas. They are available for inspection at Okehampton Camp, local police stations, local authority offices and some Post Offices, and are displayed in the main car parks around north Dartmoor. The main issues with regard to public access are as follows:

- Range clearers remove livestock before live firing begins, erect warning signals and man lookouts, as discussed in (9). In particular and in common to all three range danger areas, the byelaws make it an offence to: “enter into, or pass over, or through, or remain in a range danger area when warning signals are displayed”. If firing is taking place on two or more ranges there is no safe passage between the ranges.
• The byelaws also specify that: “no person shall dig, or search for any projectiles or any lead or other metal in or on the danger area, of other metal found within the danger area or remove any projectile from the danger area”.

• When warning signals are displayed, the access provisions made under the Dartmoor Commons Act 1985 are over-ridden and access on the public rights of way through the ranges is prohibited.

Okehampton : Road closed during live firing

In addition to the above military byelaws, there are byelaws made under the National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and the Dartmoor Commons Act 1985, which cover the whole of the Dartmoor National Park. These provide the DNPA with reserve powers to enforce recreation management and clarify the legal position regarding cycling on the open moor and other access land.

6. Public Access Resources/Facilities

The Dartmoor Commons Act 1985 allows public access by foot or horse for recreational purposes over all unenclosed common land on Dartmoor except when prohibited by the byelaws, which restrict public access during live firing. In addition, the DNPA has negotiated with landowners access agreements on most other unenclosed moorland including the MOD’s freehold land at Willsworthy.
In addition to the general right of access, there are 6 bridleways and 1 footpath in the southern Training Areas (Cramber and Ringmoor); 3 bridleways and 2 footpaths within Merrivale; and 2 footpaths within Willsworthy. In total there are some 724 kms of PROW across the whole of the National Park, including nearly 3kms suitable for the disabled.

The majority of DTA has been identified as either open country or registered common land on the draft maps for the South West (Area 6), produced under the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW) (see Figures 9 & 10). Most of the land comprising the Okehampton and Merrivale Training Areas is shown as registered common land, whilst that comprising Willsworthy, Cramber and Ringmoor is predominantly shown as open country (mountain, moor, heath or down). Should these areas be confirmed in the conclusive maps for Area 6 then they will be subject to the right of access on foot as defined under CROW. However, the level of access provision on DTA is unlikely to change, since the Dartmoor Commons Act 1985 already provides a right of public open access to the unenclosed moorland and access restrictions to the range danger areas as specified in the military byelaws will still be applicable.

The Loop Road from Okehampton gives access 5 km into northern Dartmoor. This is appreciated by those requiring vehicular access but not by others, who object to cars being able to intrude into the moor. The MOD licence from the Duchy of Cornwall for the use of Dartmoor for military training requires that the Loop Road as far as East Okement Farm be maintained for 2 wheel drive vehicles but only permits the remainder of the road to be maintained to the standard required for military 4 wheel drive vehicles. This policy, which was developed with the relevant local statutory bodies, requires the MOD to allow the Loop Road to deteriorate thus limiting access.

In 1998 the Dartmoor Commons Byelaws were amended to control off road mountain biking, which is now restricted to bridleways, byways and routes agreed with the landowners.

7. Other Existing Access Opportunities (licenced/ organised activities)

Military involvement with the local community is actively encouraged and the use of MOD facilities is welcomed. For example, the Dartmoor Rescue Group uses Okehampton Camp for training purposes; the Royal National Institute for the Blind hold sponsored walks from the Camp; West Devon Borough Council hold their Junior Life Skills Week in MOD buildings; and the local police forces regularly use the ranges for firearms practice. The Ten Tors Expedition, a national two-day event involving some 2,400 young people, is resourced, organised and run by the Armed Forces from Okehampton Camp.

Other organised activities that occur on DTA include pony trekking, fishing, letterboxing (a form of orienteering unique to Devon) and canoeing on the River Tavy. Other leisure
pursuits popular on Dartmoor include bird watching and archaeology (where the richest collection of prehistoric remains in Britain are found). Access to DTA can be by means of self-guided tours where individuals are able to refer to leaflets produced by the DNPA and others or by guided walks, which are arranged by organisations such as the Ramblers' Association. The DNPA also arranges guided walks through DTA on guaranteed non-firing days and in 1999 organised 462 walks, attended by 5,338 walkers (DNPA, 2000).

Visitor Centres have been set up by the DNPA. The MOD has an exhibit at the High Moorland Visitor Centre in Princetown (between the northern and southern Training Areas). MOD information, including leaflets providing information about DTA and firing notices are also displayed and distributed at the other DNPA information centres and local authority tourist information centres.

8. Signage

The boundaries of the three range danger areas are marked on the ground by red and white poles, each of which carries a sign with internationally recognised symbols. MOD has issued an exemption to allow the signs to be smaller than those normally displayed. Information boards are erected in the fourteen main car parks around the north moor.

Red and White Poles Marking Range Danger Area

When firing is in progress, warning signals (red flags by day and red lamps by night) are displayed at certain points appropriate to each range. The locations of the flagpoles are
laid down by the byelaws. A re-evaluation of these locations is being carried out, although no changes can be made until byelaws are amended.

Barriers are placed across the tarmac roads into the range danger areas while live firing is taking place.

9. Live Firing Warning/Notification

Normal firing times are from 0930-1630 hours with extensions to 2359 hours for night firing, if required. Night firing takes place as soon after dark as possible and is normally completed within 2 hours owing to the difficulty of keeping livestock out of the range danger area. For the same reason, dawn live firing cannot take place without additional stock clearance taking place. Extensive notification of live firing days and times is issued, in the following ways:

- A number of leaflets are published including ‘A Guide to Walkers and Riders’ and the DNPA’s ‘Dartmoor Visitor’ which show the dates when the public have guaranteed access (these are fixed, independent of the year). The ‘Guide to Walkers and Riders’ is displayed around Dartmoor at many locations where people gather including information centres, public houses, camp sites, hotels and riding schools.

- The guaranteed public access periods and the firing programme are available to view on the internet at www.dartmoor-ranges.co.uk.

- A ‘Dartmoor Ranges and Training Areas’ notice is put in fourteen car parks across Dartmoor with the byelaws on the reverse.

- Firing notices (around 360) are distributed two weeks before firing commences. These notices are then published on Thursday of the preceding week in the Okehampton and Tavistock Times, and on Friday of the preceding week in The Express and Echo and The Western Morning News.

- Recorded messages giving the current week’s firing programme are available on a freephone (0800 4584868) answering machine, the number of which is advertised in various ways including in ‘A Guide for Walkers and Riders’, the firing notices and the OS Outdoor Leisure series (28) for Dartmoor.

- The day’s firing programme is also broadcast on Radio Devon incorporating any last minute changes. Up to date information, including any amendments is available on the dartmoor-ranges.co.uk website, from the DNPA’s information centres and Commandant DTA.
On the day that firing is scheduled to take place, twenty one civilian range clearers (mostly farmers) go out on the ranges prior to live firing commencing to clear people and stock off these areas. Due to the nature of the terrain, this has to be carried out mainly on horseback with sheepdogs. The clearers then raise the red warning signals, before manning their lookout posts that cover the main access routes into the range danger areas. The warning signal locations are shown in the byelaws and on the map in the ‘Guide for Walkers and Riders’. Should anyone stray or stock return into the range danger area where bullets or shells are being fired, the lookout calls on the radio or telephone to stop firing, and then goes out on horseback to intercept and redirect the individual or stock away from danger. Firing can only begin again when the lookout reports his area is clear.

To inform the public of any further access opportunities caused by last minute changes, it has been agreed by the Dartmoor Steering Group (DSG) that if the warning flags are not raised by 0900 in the summer or 1000 in the winter, no firing will take place on that range on that day. Flags are lowered on the cessation of live firing.

10. Non-Firing and Non-Training Days/ Periods

Due to the limitations to which the MOD has agreed on live firing, the public have guaranteed access each year to Merrivale on 195 days, on 253 days to Okehampton and 135 days to Willsworthy (numbers vary depending on the day on which bank holidays and religious festivals fall). Once detailed programming has taken place, about a third more days are currently announced as open for the public. Mostly these guaranteed access periods are during the summer or school holiday periods as shown below:

**Merrivale**

- Every public holiday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday
- During the period 1st to 3rd January
- During the week beginning and including the Wednesday before Easter
- During the month of August
- During the week beginning and including the second Monday of November for stock clearance
- During the period 20th to 31st December
Okehampton

- Above dates and during the months of April, May, July, August and the first 15 days of September

Willsworthy

- Every public holiday, Saturday and Sunday except the weekend containing the second Sunday of the month
- During the period 1st to 3rd January
- During the month of August
- During the period 20th to 31st December

Dry Training Areas

Within Cramber no tactical training occurs on Sundays, on public holidays, or during the month of August. In addition, no training involving the use of helicopters takes place on Saturdays and the use of blanks and pyrotechnics is restricted to twelve Saturdays each year and no more than two Saturdays per month.

11. Management of Site

Whilst the MOD is totally responsible for its freehold land at Willsworthy, management responsibility for the land licensed for military training remains with the landowners. MOD assists landowners and statutory bodies to conserve Dartmoor. For example, MOD maintains tracks providing access for themselves, the public and the farmers; clears public litter when tidying up after exercises; promotes and advises on public access, and the MOD wardens work with DNPA’s rangers to help the public and enforce the Dartmoor National Park byelaws.

As a “relevant authority” under the Environment Act 1995, MOD under S.62 must have regard to the purposes of National Parks including “promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of those areas by the public.”

The DSG, formed in 1976, was set up to reconcile the requirements of military training, conservation and public access, with an independent chairman. MOD, DNPA, the Government Office for the South West, the Duchy of Cornwall, the Commoners’ Council, The Countryside Agency, English Nature and English Heritage are represented. Annual reports are submitted to the Secretaries of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
and for Defence. The DSG is supported by a Working Party, which is chaired on a two yearly rotation by the National Park Officer and Commander ATE SW.

The MOD also has representatives on a number of other groups and communities with an interest in Dartmoor including the Dartmoor National Park Land Use and Conservation Consultative Group. Meetings to discuss particular issues are also held at least annually with the Dartmoor Preservation Association, the Dartmoor Society, local parish councils, commoners’ associations and those commoners with stock grazing on areas licenced by the Armed Forces.

A public access agreement has been negotiated between the MOD and DNPA in respect of the Willsworthy Training Area. This agreement makes the Training Area subject to the Dartmoor National Park byelaws. The MOD also leases land at Willsworthy to the DNPA for two car parks. The Willsworthy Integrated Land Management Plan (ILMP) was devised in consultation with the relevant statutory bodies. Conservation groups are established for all MOD freehold land of scientific interest to record and monitor habitats, and the Willsworthy Conservation Group is no different and has the aim of preserving and monitoring this part of DTA for the future.

Public access to DTA is monitored by the DNPA and other interested parties. To measure performance, they compare the programmed live firing with the actual firing. Performance has improved since 1999 (see 13 below) and at present once the notice of firing is issued, about one third of the days are cancelled, usually because of bad visibility preventing observation of the boundary, or good weather permitting early completion.

DTA is also covered by the Standing Orders for ATE SW (Annex F), which state:

- All areas within DTA have rights of common apart from Willsworthy, Cramber and part of Ringmoor. The commoners are paid for the right to train and in return allow the MOD to drive stock off the area during live firing.

- No training may take place unless details have been agreed with Commandant DTA. Dartmoor is shared with other users and they must be shown consideration. For their own safety, the public is excluded from the range danger area during live firing.

On account of the sensitivity of DTA, all military personnel using Dartmoor must be fully briefed and shown the video ‘Training on Dartmoor’. The local community is also briefed on military activities by way of talks given to groups such as the Women’s Institute, local parish councils and commoners associations on military training on Dartmoor.
12. Promotion

The MOD, jointly with the DNPA, has produced ‘A Guide for Walkers and Riders’ mentioned in (9) above. Amongst other promotional literature, the DNPA produces a free newspaper ‘The Dartmoor Visitor’ for both locals and visitors. Promotion of the National Park in general is also carried out in partnership with local councils and the community.

Access to DTA is promoted in the booklet, ‘Walks on MOD Lands’. No specific walks are recommended as walkers are free to chose their own routes across the open moorland except when live firing is notified. This information is also available on the DE website (www.defence-estates.mod.uk).

13. Third Party Aspirations/Pressures

There is considerable debate as to whether military training can co-exist with recreational activities in a National Park. Members of the Open Spaces Society, the Ramblers’ Association and the Dartmoor Preservation Association have requested more access to DTA and are calling for the military to withdraw completely from the moor over the course of the next decade. They claim that programmed live firing is not used fully and therefore public access is blocked unnecessarily. During 1998 – 1999, the Army used the ranges for 63% of the days on which it advertised such use. However, since these figures were issued, the MOD and other interest groups have been constantly monitoring performance as discussed in (11) above, and a stricter live firing programme is adhered to. Nevertheless as a result of the above, there is still a perception, evidenced by newspaper articles and casual comment, that access is more restricted than it really is. This can discourage the public from making the most of the current access opportunities.

The majority of DTA is licensed from the three landowners named in (1). There is enormous local support for the military presence on Dartmoor but at a recent planning consultation over Cramber Tor, strong views were expressed against the continuance of military training, although the vote was carried 17-5 in favour of continued military use. The Duchy of Cornwall, Maristow Estate and South West Water licences expire in 2012. It is anticipated that the pressure groups opposed to military training on Dartmoor will step up their campaign and MOD will need to ensure that facts are collected and made available to justify the continued use of DTA for military training.

At the end of 2002, the Dartmoor Preservation Association, the Open Spaces Society, the Ramblers' Association and The Council for National Parks suggested that Yes Tor and High Willhays (the highest points on Dartmoor) should be removed from the Okehampton range danger area. The landowner (Duchy of Cornwall), having consulted MOD, rejected the proposal.
To facilitate access to Cut Hill and Fur Tor when Okehampton range danger area is not in use and Merrivale is, it has been agreed that the range danger areas be adjusted to give access through the North West Passage. The change will be made when the byelaws are next amended.


Sudden loud noises and the unexpected appearance of an armed, camouflaged soldier could be an issue with some members of the public not accustomed to DTA. To avoid this, servicemen are instructed to be considerate to the public. If significant abnormal inconvenience is likely to be caused, the DSG has agreed that an announcement will be made to forewarn the public. Sentries might also be posted in the immediate vicinity of the training to inform farmers, walkers and riders if a lot of activity is expected around a particular area, for example when an attack on a pre-prepared defensive position is planned.

15. Unexploded ordnance (UXO)

Unexploded ordnance (UXO) is an issue on Dartmoor. Use of the area, particularly the intense activity during the Second World War, has left a legacy of UXO. Even nowadays, some munitions are swallowed by the bogs without exploding. Most of these are underground and pose no risk to the public as long as they are left undisturbed. However, shells are occasionally forced to the surface naturally or as a result of erosion, but even these are unlikely to detonate unless they are tampered with.

UXO is less likely to be found in those areas frequently used by the Armed Forces. This is because after training, units, wardens and clearers are required to carry out a sweep of the area they have used to collect empty cases and to check that no debris or litter has been left behind. At the same time the location of any UXO found is noted and dealt with.

It has been calculated that the clearance of UXO from DTA would take a team of 16 men more than 100 years. Even then there would be a risk of ten per cent not being located. The potential damage to archaeological remains and to the habitat caused by such a search must also be taken into consideration. However, contaminated land that is frequented most by the public is being cleared and once cleared will not be re-contaminated.
16. Future Opportunities/Issues to be Addressed

It is apparent that there are many measures put in place by the MOD to ensure that the public is able to access DTA at specific times. However it is also clear that these measures are not adequately conveyed to some members of the public, particularly with regard to last minute changes to live firing activities within the range danger areas. Access issues should be discussed through the Working Party and reported back to the DSG, with those at Willsworthy being taken forward as part of the ILMP process. The following opportunities should be considered.

- DTA’s Environmental Management System (EMS) should continue to monitor public access, check that effective policies are in place and audits are conducted.

- MOD good practice guidance notes should be reviewed to ensure that DTA is fully supporting public access to Dartmoor.

- Opportunities for easy access routes should be considered where practical and the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 continue to be adhered to.

- Consideration should be given to publishing the firing notices earlier to enable the public to plan walks and access.

- The Intervisibility Study should be completed, the recommendations examined within the DSG and those agreed and supported by DNPA implemented.

- The public information publications and notices should continue to advise the guaranteed public access periods and cancellations.

- The DTA website (www.dartmoor-ranges.co.uk) should be developed to include more public access information and links to other websites.

- The freephone (0800 4584868) firing information should be updated daily to include any further opportunities for public access due to cancellations.

- The effort to reduce the disparity between live firing published and actual firing should continue. The statistical summary should continue to be made available to the public.

- The proposed move of the Okehampton and Merrivale range danger area boundaries to allow easier access to Cut Hill via the North West Passage, when the Okehampton ranger danger area is not active, should be implemented as soon as the byelaws can be amended, taking note of EN’s concerns regarding proximity of public access to the breeding territories of the golden plover and dunlin.
Supervision of training by competent persons to ensure that, where possible, the National Park purposes are supported should be continued.

17. Sources

- ATE SW, *Standing Orders for the Army Training Estate South West 2000*
- Dartmoor National Park Authority, *Dartmoor Visitor*
- Integrated Land Management Plan for Willsworthy Training Area, November 1999
- DOE/MOD, *Dartmoor: A Report by Lady Sharp GBE* 1977
- LANDSO 1406
- Ordnance Survey with MOD overprint information GSGS 5295 Dartmoor
- Ordnance Survey Outdoor Leisure series (28) for Dartmoor
- The Armed Forces on Dartmoor, May 2000
- WS Atkins, *Cramber Tor Visitor Surveys to Establish the Impact of Military Training on Visitors to Cramber Tor Training Area: Final Report* January 2002
- WSP Environmental, *Cramber Tor Visitor Survey*, July 2002
- Site Visit 10th April 2003
- Discussions with ATE SW staff, 16th October 2000 and 10th April 2003
- http://www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk/
Dartmoor Training Area (Okehampton, Merrivale and Willsworthy)

Legend
- MOD Boundary
- Danger Area
- Public Bridleway
- Public Footpath
- Ancient Monuments
- Dartmoor National Park Boundary
- Open Country
- Registered Common Land
- Approximate Locations of Warning Signals
- Approximate Locations of Lookout Points

As identified on Draft Maps Produced by Countryside Agency Under the CRoW Act 2000 (May 2003)

Project
ATE South West

Title
Dartmoor Training Area (Okehampton, Merrivale and Willsworthy)

Project Number JR4078B
Drawing Number Figure 9
Scale NTS
Date December 2003
ATE South West

Penhale Training Area

1. Geography

Penhale Training Area stands on the north Cornwall coast between Perranporth and Newquay. The Training Area extends to some 383 ha and is owned freehold by the MOD. A metalled road bisects the Training Area leading to Penhale Camp, and part of the site is occupied by Royal Navy communication masts.

The Training Area comprises mainly undulating sand dunes bound together with marram grass. These gradually merge into rough pasture, which is partially covered with scrub.

There are several old mineshafts, remnants from 5 mines scattered along the cliffs, which were worked for silver, iron and lead. These are generally fenced.

The Training Area lies adjacent to tourist attractions including Holywell Beach and National Trust Land to the north, and Perran Beach and Perran Sands Holiday Centre to the south.

View from Penhale Point overlooking communication masts, the South West Coast Path and Holywell Beach

2. Designations

The Penhale Dunes are designated a cSAC and SSSI and form part of the most extensive dune system in Cornwall. They are protected by virtue of their diverse plant communities. The marram grass is particularly sensitive to human intervention, and care is taken to ensure that the grass is not unnecessarily damaged.
There are Scheduled Monuments close to Penhale Point (scheduled fort) and at Ligger Point (burial mound).

3. Training Use

Penhale training camp was built as a war emergency measure in 1939 and was used as an Anti-Aircraft Training Camp by the Allied Forces. Today, the Training Area is ideal for low level infantry tactical (dry) training up to company level. The Training Area is well used by all three armed services, the TA and cadets. The ground provides scope for patrolling, ambush drills, navigation and cliff assault. In addition, there are extensive opportunities for adventurous training, including abseiling, climbing, swimming, surfing and sailing. There are also helicopter landing sites, together with opportunities for amphibious landings. Training facilities include a 30 metre barrack range and an assault course. Firing of blank ammunition and pyrotechnics is permitted normally from 0700 until 2300 hours. Dry training can take place with pyrotechnics and blank ammunition. Battle Simulation (BATSIM) is treated as live firing, and as a result does not often take place.

4. Danger Areas

The danger area is a 30m zone associated with the barrack range.

5. Byelaws/Control

There are no byelaws, so use of the Training Area is governed by the ATE South West Standing Orders. They advise on measures to be taken to minimise any conflict between training and public access/recreation. Annex C refers specifically to Penhale and stipulates that:

- Pedestrians using the SWCP have a right of way at all times, and the public also have the right to use the beach;

- Firing of blank ammunition and pyrotechnics is permitted, normally from 0700 until 2300 hrs and prior warning of the use of flares and illuminating rockets must be given.

In addition, Section 4 advises that:

- Blank ammunition, smoke, pyrotechnics and trip flares must not be used within 100m of public roads, members of the public or livestock, or within 200m of occupied buildings;

- Trip flares should be kept under surveillance at all times. Should a civilian approach the flare, he/she should be warned of the danger and escorted away.
6. Public Access Resources/Facilities

The SWCP runs through the Training Area, generally along the western boundary of the Training Area, or close to it. The SWCP runs along a public footpath and is located at the high water mark to the rear of Perran Beach and around the cliffs at Penhale Point. The South West Coast Path Association is satisfied with the present location of the path.

The SWCP cuts through the designated area of the Scheduled Monument close to Penhale Point.

7. Other Existing Access Opportunities (licenced/organised activities)

Various organised groups and indeed local dog walkers are classed as “authorised personnel” and are allowed access to the Training Area beyond the SWCP. These include orienteering groups, climbers, abseilers and conservation groups. These authorised personnel hold a certificate from the Commandant, confirming that they have had the necessary formal briefing(s).

Immediately outside the Training Area, to the north, there is a National Trust car park at Holywell and this provides access to Holywell Beach and the SWCP.

To the south of the Training Area, the remains of St Piran’s Oratory and St Piran’s Church are a popular attraction for walkers as they are part of the Domesday Monastery of Lanpiran. St Piran’s is close to the Perran Sands Holiday Centre, which is a busy holiday destination to the south of the Training Area. The holiday centre provides access to Perran Beach, as well as the SWCP.

8. Signage

There are MOD “Keep Out” signs around the Training Area boundary and at the points where the South West Coast Path meets the MOD boundary. The Training Area boundary is fenced.

Interpretation boards for the cSAC have been produced by Cornwall County Council on behalf of the main landowners and there are now three boards on the MOD land and one within Penhale Camp.

9. Live Firing Warning/Notification

There is no live firing notification regarding use of the 30m barrack range but prior warning of the use of flares and illuminating rockets must be given to the local police and coastguard by the Commandant.
10. Non-Firing Days/ Periods

There are no firing restrictions.

11. Management of Site

The Penhale sand dunes are managed by the MOD. In conjunction with Cornwall County Council and the Penhale cSAC Management Team, a ranger has been appointed as part of a 1 year pilot project to assist in managing the cSAC both within the Training Area and to the north and south. The aim is to make use of the MOD’s existing management techniques in so far as they are compatible with public access. The Integrated Rural Management Plan (IRMP) is currently being prepared by MOD and DE, with the new Penhale cSAC ranger.

12. Promotion

The SWCP is promoted by the South West Coast Path Association in their various pamphlets and publications. There is also an official Countryside Agency guide to the SWCP. This guide is published jointly with the Ordnance Survey (OS Explorer Map 104).

The SWCP also features in a number of other walking guides, books and tourist information literature.

13. Third Party Aspirations/Pressures

ATE SW are not under any pressure to make new routes available across the Training Area as members of the public have access to the coast path at all times (see 11). Indeed, it is thought that local individuals, groups and conservationists who enjoy organised access to the sand dunes, may resist wider access and additional numbers may damage the cSAC. However, there may be more pressures from visitors to the area who do not appreciate the workings of the army Training Area or the nature conservation constraints. Trespass is already a problem and new pressures may result in unauthorised access to the sand dunes without prior arrangement with the Commandant.


As stated in (13), trespass is a problem. This section of coastline is very popular with both local people and visitors, including guests at the Perran Sands Holiday Centre. There is a concern about members of the public who have not been briefed properly or made aware of the potential dangers of entering the site and possibly doing damage to themselves and/or sensitive environmental features. Both Cornwall County Council and English Nature are concerned that access could damage the ecological interest.
Walkers using the SWCP use a route along the line of red and white poles on the dunes above Perran Beach, instead of the official route along the high tide line. After discussion between Cornwall County Council and the MOD, it has been decided to allow the path to continue along this route as a permissive path with additional signage to reduce trespass inland. Access through the boundary fence into the holiday park along this route will also be provided where the fence has been cut/damaged in the past.

A route through Penhale Camp land, which can be used for guided walks/events for the public and MOD groups, is currently being considered. The cSAC ranger is also involved in promoting access along the SWCP and giving introductory briefings to groups visiting Penhale in habitat management, maintenance work and the need for and enforcement of access restrictions.

There is a particular concern about children from the Holiday Centre exploring the mine-shafts in the vicinity and the possibility of undertaking a geophysical survey is currently being considered in this regard.

Mine Shaft Adjacent to South West Coast Path

15. UXO

Penhale was used for Anti-Aircraft training during the Second World War and this has left an “unquantified” problem of unexploded ordnance (UXO).
16. Future Opportunities/Issues to be Addressed

Penhale Sands is part of a much larger area of sand dunes in which MOD management at Penhale is held out as an example by Cornwall County Council. MOD, in conjunction with the County Council and the other members of the cSAC Management Team, has now appointed a ranger to look after the dunes to the north and the south. Under this new management all matters pertaining to access, amenity and the environment will be considered and incorporated into the management plan, which will be completed by the end of 2004. The following issues relating to how the quality of existing access opportunities at Penhale could be improved, should be considered by the Management Team.

- the design and siting of interpretative information boards, in association with English Nature, in particular where the SWCP meets the Training Area boundary to inform the public of the nature conservation of the area, the military use, safety issues and means to access the dunes by licence.

- improve delineation and waymark the SWCP route in liaison with Restormel Borough Council, in conjunction with the permissive route along the existing desire line (red & white pole line) to develop a circular route.

- works to improve the unattractive structures associated with the SWCP and the area around it, where the path passes Penhale Camp.

- In conjunction with the briefings being undertaken by the cSAC ranger, consider a wide range of information provision to inform the public of their access rights across the Training Area to help improve the control of access to the sand dunes.

- In conjunction with possible geophysical surveys to identify disused mine shafts, investigate issues of liability in respect of them and look at issues of safety in conjunction with that investigation.

17. Sources

- Discussions with ATE SW staff, 16th October 2000 and 10th April 2003

- Site visit 19th October 2000 and discussions with Maj (Retd) Barry Andrews

- LANDSO 1406

- Standing Orders for the Army Training Estate South West

- A Guide to Training Areas, Ranges and Camps in Devon, Dorset and Cornwall
• Ordnance Explorer 104

• The South West Coast Path, 2001 Guide

• The South West Coast Path Association (correspondence to RPS on 20/08/02)
ATE South West

Staddon Heights Training Area

1. Geography

The Staddon Heights Training Area is freehold land and extends to some 42 hectares. It consists of a rocky foreshore with several sandy coves backed by steep slopes/cliffs rising to 100m and a small cliff top area of some 8 hectares mostly covered in scrub and brambles. It is dominated by a stone wall 10m in height. The area is situated on the eastern edge of Plymouth Sound.

The northern part of the site is leased to Plymouth City Council, although the MOD retain the right to train there.

Bovisand Fort and Staddon Fort are not part of the ATE; they are managed by the Royal Navy.

2. Designations

Between the high and low water mark, the site has been designated part of the Plymouth Sound Shores and Cliffs SSSI for both the geology and ecology. The shores are also designated part of the Plymouth Sound and Estuaries cSAC particularly for the habitats on the muddy sands of Jennycliff Bay.

It is part of the South Devon AONB which is county designated as a coastal preservation area and is also a Heritage Coast.

The area within the South Hams District is a County Wildlife Site.

The Battery is an Ancient Monument.

3. Training Use

Staddon Heights is used for dry training only and is suitable for sub-unit training. The Training Area provides facilities for both cliff and beach assault. The middle section is used for signalling/communication and blank firing. Blank ammunition, thunderflashes, trip flares, signalling smoke and illuminating flares may be used here.

Jennycliff Bay is used for unloading/loading ships by helicopter (cross-decking) and amphibious activity including cliff assaults. The site is used by the services between 20 and 30 times a year and at other times there is open access.

4. Danger Areas

There are no danger areas.
5. **Byelaws/Control**

There are no byelaws.

6. **Public Access Resources/Facilities**

The South West Coast Path runs through the Training Area and in part runs along a permissive cliff top path and a public road adjacent to the site. This is a very popular section, used by both local residents and tourists owing to its proximity to Plymouth. The path forms a section of the European Path, E9 which runs from Plymouth to Dover.

The Erme Plym Trail is a locally promoted path a kilometre to the east of the Training Area. There are car parks to the north east and south of the site.

7. **Other Existing Access Opportunities (licenced/organised activities)**

The majority of the site is leased to the local authorities (Plymouth City Council and South Hams District Council) which offer the site as public open space. However the Training Area is on a steep gradient and scrub and brambles cover part of it. Thus, most use by the public occurs on the South West Coast Path. Speedwell School from Bristol occupies a Listed Building on the site, and the Training Area is used for educational purposes.

8. **Signage**

There are old signs saying ‘MOD Land’ adjacent to the South West Coast Path.

9. **Live Firing Warning/Notification**

Although there is no live firing, the coastguard, harbourmasters and local police are all informed before pyrotechnics (other than blanks and smoke) are used.

10. **Non-Firing Days/Periods**

Not applicable

11. **Management of Site**

The site is managed by ATE SW, in collaboration with Plymouth City and the South West Coast Path Association for specific sections of the Training Area as described in 1 and 7.
12. Promotion

The SWCP is promoted by the South West Coast Path Association in their various pamphlets and publications. There are also Countryside Agency guides to the SWCP published jointly with the Ordnance Survey.

The SWCP also features in a number of other walking guides, books and tourist information literature.

13. Third Party Aspirations/Pressures

None known.


There are potential dangers associated with the relict naval defences located on Staddon Heights. Although they are not easily accessed off the SWCP and are covered by brambles at present, people (particularly children) may discover them and potentially hurt themselves on the features.

15. Unexploded ordnance (UXO)

No

16. Future Opportunities/Issues to be Addressed

Review signage provision to ensure that the public is informed that access is generally open (notwithstanding the fact that brambles and undergrowth generally impede visitors). English Heritage takes the view that relict military defences are best protected by the undergrowth and that no attempt should be made to improve access through scrub control or signage.

The MOD should undertake additional survey work on this site to identify the relict military defences and carry out the necessary protective measures. To take this one step further, these features should be preserved for the future, as they relate to historic battery defensive mechanisms used by the navy to protect Plymouth. Preservation of these features would initially involve some vegetation clearance and provision of interpretation boards, and in the future maintenance of these areas.

Undertake a risk assessment of the relict defences and if possible reveal them and make them safe. Educational leaflets could then be distributed to local school children and local tourist information centres.
17. Sources

- A Guide to Training Areas, Ranges and Camps in Devon, Dorset and Cornwall
- Discussions with ATE SW staff, 16\textsuperscript{th} October 2000 and 10\textsuperscript{th} April 2003
- LANDSO 1406
- Ordnance Survey 108
- Standing Orders for the Army Training Estate South West
- The Ramblers’ Association – www.ramblers.org.uk
- The South West Coast Path, 2001 Guide
- The South West Coast Path Association (correspondence to RPS on 20/08/02)
ATE South West

Wyke Regis Training Area

1. Geography

Wyke Regis Training Area (WRTA) is located to the west of Weymouth in Dorset. It consists of 81 hectares of freehold land and a further 5 hectares of leasehold land on Chesil Beach. It comprises three Training Areas containing two main accommodation camps, (Chickerell Camp and Wyke Regis Camp), Chickerell Range and Wyke Regis Training Area, and a small Training Area known as Verne Yates on the Isle of Portland.

2. Designations

WRTA lies both within and adjacent to Chesil Beach and The Fleet, which have been designated:

- UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Dorset and East Devon Coast displays a remarkable combination of internationally renowned geological features, and is considered one of the most significant earth science sites in the world. Additionally, the coast contains an exceptional diversity of geomorphological features, land forms and processes.

- Chesil Beach and the Fleet cSAC, SPA, Ramsar and SSSI. The Fleet is the largest example of a lagoon habitat in England. Chesil Beach supports extensive drift-line vegetation

- Dorset Coast AONB

- Heritage Coast (non-statutory)

3. Training Use

From 1924, the facility was known as the Royal Engineers Training Camp. Since 1999, WRTA came under the command ATE SW. WRTA continues to provide essential mobility and counter mobility training for the Royal Engineers as well as providing many other training facilities particularly for Cadets. Dry demolition training is carried out on a heavy girder bridge, and there are sites for water points, basic watermanship, improvised raft construction and training on assault boats on The Fleet. Wyke Regis Bridging Hard is a purpose built facility which allows bridging training for the Royal Engineers and for them to design and construct aerial ropeways across The Fleet.

Chickerell Range is used for small arms (rifle and machine gun) and consists of an 8-lane Electronic Target Range (ETR). The range area at Chickerell lends itself to basic fieldcraft
and patrolling exercises, particularly for Cadets when not used for live firing. Firing will normally be carried out during the hours from sunrise until 7pm. The Range is regularly used up to four days a week although there is no night firing. The use of blank ammunition is permitted but controlled.

Verne Yates is used for basic military training skills and assault pioneer training.

4. Danger Areas

The Chickerell Machine Gun and Rifle Range has a danger area extending over the Fleet, Chesil Beech and the sea. Wyke Regis or Verne Yates Training Areas do not have danger areas.

5. Byelaws/Control

Chickerell Range is covered by the Chickerell Rifle and Machine Gun Range, Fleet Byelaws, 1930.

The land area affected and set out in the Schedule is divided into the mainland, Chesil Beach and the sea area. The byelaws state that “while notice that firing is taking place over the...Range...all footpaths within the land area will be closed and no person shall enter or remain within the sea area...No vessel shall be employed in fishing in the sea area. No pleasure boat shall cruise in the sea area. No vessel shall anchor or remain anchored in or ground on the sea area. No aircraft shall alight or remain in or travel upon the sea area.”

The area is also covered by the Chickerell Range and Machine Gun Range, Fleet Standing Orders, 1931. They state that “applications to use the range should reach the Commandant not less than 10 days before the Range is required”.

6. Public Access Resources/Facilities

The South West Coast Path (SWCP) runs along a public footpath inland of Wyke Regis between the tented camp and the Training Area, and along the southern edge of Chickerell Range around Tidmoor Point. The path forms a section of the European Path E9, which runs from Plymouth to Dover. The Coast Path is diverted to the north of the Training Area during live firing. The South West Coast Path Association is satisfied with the existing footpath diversion during these periods.

In addition there is a local network of PROW including a further footpath, known as the Hardy Way Footpath 33, which crosses the Range at Chickerell, which is mainly used by dog walkers from the local area. Similarly to the coast path, this is diverted to the north of
the range during live firing. A footpath and bridleway also lie to the west and east of Wyke Regis tented camp.

There is no open access (non-linear) to the mainland area of Chickerell and Wyke Regis. However, there is general public access to Verne Yates whenever it is not in use. The public is permitted access to Chesil Beach and all persons who wish to do so can walk along the Beach through the danger area relating to Chickerell Range, so long as they do not loiter. All firing must cease whilst any person is walking through the danger area along Chesil Beach.

7. Other Existing Access Opportunities (licenced/organised activities)

None known

8. Signage

In accordance with the byelaws, notice that firing is taking place on Chickerell is given by hoisting of red flags at the following places:

- **On each of the beacons, surmounted by a red circular disc on Chesil Bank;**
- **To the rear of the firing point and at each public footpath entry point where sentries are posted;**
- **On a flagstaff on Tidmoor Point, near the stop butt.**

The signals are hoisted half an hour before firing commences and are lowered immediately firing has ceased.

Five lookouts are posted at the following locations (see Figure 13):

- **Nos. 1 and 2:** At each point on the mainland where the footpath from Furzedown to the Coastguard Station crosses the boundaries of the land area, according to the Standing Orders "any time while firing is in progress the lookout will raise his red flag as a signal to the Officer in Charge of the firing point that firing should cease. He will keep his flag hoisted until the person has passed out of the Danger Area".

- **Nos. 3 and 4:** At each of the Beacons on Chesil Beach. "With reference to the Standing Orders the lookouts will hoist red flags on each of the beacons and will keep flags hoisted for half an hour. At the end of this period they will ascertain that no person is within the Danger Area on Chesil Bank, and that no vessel or aircraft is within one mile of the shore in the Danger Area. In the event of any vessel approaching or entering the sea Danger Area they will immediately use the radio communications to cease firing until all is again clear of the Danger Area".
• No. 5: In the dug-out near the Flagstaff on Tidmoor Point. With reference to the Standing Orders: the lookout will “hoist two red flags on the flagstaff on Tidmoor Point and will keep both flags hoisted for half an hour. At the end of this period, he will ascertain that no person or boat is within the danger area on the shore or in the Fleet between the mainland and Chesil Bank and that only one Red Flag is hoisted on each of the Beacons on Chesil Bank in which case he will lower the second red flag as a signal to the officer in charge that firing may commence”.

9. Live Firing Warning/Notification

There is no formal notification procedure other than the red flags warning the public that the Range is live.

10. Non-Firing Days/ Periods

Firing on Sundays and Bank Holidays is restricted to a minimum.

11. Management of Site

The Standing Orders for Army Training Estate South West advise on measures to be taken to minimise any conflict between training, conservation and access to the Training Area. Annex G refers specifically to Wyke Regis Training Area and Camp.

12. Promotion

The SWCP is promoted by the South West Coast Path Association in their various pamphlets and publications. There are also Countryside Agency guides to the SWCP, which are published jointly with the Ordnance Survey. The SWCP also features in a number of other walking guides, books and tourist information literature and a designated website.

Chesil Beach is promoted by virtue of its internationally important conservation value by authorities including UNESCO.

13. Third Party Aspirations/Pressures

The South West Coast Path Association accepts that the installation of a true coast path at Wyke Regis Bridging Hard would not be feasible unless the MOD was to vacate the site or reduce the number of hours required for training considerably.


None known
15. Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)

None

16. Future Opportunities/Issues to be Addressed

The licensed area of Wyke Regis on Chesil Beach has been registered as a common (under the Commons Registration Act, 1965), and has consequently been mapped as registered common land on the provisional map for Area 3 under the CROW Act. Its access status will therefore remain unchanged.

If at any time in the future, training requirements were to alter at Wyke Regis, consideration should be given to divert the South West Coast Path adjacent to The Fleet at the Bridging Hard.

17. Sources

- A Guide to Training Areas, Ranges and Camps in Devon, Dorset and Cornwall
- Chickerell Rifle and Machine Gun Range, Fleet, Byelaws, 1930
- Chickerell Rifle and Machine Gun Range, Fleet, Standing Orders, 1931
- Standing Orders for Chickerell Ranges, 2002
- Discussions with ATE SW staff, 16th October 2000 and 10th April 2003
- LANDSO 1406
- OS Outdoor Leisure 15
- Standing Orders for the Army Training Estate South West
- The Ramblers’ Association – www.ramblers.org.uk
- The South West Coast Path, 2001 Guide
- The South West Coast Path Association (correspondence to RPS on 20/08/02)

http://www.jncc.gov.uk

http://www.english-nature.gov.uk/
• http://whc.unesco.org

• http://www.swcp.org.uk/
ATE South West

Yoxter Training Area

1. Geography

Yoxter Training Area is situated in the Mendip Hills in Somerset between Charterhouse and Priddy about 8km north east of Cheddar Gorge. The Training Area amounts to some 358 ha of MOD freehold land and farmers rent the land from the MOD. One of the farms in the southern Training Area is let to Somerset Wildlife Trust, which uses Chancellor’s Farm as an educational field centre.

2. Designations

Part of the site is designated Chancellor’s Farm SSSI and was designated as the area shows outstanding examples of grassland communities associated with higher parts of the Mendip Plateau.

The Training Area also lies within the Mendip Hills AONB.

3. Training Use

Purchased in 1933, the Training Area is available for small arms and dry training. It is also ideal for helicopter exercises and can harbour non-tracked vehicles.

Live firing is only permitted between 0900 – 1730 hours (during British Summer Time) and between 0900 – 1630 hours (during winter). Live firing takes priority over dry training, although there are small areas outside the range danger area, which can be used when the range is in use. Blanks and pyrotechnics may be used including tripflares and illuminating flares.

There is also a bivouac area suitable for up to 100 personnel situated close to the main camp. Use of the Training Area is increasing in light of use by cadets and the TA.

4. Danger Areas

The range danger area is identified on Figure 14.

5. Byelaws/Control

There are no byelaws. The range danger area is not cleared of livestock before firing, however a sentry is posted at the back of the range, behind the targets before firing commences, to ensure that the area remains clear of people throughout the firing period.
6. **Public Access Resources/Facilities**

According to the South West Standing Orders (to be revised), there is no public access to the site. The Training Area is closed to general access at all times with a notice 'MOD Land - Keep Out'.

However there is a public footpath to the north east of the Training Area and a permissive bridleway runs along the boundary of the site for long distance horse riders.

7. **Other Existing Access Opportunities (licensed/organised activities)**

Farmers who have rights of access under their agreements, graze their stock when there is no live firing.

The local hunt is licensed each year to cross the range danger area.

8. **Signage**

Both the Range and Training Area are marked by a perimeter of red and white poles. Flags fly when the Training Area is in use.

9. **Live Firing Warning/Notification**

No notification of live firing is given.

10. **Non-Firing Days/Periods**

There are no allocated non-firing days.

11. **Management of Site**

The site is managed by the MOD, tenant farmers and Somerset Wildlife Trust.

12. **Promotion**

There is no promotion of access to the Training Area. The West Mendip Way (1km to the south west of the Training Area) and Monarch Way (2km to the south east) are promoted by organisations including Mendip District Council, Bath and West Country Walks, and the Ramblers’ Association. This meets the local requirement. To promote public access to the Training Area would undermine the conservation objectives of the Somerset Wildlife Trust.

13. **Third Party Aspirations/Pressures**

There are no known requests for increasing the access available to the Training Area.

The provisional map under the CROW Act has been published for Central Southern England, which includes Somerset. A large part of the freehold land at Yoxter has been identified as open country on these provisional maps. The MOD provided comment on the first draft maps, and has indicated their intention to use their powers under Section 28 to exclude open access to Yoxter as live firing on the range is incompatible with such access.

15. Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)

There is no known UXO issue.

16. Future Opportunities/Issues to be Addressed

The main issue is the potential impact of the CROW Act. The introduction of new byelaws, which restrict access to the Danger Area at times of live firing, should therefore be considered.

Prior to the implementation of any new byelaws, the MOD has already indicated its need to use Section 28 for the area likely to be designated as access land under CROW within Yoxter Training Area. This will need communicating in an appropriate manner so that it is fully understood that this area is not available for open access. This may include appropriate signage at the boundaries between this area and the surrounding land and provision of information more widely, in conjunction with the Countryside Agency and Ordnance Survey.

The management plan research carried out under the auspices of the Somerset Wildlife Trust concludes that controlled access, supported by signs and information boards which draw visitors away from the most sensitive areas, would be the only way to promote access. At present there appears to be no demand for public access.

Annex H to ATE SW’s Standing Orders should be amended to say that there is one public footpath within the Training Area, but no public access within the danger area.

Consideration should be given to the revision of the wording on standard MOD signage to make it more user friendly. This is a strategic issue that needs to be addressed across all Army Training Estates.

17. Sources

- Discussions with ATE SW staff, 16th October 2000 and 10th April 2003
• LANDSO 1406

• OS Explorer 141

• Standing Orders for the Army Training Estate South West

• The Countryside Agency, CROW Act 2000 Maps of Registered Common Land and Open Country (September, 2002)

• http://www.english-nature.gov.uk/

• http://www.bathwestwalks.com/

• http://www.mendip.gov.uk/
Appendix C

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ATE SW, 1997, A Guide to Training Areas, Ranges and Camps in Devon, Dorset and Cornwall</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Articles related to Cramber Tor from Dartmoor Preservation Association, Open Spaces Society, Dartmoor National Park Authority, Dartmoor Magazine, The Independent (The Millennium Debate) and various newspaper articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bath and West Country Walks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Structure Plan 2000</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Discussion with DE and MOD staff on 16th, 19th and 20th October 2000 and 10th April 2003</td>
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<tr>
<td>English Nature:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joint Nature Conservancy Council (JNCC) for SPA, cSAC and Ramsar designation locations</td>
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<tr>
<td>LANDSO 1406 Army Training Estate South West (ATE SW)</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOD Training Area Map (1:25,000 scale) GSGS_Plymouth_3 GSGS, 2 April 1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOD Training Area Map (1:50,000 scale) GSGS 5295_Dartmoor_7 GSGS 9, July 1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOD Training Area Map (1:25,000 scale) GSGS 5294_Penhale and Bodmin Moor_3-GSG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOD Map (1:5,000) Chickerell Camp, Wyke Regis Training Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>MOD, 2000, Standing Orders for Army Training Estate South West</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reference</td>
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<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>MOD, 1999, <em>Willsworthy Training Area Integrated Land Management Plan</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Okehampton Range Byelaws, 1980</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ordnance Survey maps (Outdoor Leisure Series 15, 28)</td>
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<td>OS Map (Explorer Sheets 104, 108, 109, 111, 139, 141)</td>
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<td>Sustrans, 2000, <em>The Official Guide to the National Cycle Network</em></td>
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<td>DE, The Armed Forces on Dartmoor, 2000</td>
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<td>The Merrivale Range Byelaws 1979</td>
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<td>The Ramblers’ Association – <a href="http://www.ramblers.org.uk">www.ramblers.org.uk</a></td>
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<td>Ramblers’ Association Correspondence to RPS (09/08/02) and to ATE SW (13/02/01)</td>
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<td>The South West Coast Path 2001 Guide</td>
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<td>The Tregantle Ranges Byelaws 1982</td>
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<td>World Heritage Site (Chesil Beach) <a href="http://whc.unesco.org/sites/1029.htm">http://whc.unesco.org/sites/1029.htm</a> and <a href="http://www.unep-wcmc.org/sites/wh/dorset.html">http://www.unep-wcmc.org/sites/wh/dorset.html</a></td>
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<td>WS Atkins Planning Consultants, January 2002, <em>Visitor Surveys to Establish the Impact of Military Training on Visitors to Cramber Tor Training Area</em></td>
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Appendix D

Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations
### Military Terms

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<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFV</td>
<td>Armoured Fighting Vehicle</td>
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<tr>
<td>ATE SW</td>
<td>Army Training Estate South West</td>
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<tr>
<td>ATR</td>
<td>Army Training Regiment</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPX</td>
<td>Command Post Exercise</td>
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<tr>
<td>DE</td>
<td>Defence Estates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DROPS</td>
<td>Demountable Rack Off and Pick-up System</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dry Trg</td>
<td>Dry training, which encompasses tactical training, not involving the use of live ammunition, but including the use of pyrotechnics, blank ammunition and other battle simulators and, for the purposes of this study, non tactical training such as fitness, navigation and adventure training.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETR</td>
<td>Electric Target Range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Firing</td>
<td>Army training activities involving the use of live ammunition in open country, sometimes using manoeuvre boxes with fixed arcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HQ Land</td>
<td>Headquarters Land Command</td>
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<tr>
<td>ILMP</td>
<td>Integrated Land Management Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>MOD</td>
<td>Ministry of Defence</td>
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<tr>
<td>OBUA</td>
<td>Operations in Built-Up Areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TA</td>
<td>Territorial Army</td>
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<tr>
<td>UXO</td>
<td>Unexploded Ordnance</td>
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## Environmental Terms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Access Land</strong></td>
<td>Areas of countryside to which the public are afforded a right of access on foot for informal recreation as a result of the implementation of the CROW Act. This will include mountain, moor, heath, down, registered common land and land dedicated for access under Section 16 of CROW.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Appropriate Assessment</strong></td>
<td>Appropriate Assessment is required under the EC ‘Habitats’ Directive (92/43/EEC) and the UK ‘Habitats’ Regulations for any plan or project likely to have significant effect on an internationally important site for nature conservation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BOAT</strong></td>
<td>Byway Open to All Traffic. A route that is available to users on foot, on horseback, bicycle, driving a horse-drawn carriage, and motorised vehicles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bridleway</strong></td>
<td>A linear route to which rights of access are limited to passage on foot, horseback (or leading a horse) and by bicycle (although cyclists are required to give way to other users).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CROW Act</strong></td>
<td>Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Footpath</strong></td>
<td>A linear route to which rights of access are limited to passage on foot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GOSW</strong></td>
<td>Government Office for the South West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LAF</strong></td>
<td>Local Access Forum formed under CROW Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Linear Access</strong></td>
<td>A route to which access is limited to the route itself and not the surrounding area which it crosses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LNR</strong></td>
<td>Local Nature Reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NNR</strong></td>
<td>National Nature Reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Open Access</strong></td>
<td>Areas in which passage by visitors is not restricted to linear routes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Open Country</strong></td>
<td>Four categories of land (mountain, moor, heath and down) to which access will be given as a right, as a result of the CROW Act.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Permissive Route</strong></td>
<td>A route to which access has been granted by the landowner on a non-permanent basis. No right of way is created.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROW</strong></td>
<td>Public Right of Way (includes footpaths, bridleways, BOATs, RUPPs and restricted byways)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RoWIP</strong></td>
<td>Rights of Way Improvement Plan. Access authorities will have a duty to prepare one for their area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>cSAC</strong></td>
<td>candidate Special Area for Conservation. Designated under the EC Habitats and Species Directive (92/43/EEC) for the protection of natural habitats and wild fauna (non-bird) and flora.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SPA</strong></td>
<td>Special Protected Area. Designated under the EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC).</td>
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</table>
| **SSSI** | Site of Special Scientific Interest designated under the Wildlife and Countryside
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<tr>
<th><strong>Act, 1981 (as amended)</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sustrans</strong></td>
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