

Ranger Report for Ugborough Parish from Ella Briens, May 2026

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Don't forget to look at - enews, Ranger and National Park facebook, twitter, web-site

Apologies that I am not here in person. I have only recently returned to work after injuring my back in January but I am gradually recovering and looking forward to getting out and about on the moor 😊 .

The Ranger team has 10 officers working across Dartmoor headed up by Simon Lee. Assistant Ranger Jamie Halton (former long-term volunteer) is our newest addition to the team (starting back in the Autumn of 2025) and he works across the Southwest side including the Ugborough parish so give him a wave if you see him out and about. As an Authority we **welcomed a new Chief Executive Officer Tom Surrey** as Kevin Bishop stepped down at the end of March.

Our brilliant **Volunteer Wardens** continue to help us out and support Rangers in the Ugborough area. Marcus Bailey, Tim Ferry, Gordon Flower, Nigel Philips, Ian Johnson, Pat Fizzsimmons and Tim Brook, Peter Smeardon and Jo Burgess all help out with a whole variety of tasks such as moorland patrols, signage fabrication and installation, rights of way surveying and repairs, ditch digging, fire pit repairs and litter-picking, Youth Rangers and engagement events and shows. Regular volunteers for the Ranger team make up a significant proportion of the National Park volunteering effort and the current team of over 50 VW's contribute thousands of hours a year.

Public Rights of Way are still a priority work area for our team - regarding our bridleways, footpaths and byways - **See CamsWeb – <https://prow.dartmoor.gov.uk>** – You can report a problem and track issues on Public Rights of way here. Our Statutory Responsibilities under DCC are for the surfacing and roadside signage of rights of way. Other infrastructure such as gates and stiles are the responsibility of landowners but we will work together to make improvements and are always looking to upgrade routes within the resources we have. Locally we have recently made some improvements to paths around the Lady's Wood area,

changing stiles to kissing gates and surfacing muddy areas through the FIPL – Farming in Protected Landscapes Grant scheme in collaboration with the Landowners. This scheme has been extended for a further three years so please do investigate local options for landowners including improvements on Public Rights of Way which is additional to the service level agreement funds from DCC. All the information is available on our website.

Rangers work hard on National Park key messages, engaging with the people who visit Dartmoor and spreading the word regarding Dogs on Leads, No Fires, Take your litter home, Share the Roads and Bridleways, Don't Feed the Ponies, Use a Campsite or Check where you can Camp. We are pleased to announce that **Dartmoor Marshalls** are working with us again from the end of the month over the Summer to boost numbers out on the ground and offer additional support. Currently we are continuing with our focus on 'dogs on leads' and 'no-fires' (strictly no open fires of any kind, and a request not to use BBQ's). This echoes the Police's work with their 'take the lead initiative' and we have also partnered with the National Trust and the Dartmoor Livestock Protection's Karla Mckechnie – giving away leads and dog treats and spreading the word about livestock and ground nesting birds. Additionally our fire messaging is in collaboration with the Fire Service and we hope that new signs on the ground will influence visitors. Last year we sadly restored a record number of hundreds of open campfire pits across the moors.

On a brighter note this year marks **the Celebration of 75 Years of Dartmoor National Park's official designation together with the Peak District, Lake district and Eryri.** This was recognition of its wild beauty, ancient history, value for nature and deep connection that people have felt with this remarkable landscape and the communities that live in and around it. Look out for celebration events including family fundays walks and festivals. In addition, a new partnership is now up and running, working to celebrate and protect Dartmoor – **Dartmoor Dynamic Landscapes** – supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund bringing together 15 different yet interconnected projects with a local geographical focus on Ivybridge and the Rivers Erme and Yealm together with Princetown and the river Dart, Okehampton and the Okement rivers. Partners include DNPA, Dartmoor hill Farm Project, Emergency Exit Arts,

The Dartmoor Headwaters project, The RSPB, Shallowford Trust, Southwest Peatland Partnership, Walk, Wheel Cycle Trust, Westcountry Rivers Trust and the Woodland Trust. Look out for the Rivers and Moorland Festival 2026 in Ivybridge between 5th-6th June with talks, walks and creative activities. There are many projects to specifically benefit Nature, Wetlands and ancient woodlands together with natural heritage.

The **Two moors Way is celebrating its 50th Year**. 102 miles of promoted walking running right across Devon from Ivybridge to Lynmouth. This anniversary is being marked by a series of walks along the route – the last of which in May and a new edition of the guidebook will also be published.