

Press Release: 25 March 2019

EXMOOR GUIDED-WALKS RETURN FOR SPRING

A series of free guided-walks gets underway across Exmoor next month (April) led by an expert team of local volunteers from the Exmoor National Park Authority and The Exmoor Society. Nearly a hundred walks will take place from April to October, with the addition of some new routes as well as old favourites.

The history of Exmoor's settlements is covered in walking tours of Lynton and Lynmouth, Bossington, Porlock and Dunster, there's insight into the Knight family's estate in Exmoor's former Royal hunting Forest at Simonsbath, a chance to tread in the footsteps of Saxon soldiers along the ancient Somerset Harepath (or Herepath), tales of murder at the abandoned mine of Wheal Eliza, a walk around Lorna Doone country, and a glimpse of the evolving salt marsh habitat at Porlock Marsh.

Natural history is also included, with walks discovering Exmoor's butterflies and bats, coastal wildlife, temperate rainforests and how the heather moorlands are managed, as well as rambles looking at water quality improvement schemes and landscape restoration.

In May there will be four new walks linked to the annual Simonsbath Festival on the subjects of World War II on Exmoor, the rivers of the moor, the 150th Anniversary of R. D. Blackmore's 'Lorna Doone', and the Exmoor home of Byron's daughter Ada Lovelace, a pioneer of computer programming.

Local volunteer Alan Chattell, whose next walk around North Hill to see the Iron Age fort and World War II military base takes place on 20th April, said: "Not many people know that there was once a top secret radar station and tank training ground on the outskirts of Minehead. It's a real pleasure to be able to help bring to life this often overlooked piece of National Park history, while also showing people the spectacular views and how to spot archaeological features they might not otherwise have noticed."

Liz Pile, Walks Coordinator for The Exmoor Society, said: "The wonderfully diverse walks programme is only possible through the generosity of walk leaders in sharing their time, expertise and passion for Exmoor. The Society pays tribute to all those who lead walks in all weathers and in all places."

Jess Twydall, Exmoor National Park Authority's Get Involved Project Coordinator, commented: "Whether you're fascinated by local history and village life, or looking for a longer moorland walk taking in the breath-taking scenery, there's truly something for everyone."

Walks generally last 1-4 hours and there is no charge, but donations are welcomed to 'The Exmoor Society' or 'CareMoor for Exmoor' towards keeping the National Park special.

The full programme of walks can be found on the ENPA and The Exmoor Society websites and in *Exmoor Visitor* magazine, available free at all National Park Centres and at The Exmoor Society's Resource Centre in Dulverton, where advice can also be obtained.

ENDS

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Notes to editors

About The Exmoor Society

The Exmoor Society exists to promote and organise action for the conservation and enjoyment of the landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage of Exmoor national park. It was established in 1958 and successfully fought proposals to afforest the Chains, the central moorland of Exmoor. It has continued to campaign against adverse changes and encourages people's understanding and enjoyment of the park's special qualities. As a charity, it acts as an independent watchdog and champion for Exmoor's status as a national park. Visit our website www.exmoorsociety.com or follow us on Twitter [@ExmoorSociety](https://twitter.com/ExmoorSociety)

About Exmoor National Park Authority

First designated in 1954, Exmoor National Park has an amazing variety of landscapes within its 267 square miles – stunning coast, moorland, woodland, valleys and farmland and more than 800 miles of rights of way to enjoy. It is one of 15 National Parks in the United Kingdom and in 2011 was designated Europe's first International Dark Sky Reserve.

Exmoor National Park Authority works in partnership with the community, local councils, businesses and other organisations to look after the National Park and promote its conservation and enjoyment. Donations to [CareMoor for Exmoor](#) are gratefully received towards the upkeep of the National Park and its special qualities.

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) or visit www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk for more information.