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Kerb

Keep with Allen
DSG took note of
Report at its meeting
on 15 May 88

DARTMOOR STEERING GROUP

**Eighth Annual Report of the
Dartmoor Steering Group to
the Secretaries of State for
Environment and Defence**

March 1988

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DARTMOOR STEERING GROUP 1987

INTRODUCTION

1. The seventh Annual Report was submitted to the Secretaries of State for Defence and for the Environment in March 1987, and covered the eighteenth and nineteenth meetings of the Group. Since then we have held two meetings: the twentieth at Wyvern Barracks, Exeter on 19 March 1987 and the twenty first at County Hall, Exeter on 22 October 1987. A statement was issued to the Press after each meeting.
2. The Working Party has also held two meetings and we are grateful for the continued support afforded to the Group. Indeed at the last meeting of the Group, the Working Party was congratulated on the excellent work they had done. The Chairman of the Working Party, during the period covered by this report, was the nominee of the General Officer Commanding, South West District.
3. In general some useful work has been done towards reducing the impact of military training on the amenities of the National Park and productive co-operation is evident between the Park and the military authorities.

WILLSWORTHY CAMP

4. The most important topic in the Steering Group has been the military proposal to replace Willsworthy Camp. The military authorities came forward with firm proposals for replacing the old, ugly and obtrusive collection of tin huts set on the High Moor, by one single storey building on a newly acquired piece of land off the High Moor at Higher Beardon.

5. The Steering Group was thoroughly briefed on the proposal but it was the view of the National Park representatives that the proposal would be against the joint Countryside Commission and National Park policy to resist military investment which might prolong the military presence.
6. The Steering Group was informed that an outline planning application for the replacement camp had been submitted to the National Park Authority on 19 October 1987.

MILITARY ARTEFACTS

7. The Park Authority responded to the proposal to remove eleven structures on Dartmoor which the military authorities had offered to remove as they were no longer required in connection with military training. Because four of the structures were considered to be of archaeological or other importance, the Park Authority decided these should be retained but the remaining seven could be removed. The military authorities reported that the first structure, a disused Grenade Range, had been removed and the remainder would receive attention as resources became available.

ENVIRONMENTAL BASE LINE

8. The bird survey undertaken by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds was received by the Steering Group and will be appended to the Environmental Base Line Report. The purpose of the latter is to provide a base against which any changes can be monitored.

9. The Steering Group was informed that the first resurvey of the five component areas forming the basis of the Base Line was undertaken in the summer of 1987 as planned. The report was still being studied by the Nature Conservancy Council and following consideration by the Working Party, the Steering Group was to be advised of the results.

DARTMOOR RANGES - EXCHANGE OF USAGE DATA

10. The Steering Group was informed that the Park Officers and the military staff had agreed to exchange data annually on the use of the Dartmoor Ranges in connection with the arrangements for the renewal of Duchy licences in 1991. It had been agreed in the negotiations for the present licences that a review of live firing, particularly artillery firing, should be carried out in 1990 through the machinery of the Steering Group. The annual exchange should simplify the tasks of the Steering Group in 1990.

CONSERVATION

11. The Steering Group welcomed the announcement by the military authorities that a Conservation Management Group had been re-established at Willsworthy.

W A BURKINSHAW

COL. J S FORREST
Secretaries

SIR PETER STALLARD KCMG CVO MBE
Chairman