

**STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS**  
**1980 No 949**

D/Lands/6/87



# **Okehampton Range Byelaws 1980**

**Made by the Secretary of State for Defence, under the provisions of the Military Lands Act 1892, for regulating the use of the above-mentioned range.**

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS  
1980 No 949

**DEFENCE**

**THE OKEHAMPTON RANGE BYELAWS 1980**

Made 2nd July 1980

Coming into operation 15th September 1980

The Secretary of State for Defence in exercise of his powers under Part II of the Military Lands Act 1892 (a) and Section 2 of the Defence (Transfer of Functions) Act 1964 (b) and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, hereby makes the following Byelaws:—

AREA OF LAND AFFECTED

1. The area to which these Byelaws apply (hereinafter referred to as “the Danger Area”) consists of the lands which the Secretary of State has a right to use for military purposes in the parishes of Okehampton Hamlet, Belstone, South Tawton, Throwleigh, Gidleigh, Lydford, Peter Tavy, Bridestowe and Sourton in the County of Devon known as the Okehampton Range the boundaries of which are for convenience of identification shown by a thick black line on the plan annexed to these Byelaws and identified as “Plan of the Okehampton Range”.

USE OF DANGER AREA

2. The Danger area may be used for the purposes of Service training including the firing of Service weapons of all kinds, the firing and exploding of demolition charges, training with co-operating aircraft and for all activities ancillary to such training.

PROHIBITION OF ACCESS

3. (1) When the Danger Area is being used for any of the military purposes specified in Byelaw No 2, no person shall:—

- (a) enter into or upon or pass over or through the Danger Area, or
- (b) be or remain in or upon the Danger Area, or
- (c) cause or permit or suffer any vehicle, animal, aircraft or thing to enter into or upon or to pass through or to be or remain in or upon the Danger Area, or

(a) 55 & 56 Vict. c.43.

(b) 1964 c.15.

- (d) cause or permit any aircraft to fly over the Danger Area
  - (i) at a height less than 10,000 feet above mean sea level, or
  - (ii) at a height less than 20,000 feet above mean sea level during any period notified for this purpose by the Range authorities to the appropriate aviation authorities.

(2) Whilst the Danger Area is being used for any of the said military purposes, notice of the fact shall be given by the display of the following signals, that is to say a red flag by day and a red light by night hoisted at the following places:—

- (a) In respect of firing by day:
  - (i) at the summit of Yes Tor;
  - (ii) at the summit of Blackdown;
  - (iii) at a place near St Michael’s Bungalow approx 90 metres west of the road from Okehampton to Okehampton Camp and approximately 140 metres north of Okehampton Camp;
  - (iv) at a place approximately 730 metres south-east of Moorgate Farm and approximately 1140 metres south of Halstock Farm;
  - (v) on Watchet Hill approximately 640 metres south-west of Belstone;
  - (vi) at the summit of Steeperton Tor;
  - (vii) at the summit of Hangingstone Hill;
  - (viii) at the summit of Quintin’s Man;
  - (ix) on the knoll at the southern end of Amicombe Hill;
  - (x) on the north-west slope of Rattlebrook Hill;
  - (xi) at the summit of Kitty Tor.
- (b) In respect of firing by night:
  - (i) at the summit of Yes Tor;
  - (ii) at a place near St Michael’s Bungalow approximately 90 metres west of the road from Okehampton to Okehampton Camp and approximately 140 metres north of Okehampton Camp;
  - (iii) on Watchet Hill approximately 640 metres south-west of Belstone;
  - (iv) at the summit of Hangingstone Hill;
  - (v) at the summit of Steeperton Tor;
  - (vi) at the summit of Kitty Tor.

PROJECTILES

4. No person shall dig, or search for any projectile or any lead or other metal in or on the Danger Area, or interfere with or take or

retain or be in possession of any projectile or any lead or other metal found within the Danger Area, or remove any projectile from the Danger Area.

#### GOVERNMENT STORES

5. No person shall interfere with or remove from the Danger Area any stores or articles belonging to or under the care or control of the Ministry of Defence or otherwise the property of the Crown.

#### WARNING NOTICES

6. No person shall interfere with, move or remove any warning notice, danger sign or boundary marker belonging to or under the care of the Ministry of Defence or otherwise the property of the Crown.

#### OFFENCES

7. Subject to the provisions of Byelaw No 9, any person doing anything prohibited by or otherwise contravening any provision of any of the preceding Byelaws Nos 3, 4, 5 and 6 thereby commits an offence against the Byelaw so contravened.

#### ENFORCEMENT

8. The following persons are hereby authorised to remove from the Danger Area and to take into custody without warrant any person found therein in contravention of Byelaw No 3 or found committing any other offence against Byelaws Nos 3, 4, 5 or 6 and to remove from the Danger Area any vehicle, animal, aircraft or thing found in the Danger Area in contravention of any of the said Byelaws:—

- (a) the General Officer Commanding the Army District;
- (b) the Range Officer Dartmoor Ranges;
- (c) the Officer in Charge of the Okehampton Range;
- (d) any officer, warrant officer, non-commissioned officer or rating of corresponding rank, or any service policeman, in uniform and being for the time being under the Command of the said General Officer Commanding or the Officer in Charge of the Okehampton Range;
- (e) any person authorised in writing by or on behalf of the said General Officer Commanding or the Officer in Charge of the Okehampton Range;
- (f) any member of a police force; and
- (g) any special constable under the control of the Defence Council.

#### EXEMPTIONS

9. (1) Nothing done by a person using the Danger Area in pursuance of Byelaw No 2 or in the exercise of any such private rights as are referred to in Section 15 of the Military Lands

Act 1892 or by a person acting under and in accordance with any authority or permission given by or on behalf of the Secretary of State or the General Officer Commanding the Army District or the Commandant Devon and Cornwall Training Areas or the Officer in Charge of the Okehampton Range shall constitute an offence against any of these Byelaws.

- (2) If it is proved that an act or omission of any person which would otherwise have been an offence against any of the provisions of paragraph (1) of Byelaw No 3, was due to any cause not avoidable by the exercise of reasonable care by that person the act or omission shall be deemed not to be an offence by that person against that Byelaw.
- (3) Nothing done in pursuance of any right of common existing in respect of any common land included within the Danger Area shall constitute an offence against any of these Byelaws.

#### INTERPRETATION

10. In these Byelaws the expression:—
- “projectile” includes any shot or shell or other missile and any portion thereof;
  - “aircraft” includes any craft or contrivance which though not an aircraft is for the time being airborne.

#### COMMENCEMENT, CITATION AND REVOCATION

11. (1) These Byelaws shall come into operation on 15th September 1980 and may be cited as the Okehampton Range Byelaws 1980.
- (2) The Byelaws in respect of the Okehampton Range dated the 3rd day of September 1963 (c) are hereby revoked.

Dated 2nd July 1980

(Signed) FRANCIS PYM

Secretary of State for Defence

## NOTICES

(These notices are for information only and are not part of the Byelaws)

## PENALTY FOR OFFENCES

1. By Section 17(2) of the Military Lands Act 1892, as amended by Section 92 of and Schedule 3 to the Criminal Justices Act 1967, it is provided:—

**If any person commits an offence against any Byelaw under this Act, he shall be liable, on conviction before a Court of Summary Jurisdiction, to a fine not exceeding TWENTY POUNDS, and may be removed by any Constable or Officer authorised in manner provided by the Byelaw from the area, whether land or water, to which the Byelaw applies, and taken into custody without Warrant, and brought before a Court of Summary Jurisdiction to be dealt with according to law, and any vehicle, animal, vessel, or thing found in the area in contravention of any Byelaw, may be removed by any Constable or such Officer as aforesaid, and on due proof of such contravention, be declared by a Court of Summary Jurisdiction to be forfeited to Her Majesty.**

## PRIVATE RIGHTS

2. By Section 15 of the Military Lands Act 1892, it is provided:—

**Where a Secretary of State has for the time being the right of using for any military purpose any land vested in another person this part of this Act shall apply in the manner as if the land were vested in the Secretary of State and the same were appropriated for the said purpose, save that nothing therein or in any byelaws made thereunder shall injuriously affect the private rights of any person further or otherwise than is authorised by the grant of the right to use the land.**

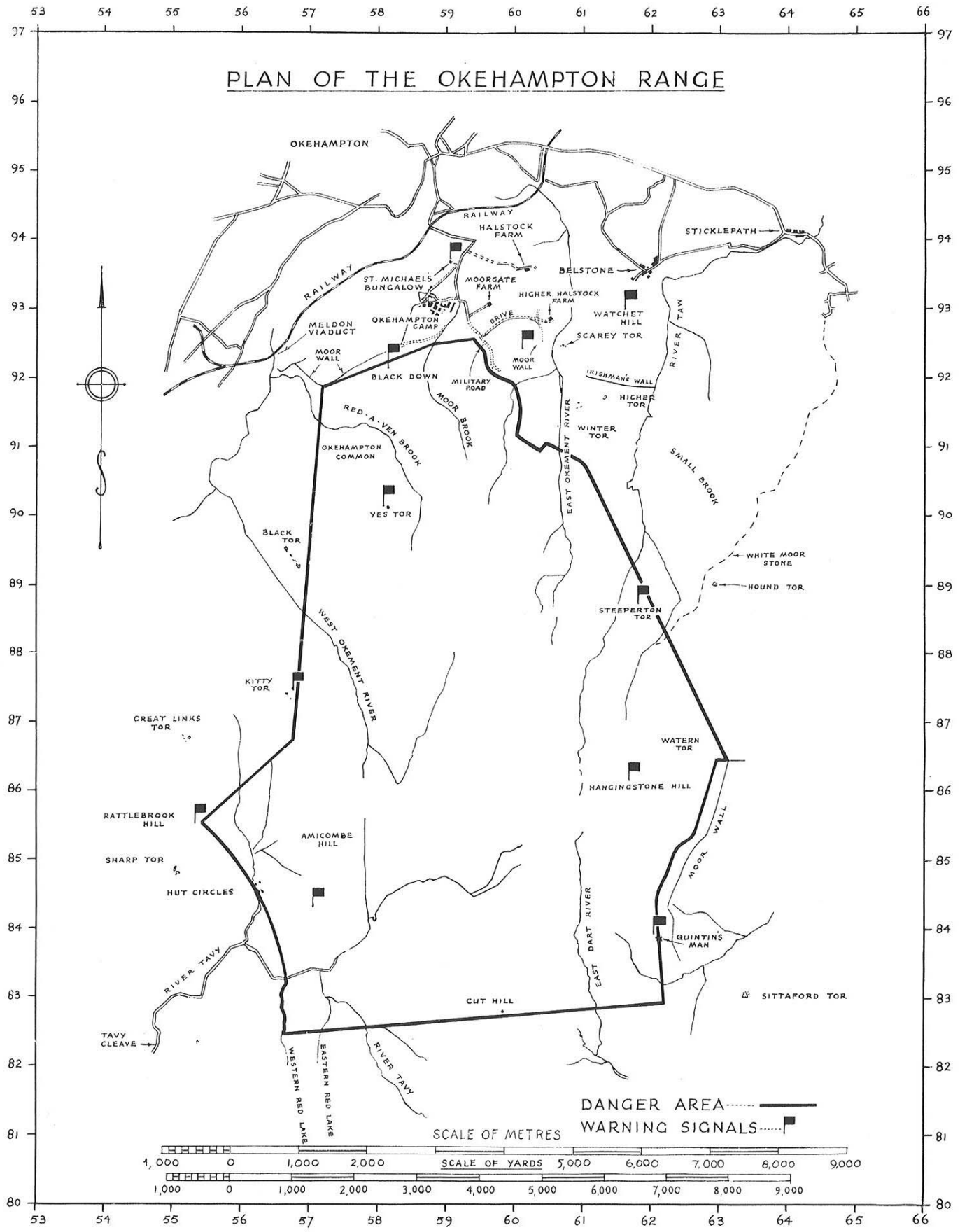
## INSPECTION OF BYELAWS AND PLAN

3. A copy of these Byelaws and a plan showing the Danger Area may be inspected at the Police Stations at Okehampton, Tavistock, Princetown and Chagford, at the offices of the Chief Executive of the West Devon District Council at Okehampton and Tavistock and at Post Offices situated at the following places:—

Belstone, Brentor, Bovey Tracey, Bridestowe, Buckfastleigh, Chagford, Gidleigh, Holne, Horrabridge, Islington, Lustleigh, Lydford, Mary Tavy, Moretonhampstead, Okehampton, Peter Tavy, Postbridge, Princetown, Shaugh Prior, Sourton, South Zeal, Sticklepath, Tavistock, Throwleigh, Walkhampton, Whiddon Down, Widecombe-in-the-Moor, Yelverton.

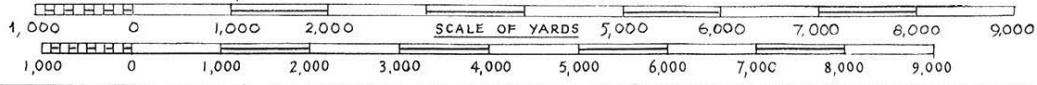
A copy of these Byelaws and a plan showing the Danger Area may also be inspected at the office of the Senior Estate Surveyor,

# PLAN OF THE OKEHAMPTON RANGE



DANGER AREA ————  
 WARNING SIGNALS —■—

SCALE OF METRES



Property Services Agency, Department of the Environment, Pilgrim House, Derry's Cross, Plymouth PL1 2SW, where copies of the Byelaws may be obtained at the price of five pence (5p) for each copy.

#### ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONS AND WARNINGS

4. (1) Notice Boards with a suitable warning are placed on the approaches of all recognised roads and pathways to the Range.
- (2) The limits of the Danger Area are marked on the ground by a series of red and white posts.
- (3) The public are warned not to touch any object on the Range. It could be dangerous.
- (4) The public are warned to be especially careful during conditions of low visibility as firing may take place at any time of the day or night on dates so specified in the Firing Notice regardless of weather conditions.
- (5) Warning Flags and lights listed in Byelaw 3(2) will be displayed half-an-hour before firing is due to commence and will be removed as soon as possible after firing ceases.

#### RECOVERY OF PROJECTILES

5. Any person who finds a projectile within the Danger Area, must not disturb it but should report the finding of it to the Range Officer Dartmoor Ranges or the Camp Commandant, Okehampton Camp, both situated at Okehampton Camp, Okehampton, Devon or to the police, at the first opportunity.

#### PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF FIRING

6. Public notification that firing will take place will be given by the publication of a notice each Friday in the "Western Morning News", the "Western Times and Gazette" and "Express and Echo" which will give particulars of the intended date, time and duration of the firing to be practised on the Range during the following week. Copies of this notice are also sent to the Post Offices, Police Stations and most hotels in the vicinity of Dartmoor, as well as to other interested bodies. In addition a telephone answering service for use by any member of the public who wishes to check on firing activities is available at Plymouth (0752) 701924, at Exeter (0392) 70164, at Okehampton (0837) 2939 and at Torquay (0803) 24592.

#### COMMONERS

7. Agreements have been made with certain commoners under which they have undertaken on agreed terms not to use the Danger Area while artillery or other practice is being carried out.

**1995 No. 3344**

**DEFENCE**

**The Okehampton Range (Amendment) Byelaws 1995**

*Made - - - -*

*29 December 1995*

*Coming into force*

*29 January 1996*

The Secretary of State for Defence, in exercise of the powers conferred upon him in Part II of the Military Lands Act 1892(a) and all other powers enabling him in that behalf, makes the following Byelaws:

**Citation and commencement**

1. These Byelaws may be cited as the Okehampton Range (Amendment) Byelaws 1995 and shall come into force on 29 January 1996.

**Interpretation**

2. In these Byelaws, "the principal Byelaws" means the Okehampton Range Byelaws 1980 (b).

**Amendment**

3. For the plan annexed to the principal Byelaws and identified as "Plan of the Okehampton Range", there shall be substituted the plan annexed to these Byelaws and identified as "Amended Plan of the Okehampton Range".

Signed



Dated 29 December 1995

Secretary of State for  
Defence

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(a) 1892 c.43; Part II was extended by section 2(3) of the Defence (Transfer of Functions) Act 1964 (c.15).  
(b) S.I. 1980/949.





LANDS COMMON TO THE PARISHES OF BRIDESTOWE AND SOURTON  
(BRIDESTOWE AND SOURTON COMMON)

Okehampton Range  
DANGER AREA

ACCESS LAND

DANGER AREA

DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK

WEST DEVON DISTRICT

Willworthy Range  
DANGER AREA

Danger Areas

Warning Signals



**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

(This Note is not part of the Byelaws)

These Byelaws amend the Okehampton Range Byelaws 1980 ("the principal Byelaws") by substituting a new plan of the area of application of those Byelaws.

The amendment reduces the area of application of the principal Byelaws, showing the enlarged area of full access to the public on Okehampton Range. It is an interim measure pending a general review of all Military Lands Acts Byelaws.

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