

# TEN TORS 2022

## Ten Tors Update

Walks 4 and 5: 29/01/2022 and  
12/02/2022  
(Nodden Gate Circular and River  
Erme Circular)



Apologies for getting slightly behind with the reports of each walk; I should be back up to speed now.

The last two navigations have certainly been extremely challenging in terms of weather, distance and terrain and it is to the absolute credit of all the students that they managed to complete either / both of the routes. Please do not lose sight of this: you have pretty much faced everything that Dartmoor can throw at you on these two walks; you will find the actual event relatively enjoyable in comparison. 😊.

Despite the forecast stating that it would be clear, dry and relatively mild, it quickly became apparent that Walk 3 was going to be a lot more inclement than expected as we were greeted by



poor visibility, a strong South-Westerly breeze and driving rain. Nice. Yet again, navigation promised to be in the spotlight and the hope of completing the 20km route was ambitious, but not insurmountable.

In order to 'spice up' the programme and to add a healthy element of competition, the students were split into two teams broadly based on year group (Year 10 v Year 11) who would walk the same route, but in



opposite directions. This would allow myself and Mr Johns the opportunity to assess students' abilities, determination and attitude. We were also considering whether this would be a useful template for the teams as the necessity for final selection looms ever closer. The Year 11s counted themselves very lucky in having my ginger wisdom and inspiration for the day; the Year 10s looked what can only be described as downcast / sombre as they trudged off into the mist with their bald mentor bouncing along behind them.

Without going into reams of detail, both teams performed admirably. Both experienced complacency in navigation which resulted in some minor disorientation, but, considering the lack of visibility, the featureless landscape, relentless wind / rain and endless bogs / tussocks, you did brilliantly. Well done. It was a shame that we had to cut the route slightly short, but completing roughly 18.5km in those conditions is nevertheless a great achievement. I did warn you that this route was cursed; I should've kept my gob shut. 😊.



Unfortunately, the Met Office were bang on with the forecast for Walk 5 so what started out as a very pleasant navigation from Wrangaton Golf Course – Erme Head – Stalldown Barrow – Harford in dry conditions with excellent visibility unfortunately ended with horizontal rain, minimal visibility and the coldest Southerly wind I have ever felt. I was always led to believe that South and West winds were wet, but warm? No such luck on this occasion as my team were nearly blown off the hillside... It is also strange that, when planning the route, I estimated the distance to be in the region of 21.0km, but we actually ended up completing in excess of 28km without any significant deviation from the quickest paths. This would obviously account for all of us struggling and why we actually finished in near darkness.

However, it is from these situations that the most useful information can be derived; what myself and Mr Johns saw out there was nothing short of outstanding determination, resilience, teamwork and stoicism in the face of Nature at its wildest. I can only feel immense pride in how you all performed and I hope that you recognise what great character you managed to demonstrate. You are a credit to your families, your school, your local community and to yourselves. Very well done.





In terms of training objectives, I am satisfied that you have been challenged enough over the past few walks so the next navigation (12/03/2022) will be substantially shorter and easier. Please ensure that you continue to carry plenty of weight as you must be used to this in readiness for the event.

Please remember that there will be a pre-walk meeting next week (Wednesday or Thursday – I will let you know nearer the time). Minibus places will be available from 1300h on Tuesday 08/03/2022 on ParentPay.