

4x4 Adventure Tours Ltd

Devon Lanes Risk Assessment

Specific Risks associated Green Lanes in the Welsh Borders Area

This risk assessment is in addition to the information provided in the Preparation Guide and the Assumption of Risk Document.

Remote Locations

Parts of Devon, especially Dartmoor and Exmoor are remote. It is part of the attraction of the area but it can compound the risks.

Some areas have no mobile phone signal – In an emergency situation it may not be possible to use a mobile phone directly. Part of the group may have to travel to reach a place that has mobile phone coverage to alert the emergency services. An injured person should never be left alone, but if possible the group travelling to get signal should do so in multiple vehicles but ensuring sufficient support remains behind.

There maybe a long distance to travel to reach civilisation. In the event of a breakdown or severe weather event it may be necessary to stay with a vehicle overnight. It is recommended that additional warm clothes and a sleeping bag/blanket are carried in case along with something to drink/eat.

Fuel stations are few and far between. Please ensure you have a full tank at the start of the day.

Other users

Many other users can be found in the area. Everything from dog walkers to horse riders, Mountain bikes, Enduro Riders, Farmers. Expect to meet others and always assume you do not have the right of way. Be patient and polite.

Farm Animals

Treat all farm animals with respect. Sheep can be easily scared and hurt themselves. Give them space and time to move out of the way. Stay away from cattle whenever possible. Ensure gates are securely closed.

Minor roads

There are a many minor roads in the area that may have to be driven for considerable distances. Additional care and attention should be given to driving these roads. They are often narrow, steep and of varying quality and maybe outside the regular experience of the driver.

Deep Water

There are a number of places where deep and fast moving water can exist. This is likely to cause a risk to both people and vehicles. Weather and rainfall can change rapidly in the hills and river levels can rise to dangerous levels quickly. Fast moving water is particularly dangerous and can be very strong, sweeping away people or vehicles very quickly. In extreme circumstances there is a risk of

drowning. People have been killed by accidents in the past. Do not enter the water if you are not confident to do so. Do not drive into deep water unless you are confident that your vehicle is properly prepared for such activities.

Forests

Many of the forests are active working forests. Stay clear of working forestry machines and timber lorries. Stay off timber stacks as they can be unstable. Standing deadwood can fall in windy conditions. Do not stop or stand near standing dead wood.

Rocky Terrain and Tyres

Many of the tracks are based on rocky terrain. This gives an increase risk of tyres being punctured by rocks. If you have a vehicle with an uncommon tyre size or wheel fitting (by common we mean something that likely to fit a land rover defender) then we recommend you carry 2 spare tyres. This will help mitigate the risk of you being stranded if you have 2 punctures. This is especially important if the wheel size is large compared and the tyres are low profile.