

# SUPPORT A NEW RIGHT TO ROAM ACT



Dear MP,

To defend and extend the public's access to nature, we need a new Right to Roam Act.

I'm writing to you as your constituent to express my shock, sadness and anger at the recent decision to ban wild camping on Dartmoor – and ask you to act. For decades, hundreds of thousands of people have enjoyed the freedom to wild camp on the moor, leading to life-changing experiences – from the awe of seeing the galaxy on a clear night, to the character-forming challenge of Ten Tors and Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. Now, all of that has been taken away because of the actions of a wealthy Dartmoor landowner.

Dartmoor National Park Authority may yet appeal this decision, and other Dartmoor landowners may choose to grant the public permission to camp on their land. But it won't ever be the same – the public has had a cherished right taken away from them. So now it's up to you to restore those rights.

I am asking you as my representative to publicly support a new Right to Roam Act that would defend and extend public access to nature. Such an Act needs to guarantee the right to wild camp, not just on Dartmoor, but in other national parks across England. It should also extend our right to roam from the pitiful 8% of England that we can currently access, to other landscapes closer to where most people live – like woodlands, rivers and Green Belt land.

Access to nature is critical to our public health. Physical inactivity costs the NHS around £1bn per year, and wider society around £7.4bn per year. Passing a law to extend our right to roam in nature costs, in the context of these figures, next to nothing.

Responsible wild camping leaves no trace on the countryside – but it leaves a huge impression on everyone who experiences it. And if the government is concerned that landowners will have to deal with more litter, then it should spend a bit more on promoting the Countryside Code – rather than the mere £2,000 per year it's spent publicising it since 2010.

Please support a new Right to Roam Act, and make your commitment public.

Thank you and best wishes,  
Your Constituent,

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NAME

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ADDRESS AND EMAIL