

## LYDFORD PARISH “Beating the Bounds”

Event Organisers: The “Beating the Bounds” working group on behalf of Lydford Parish Council.

Date of Event: Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2023

### Brief description of Event:

Beating the Bounds was traditionally a day for teaching the young folk of the parish the limits of the parish boundary. These days where there are reliable maps to hand the event has become more of a village ‘fun’ day. The event takes place once every 7 years.

The route taken will start from the village sports field and follow, as closely as possible, the parish boundary using footpaths, bridlepaths, bridleways, roads and moorland tracks. The terrain underfoot can be uneven and slippery in parts and strenuous in others, particularly the moorland section. The whole route is approximately 16 miles long and with this in mind ‘drop-out’ points have been identified to allow participants not wishing to complete the whole route to pull out and make their way back to the village.

### Event Risk Assessment

#### Hazards Identified

1	Uneven, wet, slippery ground	-	slips, trips and falls on the same level.
2	Stiles and gateways	-	falls from height, trapping injuries.
3	River crossings (footbridges/stepping stones)	-	slips, trips and falls.
4	Steep gradients	-	slips, trips and falls. Fatigue
5	Pathway obstructions	-	slips, trips and falls.
6	Animals (dogs/livestock/wild animals)	-	bites, ‘charging’.
7	Road crossings/walking	-	traffic/pedestrian accident.
8	Environmental conditions	-	adverse weather conditions.
9	Access over private land	-	landowner confrontations.
10	Military training areas	-	firearms, ordinance equipment.
11	Event distance/severity	-	Fatigue.
12	Participant health	-	underlying health issues.

Control/Mitigation Measures for hazards identified above.

- 1 Event to follow established footpaths, by-ways, bridleways where possible. Participants to wear appropriate, stout, footwear and to take extreme care over uneven, slippery or wet ground.
- 2 Cross stiles using a hand hold where possible, ask for assistance if required. Open and close gates carefully ensuring hands are kept away from pinch points.
- 3 Use footbridges and stepping stones carefully as they can become very slippery. Do not run or jump from stone to stone. Ask for assistance if required.
- 4 Take your time uphill to avoid exhaustion. Take frequent breaks. Do not run on downhill sections.
- 5 Event leader(s) to recce the event beforehand to identify any obstructions. Event leader(s) may have to make changes to the route on the day to avoid any obstructions that have arisen between the date of the recce and the day of the event.
- 6 Participants taking dogs must have them under strict control and keep them on a lead at all times. Do not taunt or aggravate livestock or wild animals.
- 7 All road crossings to be marshalled by people wearing hi-viz jacket/vests.
- 8 All participants to wear appropriate clothing for the weather conditions on the day. Event leader(s) have the discretion to change the route, postpone the start or cancel the event on the day as weather conditions on the day dictate.
- 9 Private landowners to be approached for relevant access permissions. If access not granted route changes to be made avoiding said areas.
- 10 Check with armed forces that no 'live firing' taking place on the day of the event.
- 11 Estimate length and severity of walk so that participants can make an informed decision. Drop-out points to be established. Refreshment breaks to be arranged and where possible include toilet facilities.
- 12 All participants with any known health issue/condition must seek medical advice before participation in the event.

### Other Control/Mitigation measures.

- 13 All participants to sign in at the start of the event and register with a marshal at each check-point. Event leader(s) to be made aware of any 'drop-outs'.
- 14 All children to be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
- 15 This risk assessment to be placed on the 'Beating the Bounds' website for all potential participants to read and when signing in at the start in doing so acknowledge that they have read and understand the risk assessment.

### Other items

#### Refreshments

Whilst some refreshments will be provided by the organisers participants are advised to bring their own packed lunch and beverage, especially if they have special dietary requirements.

#### 'Drop-outs'

All 'drop-outs' from the event will be considered 'no longer participating' in the event and will be responsible for making their own way back to the start point.

#### General

Whilst every care has been taken to ensure Safety, Health and Welfare of the participants during this event by the organisers all participants taking part do so at their own risk.

#### In the event of an emergency

The event leader(s) will take control of the situation and take the appropriate action by calling upon assistance from pre-arranged recovery vehicles or if the need arises calling for assistance by dialling 999 and asking for the emergency services to attend.