



DUCHY of CORNWALL



Fly fishing for wild brown trout, sea trout
and salmon in unrivalled surroundings

Dartmoor Fishery Guide
www.westcountryangling.com

Duchy of Cornwall - Dartmoor Fishery

The Westcountry Rivers Trust is delighted that the Duchy of Cornwall fishing on Dartmoor is again available through the Westcountry Angling Passport.

This partnership aims to maintain access to the excellent fishing on Dartmoor's rivers and also deliver long-term benefits to the environment and native fisheries of Dartmoor. Practical and continuous river improvement works have taken place throughout the fishery since 2010.

The East and West Dart rivers and their tributaries provide some of the best wild brown trout, sea trout and salmon fishing in the UK - there are over 25kms of river to be explored and we hope this brochure will be a useful source of information for local and visiting anglers.

www.westcountryangling.com



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West Dart (& tributaries)

The West Dart flows through one of the most beautiful valleys on Dartmoor and, although slightly shorter than the East Dart, it is a bigger river due to the influence of several major tributaries. It contains some of the largest pools and glides on Dartmoor, providing excellent brown trout fishing throughout, along with some opportunities for salmon and sea trout fishing. There is so much water to explore - boulder strewn sections, long glides and runs, deep pools and lots of pocket water - we suggest you take your time and fish the river by sections, using the access points to fish up or downstream.

Parking & Access: To fish the upper river, go to ① (Two Bridges), for the middle river go to ② (off the B3357) and follow the footpath (east of Dunnabridge Fm.) or ⑪ the small quarry close to Prince Hall Hotel and Dartmoor Training Centre (please note space is limited here). For the lower river go to ③ (Hexworthy Bridge), or ④ (Dartmeet). If you park at ④, you have to walk across the road bridge and take the public footpath between the houses before fishing up the W. Dart. N.B. There is no fishing on the right hand bank (looking downstream) from Hexworthy Bridge to below Dartmeet, or in the last 50 metres left hand bank before the confluence with the E. Dart.

Blackabrook

One of the largest of the Dart tributaries, it has good brown trout fishing with the best water being found between the confluence with the W. Dart and Oakery Bridge (on the B3212).

Parking & Access: The lower water can be reached by parking at ⑪ the small quarry close to Prince Hall Hotel and Dartmoor Training Centre (please note space is limited here) and walking upstream along the W. Dart, or you can park in Princetown and take the Dartmoor Way footpath, past Bachelor's Hall, to the river. To fish the upper water, park near Blackabrook Bridge, on the B3357. N.B. There is no fishing on both banks between Blackabrook Bridge and Oakery Bridge.

Cherrybrook

One of the most well known brown trout streams on Dartmoor, it contains lots of good water, the best being found from the confluence with the W. Dart to the Lower Cherrybrook Bridge.

Please note the 600m below the Higher Cherrybrook Bridge does not form part of the Fishery.

Parking & Access: For the upper section, park at ⑤ (Higher Cherrybrook Bridge) and walk up or downstream. For the lower section park at ⑥ (Lower Cherrybrook Bridge) and walk up or downstream or at ⑪ the small quarry close to Prince Hall Hotel and Dartmoor Training Centre (please note space is limited here), and walk downstream along the W. Dart.

Cowsic

A small tributary providing brown trout fishing. It features a number of baffles that have created long stretches of glide. There is a steep section at the bottom end which is very tough walking, so anglers may want to start a bit further upstream.

Parking & Access: Park at ① (Two Bridges) and either walk up the W. Dart or walk up the B3357 towards Princetown and take the second track on your right towards Beardown Farm. After 200m the track crosses the Cowsic and you can fish upstream from here. N.B. The upper reaches are within the Holmings Beam military ranges and live firing occurs during the season (look out for red flags). Please check the MOD website www.gov.uk/government/publications/dartmoor-firing-programme or call 01837 650010.

Swincombe

A small tributary, it starts life just to south east of Princetown and there is a dam in the middle to upper reaches. Fishing for brown trout through boulder strewn sections and pocket water.

Parking & Access: Park at ② (off the B3357) and follow the footpath (east of Dunnabridge Fm.) down the W. Dart, and then continue up the Swincombe. Alternatively park near Hexworthy and walk along the Dartmoor Way footpath until you reach the river, but note you are at the top of the fishing here. N.B. There is no fishing from upstream of the dam to the 'Dartmoor Way' footbridge.

East Dart (& tributaries)

The East Dart provides many miles of classic brown trout fishing. Set amongst beautiful moorland, good sport can be had right up to its headwaters. The best of the salmon and sea trout fishing is found in the middle to lower reaches (between ⑧ and ④) and fishing through pots and boulder runs is required to cover the lies. We recommend anglers explore the whole of this lovely river by fishing between the access points, and nearby footpaths are available should anglers not want to retrace their steps along the river.

Parking & Access: For the upper river go to ⑦ (Postbridge), for the middle river go to ⑧ (Believer) and for the lower river go to ④ (Dartmeet).

N.B. There is no fishing on the left hand bank (looking downstream) from the confluence of the Wallabrook to below Dartmeet. There is no fishing on the right hand bank from 250m upstream of Dartmeet to the confluence with the W. Dart.

Wallabrook

A small tributary offering challenging fishing for brown trout. The more accessible water is found in the 1 km or so below Pizwell Br. on the right hand bank (looking downstream) and around Runnage Br. Only brook rods are needed.

Parking & Access: To fish the upper and middle reaches go to ⑨ (Runnage Br.) and for the lower river go to ⑩ (Pizwell Br.). N.B. There is no fishing on the left hand bank from Pizwell Br. down to the confluence with the E. Dart.

Stannonbrook

A very small stream offering fishing for brown trout. The best fishing is found in the lower reaches, although this is technically challenging due to the abundance of natural flora and the size of the stream. Take only brook rods.

Parking & Access: Anglers should park at ⑦ (Postbridge) and fish upstream.



How to buy your Permit

Go to one of the agents listed overleaf. You will be handed your fishing permit and blank catch return. Fill in your details on the permit. **Get fishing...tight lines!** After fishing - **complete a catch return** - This can be done on line at www.westcountryangling.com Alternatively drop it into one of the agents or post it to: Westcountry Rivers Trust, Rain-Charm House, Kyl Cober Park, Stoke Climsland, Callington PL17 8PH.

Dartmoor fishing prices (season, week & day permits)

Salmon/sea trout:	Season: £150	Week: £85	Day: £30
Brown trout:	Season: £70	Week: £30	Day: £10

Fishing Seasons:

Salmon: 1 Feb - 30 Sept. Sea trout: 15 Mar - 30 Sept. Brown trout: 15 Mar - 30 Sept.

Please note:

Valid Westcountry Angling Passport tokens can be used as payment or part payment when purchasing Dartmoor fishing permits.

- Anglers must keep their fishing permit with them at all times when fishing.
- Please observe the conservation measures and regulations detailed overleaf.
- Anglers must complete a catch return - it is a requirement of your Dartmoor permit. This can be completed online at www.westcountryangling.com
- For further information on permits or fishing please go online to: www.westcountryangling.com

Fishing Information

Tackle & Tactics

The Dartmoor Fishery is an excellent choice for anglers seeking wilderness fishing for wild brown trout and is Fly Only. Those who frequently fish for brown trout tend to develop their own set-ups to cope with the variety of fishing conditions on offer. In the smaller streams, a brook rod (6-7ft, 2-4wt) works well, although a longer 9-10ft 3-4wt can be useful for 'reaching' over riverbanks and boulders. On the main rivers, a 7½-9ft 3-5wt rod will suit most conditions.

For sea trout 9-10ft, 6-7wt outfits are the norm. Sea trout fishing on Dartmoor can be extremely exciting but, if you are going night fishing, be prepared - survey the river beforehand, take a torch and safety equipment and go with another angler.

For salmon fishing a 9-10ft, 7-8wt rod with a floating line (a range of sink tips is useful) and an intermediate line should cover most conditions. Focus on the larger pools and runs in normal or high flow conditions, but during low flows fish the pots where fish will hold in the tightest of spaces.

Fishing Safely and Responsibly

The River Dart and its tributaries epitomise 'wild fishing in wild places'. Most anglers have an appreciation of the countryside code and some understanding of the hazards that may be encountered. If you are new to angling, or you are fishing a river which is new to you, consider taking the services of a guide. The following points may also be useful, for full details please consult the Token Fishery Guide.

1. Please follow the countryside code and the Dartmoor National Park Byelaws at all times - www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk
2. Parts of Dartmoor, including some areas of the fishery, are used for military exercise; these are shown on O.S. Explorer OL28. Full information is available at - www.gov.uk/government/publications/dartmoor-fishing-programme
3. Please take great care if you need to cross or walk along roadways. Please follow the Highway Code at all times - www.gov.uk/highway-code
4. Take care when crossing stiles and gates, particularly when wearing waders. Watch out for barbed wire, slippery grass slopes and soft ground/ riverbanks. In some areas stock fencing may be electrified.
5. When wading great care should be taken at all times; use suitable soles, carry a wading stick and wear a lifejacket.
6. Always wear a hat and eye glasses when fly fishing. Always keep a good distance away from other anglers and allow them sufficient time to fish a pool before commencing to fish nearby.
7. The minimum recommended distance from power lines horizontally is 30m; rods and fishing lines can conduct electricity without making contact with the power line.
8. Access to some areas can require considerable walking and the fishing can be physically demanding. Take a map (OS Explorer OL28), obtain local knowledge from other anglers/ guides, watch the weather and tell someone where you are going and when you expect to be back.
9. Do not rely on there being mobile phone signal; often there will be no signal.
10. Night fishing for sea trout should only be undertaken by suitably experienced anglers and always in pairs or larger groups. Always tell someone where you are going and when you expect to be back. Night fishing is only appropriate at times of low water.
11. In the summer it is quite easy to pick up ticks on bare skin. Some ticks may carry Lyme's disease; please check www.nhs.uk
12. Weil's disease, from rat urine, is unlikely but could occur. Consult your GP if in doubt.
13. There are also a number of diseases that can affect fish and other organisms in our water courses. Detailed information can be found on the Westcountry Angling website.
14. Invasive species. There are a whole range of non-native plant and animal species appearing in the UK that could be very detrimental to our native species. These include Signal Crayfish, Quagga Mussels, Killer Shrimp, Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam to name a few. It is important that everyone takes care to prevent the spread of these. Anglers must **check-clean-dry** their equipment and footwear / clothing when moving between water bodies. Full details can be found at www.nonnativespecies.org

*All information in this guide was believed to be correct at the time of printing. For up to date information please visit the website at: www.westcountryangling.com
While Westcountry Rivers Trust endeavours to ensure that the information in this guide is accurate we cannot be held liable for any errors or discrepancies that occur. As with any fishing there are hazards involved as described above. While we endeavour to highlight these hazards you undertake the activity at your own risk. Neither the Trust nor the landowners can be held liable for any accidents, personal injury or damage to your equipment.*

Conservation Measures & Regulations

The River Dart and its tributaries are some of the wildest and most pristine environments in the UK. The Duchy of Cornwall, as well as all those involved with managing the rivers and streams of Dartmoor, appreciate your support in protecting this valuable resource.

The following measures must always be observed:

1. An appropriate EA licence must be obtained before fishing.
2. Fly only on all rivers; Only fish with single or double barbless hooks, no larger than size six.
3. Sorry, no dogs are allowed.
4. Please respect other anglers - a 30 minute maximum fishing period should be observed if another angler is waiting to fish the same pool.
5. Anglers must carry their permit with them at all times when fishing.
6. ALL ANGLERS MUST COMPLETE AND SUBMIT A CATCH RETURN; this can be completed online at www.westcountryangling.com

Catch restrictions:

Sometimes it is necessary to use catch restrictions in order to protect vulnerable fish stocks. Please check our website in order to fish within current regulations and guidelines - www.westcountryangling.com/dartmoor-beats

Please note that you will also need an EA rod licence in order to fish in England with a rod and line, these can be bought from Postbridge, Princetown, and Buckfast post offices, as well as online.

Salmon: With the objective of achieving a 'catch and release' rate for salmon of 90%, as required by the EA: **all salmon must be returned before June 16** (EA National Byelaws). After 16 June the first salmon caught may be kept but **do not keep more than two salmon in the season**. Notwithstanding the above, return any hen salmon or salmon over 10lbs (approx 30" long) or which is coloured or tagged. **Sea trout:** No more than two fish may be kept per night, **all coloured fish, fish over 6lbs and fish under 12 inches to be returned. No angler may retain more than 24 sea trout in the season**. Please return all salmon and sea trout in September to help preserve stocks. It is recommended that you stop fishing if the catch limit is reached. **Brown trout:** Please return all trout under 12 inches. One fish over 12 inches may be kept per day.

Please also remember: Members of the public may also have a right of access to the river bank. Please do not climb fences or walls - only use gates and stiles. Take a map with you; O.S. Explorer OL28 covers the Fishery.

Help protect Dartmoor Rivers:

The Dart Fisheries Association aims to conserve the natural environment of the River Dart and its tributaries. It works in conjunction with the Duchy of Cornwall, the Westcountry Rivers Trust and the Environment Agency to carry out a range of conservation works. To make a donation to help such works continue, to become a member or find out how you can practically assist, contact Bill Robertson on 01364 652574.



Where to buy your Dartmoor Fishery Permit

The following Hotels, Inns, Shops and Post Offices have kindly agreed to provide fishing information and permits - they also provide excellent accommodation, nourishment and advice for anglers.

Arundell Arms Hotel

Lifton, Launceston PL16 0AA

tel: 01566 784666

web: www.arundellarms.com

Info: Hotel with restaurant & bar, fishing on the Tamar & tribs and angling instruction/ guiding.

Badgers Holt Ltd

Dartmeet, Princetown, Yelverton PL20 6SG

tel: 01364 631213

web: www.badgersholt.dartmoor.co.uk

Info: Restaurant with holiday accommodation by the East Dart river.

Princetown Stores & Post Office

Princetown, Yelverton PL20 6QE

tel: 01822 890212

Info: Shop and Post office selling food, drinks, snacks and Environment Agency licences.

Buckfast Post Office

Buckfast Road, Buckfastleigh TQ11 0ED

tel: 01364 643034

Info: Post office selling food, drinks, snacks and Environment Agency licences.

Two Bridges Hotel

Princetown, Yelverton PL20 6SW

tel: 01822 892300

web: www.twobridgeshotel.uk

Info: Hotel with restaurant and bar situated by the West Dart river.

James Bowden & Son

The Square, Chagford TQ13 8AH

tel: 01647 433271

Info: Family shop selling 'most things' - ironmongery, kitchen ware & general goods.

Prince Hall Hotel

Two Bridges, Princetown PL20 6SW

tel: 01822 890403 web: www.princehall.co.uk

Info: Hotel with restaurant & bar overlooking the West Dart river.

The White Hart Hotel

The Square, Moretonhampstead TQ13 8NF

tel: 01647 440500

web: www.whitehartdartmoor.co.uk

Info: Hotel with restaurant and bar in a quiet village setting.

Postbridge Post Office

Postbridge, Yelverton PL20 6TH

tel: 01822 880201 web: www.postbridge.net

Info: Post office situated by the East Dart river selling food, drinks, snacks and Environment Agency licences.

Exeter Angling Centre

Smythen Street, Exeter EX1 1BN

tel: 01392 435591

web: www.exeterangling.co.uk

Info: One of the largest and best stocked tackle shops in the South West.

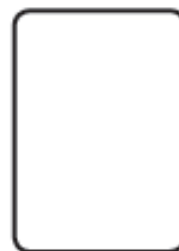
Ilington Country House Hotel

Ilington Village, Nr Newton Abbot TQ13 9RR

tel: 01364 661452 web: www.ilington.co.uk

Info: Hotel on the eastern side of Dartmoor with restaurant and bar.

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Westcountry Rivers Trust

wrt.org.uk

 [westcountryRT](https://twitter.com/westcountryRT)

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Registered charity. 1135007



Westcountry Angling Passport

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