

# Braunton Burrows Map and Terrain

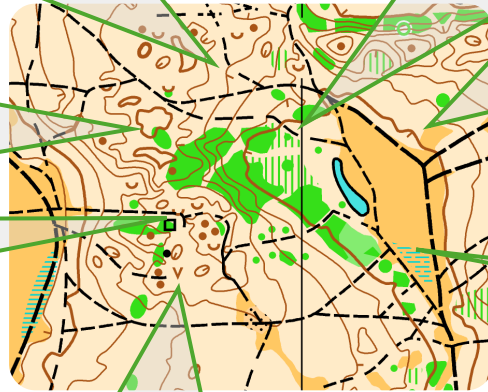
Map: 1:10000 or 1:7,500; contours 2.5m from 2020 lidar data. Satellite photos 2023, ground surveys 2021-2024.

There is a maze of tracks of various sizes and ages in the *mid-zone* of the dunes. Most mapped tracks have a sandy surface broken by vehicles or feet; a few are grassy. New unmapped tracks form during military exercises, while some older tracks become lost in rapidly growing vegetation. Fewer people visit the *northern area* (used Sunday), paths are smaller, and more likely to become overgrown.

'Green' vegetation includes sea buckthorn, a tough and impenetrable woody shrub, often mixed with brambles. Grows densely, especially on north and east facing slopes. Vertical lines indicate lower vegetation that most competitors will still want to avoid. Clumps of vegetation can grow up to 2m a year in every direction. **Good leg protection is strongly recommended.**

The map inevitably simplifies the most complex areas. Where there are many knolls close together, only the highest have been plotted.

**Concrete blockhouses** shown as small ruins. Some are not obvious due to overgrowth by thickets.



Map extracts not to scale

Yellow 'open' areas have short grass and are very runnable. Ochre 'semi-open' areas have a range of tussocky vegetation. **Rabbit holes and trip brambles – anchored at both ends – are a hazard throughout the dunes.**

The water table varies seasonally. If dry, marshes remain recognizable by their vegetation.

**Pits** may be steep sided, with vertical drops in some directions of 2–3m. **Approach cautiously.**

**O Flagpoles** from the days of live firing have mostly been removed since 2021; a few poles remain. Old 1m high concrete posts are not mapped.

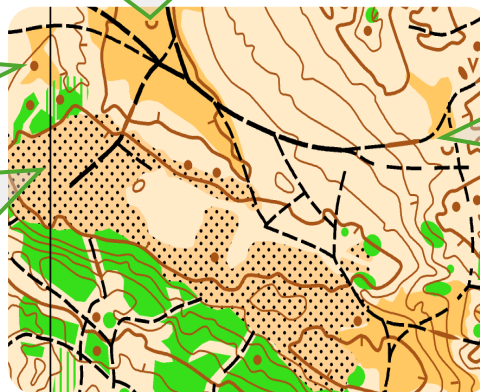
**X** In the northern area this symbol marks the shredded remains of a 2WW Matilda tank. The metal framework in 'Grand Canyon' has gone.

**Small depressions** are at least 1m deep and often large enough to fit two family cars. Larger depressions are big enough to fit a battle tank!



**Knolls** can be up to 3m, sometimes with vegetation on top.

**Open Sand** is indicated by a darker shade and black hatching. Substantial areas of thicket have been bulldozed back to clear sand in the past three years. This remains work in progress.



As tracks climb hills, **sandy gullies** up to 4m deep may form. You can run through them but not cross at right angles. The track symbol alters to a gully.

**Vegetation** alters constantly due to military exercises, conservation work, cattle, and seasonal growth. Don't rely on veg. boundaries for fine navigation.

This landscape is part of the Dynamic Dunes Project: <https://dynamicdunescape.co.uk/project/devon/>

**Cross fences only at marked crossing points.**

**Small paths and gaps between dense vegetation may become overgrown during the summer.**

**You may see dogs, cattle, deer, rabbits and the occasional adder. Most will keep well clear of you.**

**Please respect other users of the dunes, especially if they are driving around in large military vehicles!**

**Leave any military debris that you see well-alone. Please don't pick the flowers; they are officially protected.**

The mapper welcomes comments to help improve the map or correct errors. In making such comments please be aware that the map includes over 43000 mapped objects and that constant changes in the area mean that you may have to assess for yourself if an area could have altered recently. Chris Johnson – [chrisjhjohnson@mac.com](mailto:chrisjhjohnson@mac.com)