

**Top to bottom:**  
Between Bowerman's  
Nose and Hound Tor  
Rocks. Climb from  
Chagford to Jurston  
Cross. Near Ashburton



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# The Dartmoor Devil

Around Halloween each year, South Devon CTC organises a 100km hilly audax. **Graham Brodie** is your guide to this year's event



**GRAHAM BRODIE**

Graham is a keen touring and audax cyclist who organises rides and events for South Devon CTC

**T**his is the 31st year of the Dartmoor Devil, an audax ride that criss-crosses the hilly moorland it takes its name from. Although 'only' 100km, it's a challenging ride due to the steep climbs en route and the fact that it takes place on the weekend closest to Halloween, when weather conditions can be grim.

However, the date also offers the opportunity to indulge in a bit of fancy dress, which ranges from bicycles decked with festive lights, broomsticks, dangling bats and spiders through to riders dressed as witches and ghosts.

On a couple of years the weather has been so bad that the bulk of riders have abandoned before reaching the high moor, unable to keep their bikes upright in the strong winds. During the event's history, the weather has varied from almost spring like to wintry snow showers.

As conditions can change quickly on Dartmoor, it's vital to carry waterproofs and spares and to be self sufficient. Mobile phones don't work everywhere on the moor. The main control halfway around the ride always provides riders with hot soup and rolls, and there are other checkpoints along the way.

The Dartmoor Devil is a ride that many return to, with special awards available to those who complete six, 12 or 18 events. Entry to the Dartmoor Devil, which this year is on 27 October, is £11. For more details, to enter or to view photo galleries of previous events, visit [dartmoordevil.co.uk](http://dartmoordevil.co.uk).

