

The coast path through the Castlemartin Tank Firing Range to reach Ogof Gofan has been closed more often on weekdays in 2024 than in recent years due to military training. It was fully open at weekends, however, on public holidays and school summer holidays.

The access situation in 2025 is likely to deteriorate on weekdays due to even more exercises being scheduled - for reasons which I leave to your imagination. At the moment there are only two Ogof Gofan bookings on the books. The permit system is one group of not more than four cavers per day via advanced booking by the group leader to [access@caving.wales](mailto:access@caving.wales) only please. If approved, you will get a PDF day permit back from the National Park Ranger also by email and your group then has exclusive cave access on your choice of date.

So you may like to know there will be no access closures between Sat 7th Dec 2024 and Sunday 5th January 2025 inclusive. Likewise between 14-17th Feb and 14-17th March and 14-25th April (Easter). Note that Ogof Gofan is on Range East.

The access situation for Range West is quite different. You need to get an 'annual permit' to go exploring Range West coast where there is a lot of impressive limestone but so far no known big caves (other than blow holes) unless you discover one. The procedure is to attend an 1-hour H&S briefing at the army camp where you will be told not to touch any UXO lying on the ground, not to deviate off the agreed path, which access points to use, how to sign in and out, how to get the latest firing schedules, and so on. You can use your permit on any number of non-firing days in its year of issue. Everyone in a group needs their own permit - it is not a leadership system - and no dogs. Solitary types can of course book in on their own too. The dates for these army briefings are:

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 18.00  
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 18.00  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 09.00  
Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 18.00  
Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 09.00 (Good Friday)  
Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 09.00  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 18.00  
Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at 09.00