

LARA

The **Motoring Organisations' Land Access and Recreation Association** (LARA) acts as a national forum for the principal groups in countryside motor sport and recreation. LARA does not organise events or act as any sort of governing body, but it does assist its members in a wide range of land access issues: policy, practice and problems. If you want to know more about motor sport and recreation – how to take part, land access issues, planning problems, etc. – then either LARA or one of its member groups probably has the answers you seek.

You can contact LARA at admin@laragb.org on any ACU-related matter involving land use, including planning permission issues, conservation designations, and public rights of way. LARA may not have the answer to all questions, but can usually point you in the direction of somebody who will know.

THE DRIVERS' & RIDERS' COUNTRYSIDE CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Use only Vehicular Rights of Way – not all green roads have vehicular rights. LARA groups can help with information.
2. Keep to the defined track, and deviate only to pass immovable obstructions. Report obstructions, including low branches and very soft ground, to the highway authority. If the correct route is not obvious on the ground, ask local users, or check the details held at highway authority and local record offices.
3. Travel at a quiet and unobtrusive pace, alone or in small groups. Remember that others seek to get away from bustle.
4. Ensure that you and your vehicle are fully road legal, and obey traffic and LARA signs. Green roads are subject to the same laws as surfaced roads. There is no public right to drive away from a road on common land, moorland, sand dunes, or beach.
5. Pay attention to 'the Four W's'
Weather – Do not travel on green roads when they risk being damaged beyond a point of natural recovery when the weather improves.
Weight – Do not use the roads which may be seriously damaged by the wheel pressure of your vehicle. LARA does not support use of heavy vehicles on green roads.
Width – Do not use roads which are too narrow for your vehicle. Avoid damage to trees, hedges and boundaries.
Winches – Only use when unavoidable. Always avoid damage to trees, walls, and surface while recovering.
6. Respect the life of the countryside. Be courteous to all other users, and take great care when passing horses. Be prepared to stop your engine if needed. Always fasten gates and take care near livestock.
7. Remember that wildlife faces many threats and green roads can be valuable habitats. Take special care in spring and early summer.

THE ACU COMPETITIONS NOISE CHARTER

- a) Do ensure that your vehicle complies with the noise limits applicable to the event.
- b) Do not continue competing with a defective or damaged exhaust system.

Remember that you will be excluded from an event if you continue in spite of an excessively noisy exhaust.

- c) Do not rev the engine needlessly in service areas, paddock, and start areas, etc.
- d) Do respect official instructions in respect of quiet zones.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

- a) Do ensure that your vehicle is free from leaks of oil and other fluids which may not only present a hazard to yourself and others but also contaminate the countryside.
- b) Do not carelessly spill fluids nor discard used, broken components. Always properly dispose of all waste materials.
- c) Do not drop litter, take it home.

RESPECT

- a) Always respect officials and their instructions, they are for a purpose and your benefit.
- b) Do not be abusive towards officials this is
- c) bad manners and carries extreme penalties which might shorten your sporting career.
- d) Always respect other users and the public in general, however abusive or obstructive.

Let the officials deal with such problems, and do not make them worse.

ACU REGIONAL SPORTING OFFICERS

Eddie Jones 18 Chapel Street, Astwood Bank, Redditch B96 6DA. Tel: 01527 893392/07947 319432

Anthony Kenny 250 Point Clear Road, St. Osyth, Clacton on Sea, Essex CO16 8JL. Tel: 01255 820295

Bryan Puckett 32 Hoel Derwen, Cimla, Neath, West Glamorgan SA11 3YS. Tel: 01639 767851

Barry Robinson 9 Melville Grove, Ilkley, Yorks LS29 8NX. Tel/Fax: 01943 609722

David Smith 20 Chedworth Drive, Witney, Oxon OX8 5FS. Tel: 01993 708418 (7–9pm only).

Cass Edward 157 Queens Walk, Woodston, Peterborough, PE2 9AJ. Tel: 07933 777209

The ACU Regional Sporting Officers provide a local source of advice and information on all the above and represent both car and motorcycle interests. If you would like to assist the ACU in its fight to protect the rights of motorsport, by becoming a Regional Officer would you please forward your brief details to the ACU Office. Make no mistake, the full might of the environmental lobby is now being ranged against motorsport. Despite having organised responsible events for nigh-on 100 years our clubs are losing venues hand-over-fist through no fault of their own.

ACU needs more regional officers to help co-ordinate the fight back