



## **MALVERN HILLS CONSERVATORS**

### **SPONSORED WALKS**

Organisers of sponsored walks are requested to follow these guidelines in order to help preserve the unique beauty of the Malvern Hills and Commons:

1. Please advise us as far in advance as possible of the time, date and proposed route of the sponsored walk, together with the estimated number of participants. This will enable us to confirm that the walk does not clash with another event and also to notify the wardens.
2. The Malvern Hills and Commons receive over one million visitors each year, as well as hosting many sponsored walks, some with over a thousand participants. However, having this number of people walking along the ridge and spine of the Hills causes erosion and endangers the important Scheduled Ancient Monuments on the Hills. To try to reduce this problem, we have designed a route for sponsored walks which avoids the more sensitive areas and follows the contour paths, rather than the ridge; this also has the advantage of having fewer steep climbs and therefore being more accessible to less mobile participants.
3. Particularly when walks take place in spring and summer, we urge participants to keep to the paths to avoid trampling wild flowers and causing disturbance to ground-nesting birds like the Skylark.
4. The Malvern Hills Conservators are a charitable institution and so are unable to waive car parking charges when participants and marshals leave their vehicles in MHC car parks. (Full details on website [www.malvernhills.org.uk](http://www.malvernhills.org.uk))
5. The Hills and Commons are open to members of the public at all times. No physical obstruction of paths is acceptable and if any path has to be closed off to participants on the sponsored walk, this should be done by a marshal, not by a sign or rope. Please note that formal permission is required for any temporary route signage or other related notices.
6. To avoid clutter in the countryside the MHC have guidelines for erecting signs and permission must be obtained separately.

7. All participants on sponsored walks are expected to take their litter home with them, or deposit it in the bins at the main car parks. We ask organisers of sponsored walks to ensure that this happens by publicising this policy in pre-event literature and by having litter wardens at the event; it is not sufficient to arrange for a "follow up" party to pick up litter after the event, as it often blows away before it can be collected.
8. In order to prevent the Hills being colonised by trees and shrubs, the Conservators are actively encouraging the grazing of sheep and cattle on the Hills and surrounding Commons. We ask participants who bring their dogs along on sponsored walks to keep their pets under close control and, ideally, to put them on the lead when in the vicinity of stock. Stock worrying (which includes chasing) is a serious offence and offenders will be prosecuted.
9. It would be appreciated if organisers could produce their own guidelines for all participants in sponsored walks, educating them about the importance of the wildlife and ancient monuments on the Hills and Commons and asking for their help in conserving this unique and beautiful place. A recommended route for sponsored events is available.
10. It would be appreciated if it could be acknowledged on publicity material and PR "the Malvern Hills Conservators, who own and care for the Hills and surrounding Commons".

The office will be happy to discuss details of proposed walks and advise on routes and the siting of check points and other facilities, either by telephone or by appointment at the Malvern Hills Conservators office.

I,..... On behalf of .....

Event: .....

Taking place on: ..... at (proposed starting point) .....

.....

Contact tel No: ..... Approx. number involved .....

e-mail: .....

Malvern Hills Conservators  
 Manor House  
 Grange Road  
 MALVERN  
 WR14 3EY

Charity No: 515804

[www.malvern hills.org.uk](http://www.malvern hills.org.uk)

Tel: 01684 892002

Fax: 01684 577457