



Sponsored Walk and Event Guidelines

The Malvern Hills Trust (MHT) are charged with the protection and management of the Malvern Hills landscape on behalf of the nation. To help us in that task all organised group events that are planned to occur on MHT land require formal written authorisation from MHT.

As the event organiser, you are responsible for all aspects of your activity, its participants and the potential impacts the event could have on both the environment and other users of the Hills and Commons.

All events must abide by our byelaws which can be found on our website (www.malvernhills.org.uk)

1. Application Form

Organisers of events/sponsored walks must fill in the Sponsored Walk and Event Application Form. Please provide us with as much information as possible as this will enable us to assess whether we are able to provide permission for such an activity/event, to confirm that the event does not clash with another, and also to notify our wardens. An application form can be found on our website.

2. Insurance and Risk Assessment

Organisers of events are required to provide evidence of valid Public Liability Insurance cover with a minimum cover of £5 million and must have completed a risk assessment for the activity both prior to the event's commencement. These documents must be sent to the Trust along with the Sponsored Walk and Event Application Form before any permissions for events can be granted (contact: Beck Baker, Community and Conservation Officer, cindy@malvernhills.org.uk).

3. Legal protection

The Hills and Commons are nationally important for their archaeology, geology, habitats and species and much of the Hills are designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). An assessment will be made of the impact of your event on these important features and this will inform our decision whether to provide permission or not. We are willing to advise or discuss how to modify your event to avoid any significant negative impact.



4. Wildlife

Between the months of March and August (inclusive), we urge participants to keep to the paths to avoid trampling wild flowers and causing disturbance to ground-nesting birds including the Skylark.

5. Erosion

The Malvern Hills and Commons receive over one million visits each year, as well as hosting many events. This number of people walking along the ridge and spine of the Hills can cause erosion and endangers the Scheduled Monuments and protected habitats here.

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. Wherever possible plan your event to use the low-impact route – maps of the route can be downloaded from our website or are available from our offices on request.

6. Public Access

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/steward, not by a sign or rope.

7. Signs

To avoid clutter in the countryside, signs are not permitted on the Hills or Commons unless MHT has provided prior authorisation. This includes temporary route signage and other related notices. Marshalls / volunteers should be used to guide participants on routes wherever possible.

8. Marquees and other temporary structures

Marquees and other temporary structures including tents, tables and gazebos are not permitted unless MHT has provided prior authorisation.

9. Provision of refreshments

Please be aware that if you wish to provide refreshments for participants, we are unable to permit businesses to trade on our land. We may provide authorisation for charities to provide “home-made” refreshments where all proceeds go to charity.



10. Common Land

Please be aware that your event is on/passing over Common Land and all participants should be made aware that they may encounter free ranging cattle or sheep at any point. Participants of your event should not disturb or interfere with such animals.

11. Maintenance works

Please be aware that the Malvern Hills and Commons are a managed landscape and there may be periods when paths have to be closed for repair or maintenance. We shall inform you if this work will affect your event.

12. Parking

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 MHT car parks. Car parking fees are £4.00 per day (Full details on website www.malvernhills.org.uk).

Participants in your event must not park their vehicles on the verges or common as this is damaging to the environment and against the byelaws.

13. Rubbish

All visitors, including 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 events to ensure this is publicised in pre-event literature and by having stewards/litter wardens at the event. Litter must not be left to be collected at the end of an event as it has often blown away.

14. Dogs

We ask participants who bring their dogs to keep their dogs on a lead at all times in the vicinity of livestock. Livestock worrying (which includes chasing) is a criminal offence and offenders will be reported to the Police and could face prosecution. Dogs must be kept under close control at all times on the Hills and Commons.

All visitors to the Hills, including participants must clear up after their dog and put the waste in the bin or take it home. Please do not leave it hanging on a bush.



Malvern Hills Trust

During the months of March to August (inclusive) please keep dogs on a lead and on paths where notices are displayed to minimise disturbance to ground-nesting birds.

15. Informing participants of your event

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. Text available on request.

16. Acknowledgements

The Malvern Hills Trust is a charity, looking after and taking care of over 3,000 acres of land around Malvern, including the main ridgeline of the Malvern Hills. We work to conserve the important features and special qualities of this unique landscape, including the habitats, species, archaeology, and geology found here. We also maintain and improve access to the Hills and Commons for the enjoyment of the public.

Please remember that while your event may be aimed at raising funds for your chosen charity, the land over which your event is being run is also managed and maintained by a charity. Any donations to support our work are gratefully received.

Please acknowledge the “Malvern Hills Trust, who own and care for the Hills and surrounding Commons” on all publicity material relating to the event. The Malvern Hills Trust logo can be provided on request.