

Hills Ford Rally - National Landscape Team Response - Appendix

From: Nigel McDonald <Nigel.McDonald@shropshire.gov.uk>

Sent: 26 February 2026 09:54

To: Matthew Farmer <matthew.farmer@shropshire.gov.uk>

Cc: Phil Holden <phil.holden@shropshire.gov.uk>

Subject: Rally Consultation

Importance: High

Dear Matthew, in principle the National Landscape Team cannot support this event because of its impact on the peace and tranquillity of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which are important aspects of the area's Special Qualities we are all charged to conserve and enhance. We are also concerned on the impact on climate change and the precedent activities like this set in a protected landscape, especially in a county that has signed up to recognise the Climate Emergency. It undermines the work of many of our colleagues in the council and working partners. There should be no exceptions to this commitment.

In addition to this I'd like to raise the following concerns:

- The Linley section will interrupt the council funded Long Mynd & Stiperstones Shuttle Bus that runs from May to the end of September
- What will the Rally do to mitigate the impact on the rural road network in terms of congestion, damage to verges, and damage to road surfaces?
- The Lawley section will close access to the popular Lawley Hill car park
- Linley section will block access to Stiperstones Knolls car park – have Natural England been consulted?
- Some of the areas chosen are popular with road cyclists at weekends – e.g. Cressage, Pulverbatch, Cardington, Linley
- The Bog Visitor Centre (and other local businesses) will need to be warned of the potential increase in visitors and congestion as a result of the rally
- We are concerned on the impact to local farm vehicle movement at an important time in the farming calendar. Has the movement of farm animals between pasture and for milking been considered?
- Movement of vehicles between race locations will also be disruptive generally to communities that rely on the rural road network in their daily lives

Should the race go ahead we would like to see commensurate & compensatory measures by the rally organisers that repair the damage and invest in the areas wildlife recovery that this event will disrupt.

Best wishes

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**Shropshire
Hills
National
Landscape**

Nigel McDonald

Regenerative Tourism Officer

Shropshire Hills National Landscape - *new name for this designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.*

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