

Land access and environmental considerations for fell running

When approaching landowners it is still a good idea to have a Covid event plan to present them along with the Risk Assessment. Nowadays it is also good to have an Ecological Assessment of any potential damage to the land especially on SSSI land and the steps you are going to take to minimise this. The FRA are working with David Broom to come up with some guidelines for RO's for 2022.

It is advisable to start preparations at least 4 months in advance and be prepared to change and adapt.

By its nature fell running crosses sensitive landscape and because of the historic property ownership system, in this country much of it owned privately or by bodies such as the National Trust, United Utilities and the Forestry Commission.

The rise in commercially orientated events have however, raised landowners' awareness of the profits made using their land and many have adopted a broad brush approach to any organised activity taking place on their land. The FRA are working with National Trust, United Utilities and more recently the Forestry Commission to try and minimise the cost to RO's and establish a License per Landowner for all FRA races. Please contact the Access Officer for more details.

By law, landowners have to apply to Natural England for permissions for activities on SSSI land and NE require the Race Organiser to obtain the "Notices of proposal to carry out an operation on an SSSI" on the landowners behalf. A Central office was established in February 2020 with a central email for applications which is ProtectedSites@naturalengland.org.uk

National Trust send their own SSSI application to Natural England. In the Peak District the National Trust launched a new website in 2019 which gives clear instructions: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/kinder-edale-and-the-dark-peak/features/organising-an-outdoor-event-how-to-guide->

I do have a set of Guidelines for RO's needing NE permission on SSSI's so please contact me if you would like a copy of the pack and as Access and Environmental Officer I'm here to assist race organisers and members in dealing with any issues they come across.

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