

October 2015

## **Motorsport in public forests: Policy statement. This also applies in [England](#) and [Wales](#)**

### **Introduction**

This statement clarifies recreation policy and organisational arrangements for motorsport events within publicly managed forests across Britain.

### **Forest recreation**

Provision of informal and quiet recreational opportunities for the enjoyment of public woods and forests is widely recognised and appreciated as an important facet of sustainable forest management and makes a major contribution to a range of public benefits.

Management of access and the provision of facilities and services to encourage walking, cycling and horse riding and related activities and sports comprise the main visitor offer.

Added value provision in the form of car parking, toilets, play features, information, interpretation, wildlife viewing and other specialist services are also provided where these can be justified. In some instances, this may include cost recovery, levying charges or exploiting commercial opportunities, where this can provide a financial contribution to offset the cost of recreation provision and access to the public purse.

### **Non-motorised recreational and sports events**

A wide range of recreational and sporting events take place on the estate. These are mostly organised and managed by third parties (such as contractors, charitable or commercial organisations), rather than by FC/NRW staff.

Sports with national governing bodies recognised by the Government Sports Agencies may enter into national concordats and agreements which set out the arrangements for collaboration, specifically on the planning and organisation of events, including charging arrangements. Charges are levied to contribute to the cost of providing and managing access across the estate

### **Vehicular access**

Motorised vehicular access to the forest, in common with all land access arrangements, is not permitted except with the agreement of the land owner or their representative - in this case the forest manager. Vehicle access is only authorised within the forest estates for management purposes involving staff, contractors and their agents. In Scotland, access is permitted for blue badge holders by arrangement with forest managers.

### **Motorsports**

Motorsport is an exception to both recreational policy and vehicle access arrangements. Events are therefore staged by means of an exclusive agreement between the governing bodies and the national public forest management organisations. The agreement recognises the specialist nature and needs of the sport with respect to forest venues and the benefits it brings to local areas. All clubs, companies and individuals that organise

motorsports events within publicly managed forests across Britain will be required to be affiliated to, and operate under the rules and guidance of, the appropriate Governing Body i.e. for 4 wheel motorsport, the MSA, and for 2 wheel motorsport, the ACU. Event arrangements are made between organisers and local forest managers. Exclusive use of venues is required to ensure proper management of the activity, including arrangements for ensuring spectator safety. Cost recovery charges are levied to cover staff time and to provide funds for the reinstatement of roads and tracks.

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