

## CONTACTS:

**David Kersey**  
*Motor Sports  
Development Officer*  
**Debbie Walmsley**  
*MFU Secretary*  
Tel: 01788 541137  
Fax: 01788 573585  
E-mail: lara@acu.org.uk  
Post: MFU  
c/o ACU House  
Wood Street  
Rugby  
CV21 2YX

**Tim Stevens**  
*Motor Recreation  
Development Officer*  
Tel: 01630 657627  
Fax: 01630 658928  
E-mail:  
lara@highwayman.  
demon.co.uk  
Post: PO Box 20  
Market Drayton  
Salop  
TF9 1WR

ALL MAIL & ENQUIRIES  
FOR LARA NEWS & MFU  
MATTERS TO PO BOX  
20 PLEASE

**Alan Kind**  
*Planning Officer*  
Tel: 0191 2364086  
Fax: 0870 0522875  
E-mail:  
lara@highwayman.  
demon.co.uk  
Post: PO Box 142  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE3 5YP

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## Motorsport and recreation organisations react swiftly to the foot and mouth disease emergency

**The sport gives its full support to the rural community**

**LARA's member organisations have cancelled all competition events in the countryside until the foot and mouth emergency is officially over. Recreational driving organisations have issued a blanket 'do not go' warning to members. Officers are working with highway authorities and National Parks to spread the message "Please do not visit the countryside unless your journey is essential – you could transmit the disease without ever knowing."**

### **MAFF's emergency powers close footpaths and bridleways**

The Ministry of Agriculture has activated emergency powers allowing highway authorities to make orders closing all or some footpaths and bridleways in restricted, or at-risk, areas. These restrictions do not apply to BOATs and unclassified roads, but LARA's member organisations are asking everyone to stay off vehicular rights of way as well.

### **Many people are asking "how long will this last?"**

The answer is that nobody knows. The access restrictions will probably remain in force for six weeks after the last confirmed case. In the last major outbreak in 1967 the disease seemed to have died-down for about a month, then another case happened. It is important that nobody gets complacent after a couple of weeks with no new cases confirmed.

### **Green Lane Day 2001 postponed**

Green Lane Day 2001 was scheduled for 25th March. It has now been postponed and re-listed for 21st October, well after the nesting season has finished.

### **LARA workshops "Back To Our Routes" postponed**

So far two LARA Workshops have been scheduled: 1st April in Cardiff, and 28th April in Derby. Because even events in towns can bring people from far apart into contact (and more dangerously, their vehicles into contact) LARA has decided to play safe and postpone. Further workshops are being considered for Hertfordshire and Berkshire – call for details.

### **Please contact any LARA officer for further information**

Remember – motorsport depends on the goodwill of the rural community – please support them in this emergency, even if this disrupts your activities for a while.