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## AN INVITATION TO OUR PRESS BRIEFING.

# Motor sport and recreation in the countryside once again face a difficult and potentially disastrous future.

LARA is hosting a press briefing at the headquarters of the Motor Sports Association, Colnbrook, at 11.00 on 15 November 2011. John Richardson, LARA's honorary chairman, and Alan Kind, LARA's access specialist, will outline the issues and provide background and research materials. There will be an opportunity for one-to-one interviews with LARA people 'in the know' after the briefing.

For over 30 years motor sport and recreation have faced a series of threats to the continuation of almost all the disciplines that do not take place on purpose-built permanent tracks. Some threats have been averted, while others have hit home, causing lasting damage. Sometimes the whole land resource availability is at risk, and sometimes individual venues are lost, one at a time.

In 2011– 25 years on since LARA's formation in 1986 – there are three major struggles in front of us, and getting an adverse outcome on any will be bad. Losing on all three will be a disaster. These are:

- The Forestry Commission 'sell off' and the need to safeguard forest access for rallies and enduros.
- Agri-environment schemes, biodiversity surveys, and access to farmland and rights of way for rallies, enduros, safaris and trials.
- The *Fortune v. Wiltshire Council* case, which is now going to the Court of Appeal. An adverse decision on this could close to the public all, or almost all, unsealed unclassified roads – vital for rallies, classic events, trail driving and riding, and general touring.

Rather better news is that LARA has, for the second time inside 10 years, headed-off a threat to the '14/28 Day Rule', under which most club-level motor sport is staged, and where a change to the planning rules could have been disastrous.

We look forward to welcoming you to our event, to enable further discussion on these issues which are so important to the continuance of motor sport and recreation in the countryside. Please email an interest in attending to Alan Kind at [laragb@mac.com](mailto:laragb@mac.com) and we will get back to you with more details. Lunch is provided, allowing more time for questions and answers.