

Stage Four: Guidance for Competitors on Ecological Sensitivity

- Ecological briefing notes are prepared for competitors to support for each OMM event. These raise awareness of particular ecological interest features within the event area, and of the potential for their disturbance by competitors.
- Ecological briefing notes suggest local route selection options that could help competitors to avoid or reduce the risk of disturbance to specific features of ecological interest.

Stage Five: Ecological Surveillance of Event

- Where appropriate, site surveillance would be undertaken during an OMM event to review actual route selection choices by competitors within areas of potential ecological sensitivity.
- This assessment would be undertaken to identify additional post-event ecological condition monitoring locations.

Stage Six: Post-event Ecological Condition Review

- Following a period of around six months after completion of an OMM the event area is visited to undertake a post-event ecological condition assessment.
- Each location surveyed during the pre-event baseline assessment and during ecological surveillance of the event is visited and its condition reviewed.
- A summary report is prepared that describes the entire event assessment process, identifying any situations where remedial measures or continued ecological condition monitoring could be required to address any ecological impact issues that might have developed during the OMM event.

ORIGINAL MOUNTAIN MARATHON

ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT



ORIGINAL MOUNTAIN MARATHON ECOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Original Mountain Marathon (OMM) has an established position at the vanguard of adventure racing, with an international reputation for the highest quality competitive events. This reputation draws from a legacy of successful mountain marathon events that have taken place throughout Britain's most spectacular upland landscapes. An important objective of OMM event planning has always been to provide valuable opportunities for competitors to access and experience the special character of these areas.

However, the fragile natural environment of upland areas that provide the distinctive landscapes for OMM events can be vulnerable to disturbance from the passage of hill runners. The need to identify and address issues of potentially significant disturbance to the vegetation, habitats and wildlife of an event area is a central objective of the OMM event planning process. This fully recognises the need to understand the biodiversity interest of an OMM event area and its vulnerability to adverse effects of a two-day mountain marathon event.

This OMM method statement provides a summary of the ecological impact assessment process that underpins OMM event planning. This method statement is distributed to all members of the event planning team to ensure that the OMM ecological assessment process is fully understood and followed by all concerned. The method statement is also distributed to all stakeholders involved in the planning and delivery of an OMM event. These include statutory and non-statutory agencies and land owners.

All stages in the process of OMM event planning, course setting and event management are supported with advice on ecological sensitivity aspects from a qualified ecologist.

The OMM ecological assessment process involves six stages of consultation, assessment and reporting. These are shown below, and are outlined in this leaflet.



Stage One: Event Planning Consultations

- At the earliest stage of OMM event planning full consultations are held with all relevant statutory and non-statutory consultees for ecology and biodiversity issues within the event area.
- These consultations ensure that the objectives of an OMM event and its key elements (event area, event centre, courses, routes and controls) are fully understood. The OMM ecological assessment process is described to all consultees at this stage.
- A key outcome of initial consultations is the identification of ecologically sensitive areas, often recognised through special area designations and through comments from local experts.
- Further consultations would typically occur as necessary throughout the event planning process. In particular, this would involve consultation to agree conditions for access to potentially sensitive locations within the event area.

Stage Two: Pre-event Ecological Assessment

- An initial ecological review is undertaken, producing a map and schedule of ecological interest features within an event area to confirm their potential vulnerability to disturbance from specific aspects of an OMM event.
- Pre-event site surveys and ecological condition assessments are undertaken at specific locations within the event area where a risk of ecological disturbance has been identified. This assessment is usually carried out during the week preceding the OMM event weekend.
- Specific ecological condition details recorded during pre-event site surveys are used for post-event ecological monitoring.

Stage Three: Event Planning/Course-setting Guidance

- Where necessary, routes and control locations for specific courses are refined through increasingly detailed ecological assessments during the event planning process.