

Granite Peaks Ultra – GP25: Habitat Assessment and Impact Controls

These habitat impact control measures apply to all NIMRA mountain races. Race organising teams must consider whether there are any additional race specific impacts and add to these control measures, as appropriate. Race organisers found not to be following these NIMRA controls may be prevented from staging future NIMRA races/ events.



Environmental Aspect	Habitat Impact Controls
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accessing mountain terrain (comprising, among others: large boulders, rocky surfaces, loose rocks, cliff edges, steep slopes (inclines and declines), slippery grass, hidden holes, crevasses, and boggy ground). 2. Encountering livestock and wildlife (e.g., sheep, cattle, badgers, hares, deer, birds, foxes etc). 3. Running through and past vegetation (plants, grassland, and trees) 4. Crossing boundaries (e.g., walls and fences) 5. Encountering farm and forestry traffic on trails and tracks. 6. Encountering other mountain users and their pets (e.g., walkers, non-competing runners, mountain bikers). 7. Racing in changeable and potentially severe weather conditions (which, during a single event, could among other conditions alternate between high winds, rain, hail, thunder and lightning, sunshine, mist or fog, snow, and ice). 8. Responding to emergencies 9. Driving and parking in race vicinity (e.g., at road crossings, lanes leading to start line and on short sections of road). 	<p>General Principles</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The race organisers primary responsibility is, if appropriate in consultation with the landowner, to identify and agree to avoid any including habitat sensitive areas during race route planning. Runners will be instructed to avoid entering identified habitat sensitive areas in their race instructions. 2. The timing of races is to take account of breeding/ hatching season in the vicinity of the race route and where necessary race dates may have to be changed. 3. Runners are to take responsibility for their actions relating to protection of the mountain environment. 4. If the race route passes near to habitat sensitive areas, it may not be appropriate to recce the route before the race. In these cases, the instruction is to be made clear in the race sign-up announcement. 5. Runners flouting race organisers instructions and/ or the habitat impact controls will be disqualified and may be refused entry to future races. 6. NIMRA does not support the use of single-use plastics or disposable drinking cups. 7. Running/ trekking poles ARE NOT permitted at NIMRA races. 8. Additional race-specific controls are to be appended to this Habitat Impact Control sheet (Page 2). <p>Pre-race</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The race organising team is to determine whether the race is to be cancelled or diverted to an alternative route if severe weather, which could damage any habitats, is forecast. 2. Part of or all the race routes may be marked, using environmentally sensitive markers. 3. The race organising team will mark and arrange for marshals to be located at any identified habitat sensitive areas. 4. Runners are to familiarise themselves with the terrain and avoid running in any habitat sensitive areas. 5. Runners are to familiarise themselves with and ensure that they comply with the 'On the Day' Race Rules. 6. To minimise the impact of cars in the vicinity of the race runners are to use designated parking areas (parking in accordance with the Highway Code, avoiding parking on grass verges, where possible). 7. To minimise traffic impact car share were possible. 8. Runners must attend pre-race briefings and make themselves aware of any route changes or identified habitat sensitive areas that are to be avoided during the race. <p>During Race</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Runners are to respect the environment by minimising negative impact on terrain, flora, and fauna. 2. Runners are to retrieve all waste (including for instance, fruit peelings, chewing gum), leaving no trace, avoiding damage, and leaving what they find. 3. Runners are to cross boundaries using gates and stiles. 4. Wherever possible runners are to use established paths. Running on wall tops is not permitted 5. Runners are to be sensitive to habitats that may support fragile or protected plants and animals (http://www.habitas.org.uk), such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forests, • Rocky outcrops, • Scree and rock gullies, and • Bogs and upland heath. 6. Runners are to remain vigilant for, minimise noise levels and steer clear of any livestock and/ or wildlife encountered. 7. Runners are to avoid straying into habitat sensitive areas to pass other mountains users who share the space. 8. Runners are not to bring dogs with them on the race. 9. Where emergency response vehicles need onto the race route, they are to follow their own designated environmental controls but must be made aware of this habitat impact assessment. <p>Post-Race</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All race route markings are to be removed as soon as practical after the race. 2. Runners and marshals are to dispose of any litter or waste collected during the race in the appropriate recycling/ waste bins. 3. Marshalls, and sweeper runners (if used) are to keep an eye out for and collect any runner discarded litter on their return to race HQ/ finish line.

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Appendix – Additional Race Specific Habitat Impact Controls

Name of Race:	Granite peaks Ultra/ Granite peaks 25		
Date of Race:	20 April 2024		
Race Director:	Ciarán McAleenan		
Impact Assessor:	Ciarán McAleenan		
Additional Habitat Impact Controls (if none write none and sign the sheet and attach this to any request for Race Permit)			
<p>None:</p> <p>No habitat sensitive areas have been identified during race route planning.</p>			
Signed Race Director			Date
Name of Race Director		Ciarán McAleenan	31/1/2024
Signed by habitat impact assessor			Date
Name of Race habitat impact assessor		Ciarán McAleenan	31/1/2024