

# Restoring UK Peatlands: Get Stuck In!

A collaboration between **Moors for the Future** and  
members of the **British Mountaineering Council**

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TRUSTEE BMC ACCESS  
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MOORS FOR THE FUTURE PARTNERSHIP



# The BMC



- ▶ **British Mountaineering Council**
- ▶ Representative body of climbers, mountaineers and hillwalkers in England and Wales
- ▶ Promotes interests of climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers
- ▶ Also oversees competition climbing and promotes environmental sustainability in the sport
- ▶ 82,000 members

# Mend our Mountains

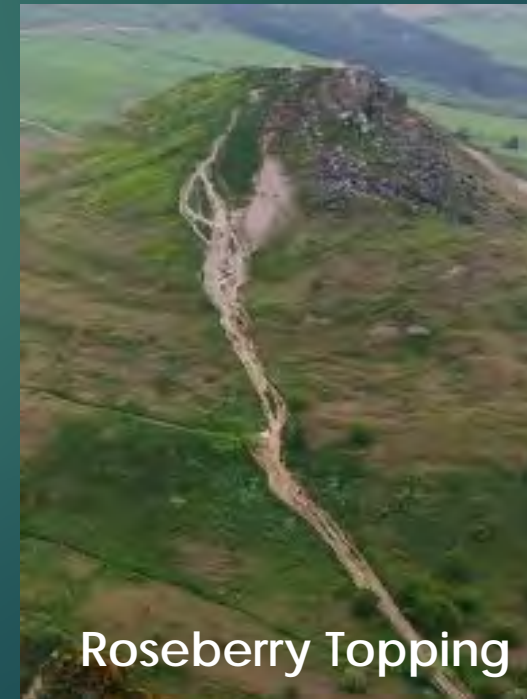
- ▶ BMC initiative started in 2016 to raise funds to repair eroded iconic footpaths in the UK, run by BMC charity:
- ▶ BMC Access and Conservation Trust: ACT
- ▶ So far raised £1.4M, but is about money donations



Watkin Path



Cressbrook Dale Bridge



Roseberry Topping



# Mend our Mountains and "Get Stuck In!"

- ▶ **"Get Stuck In!"** is the Volunteering part of Mend our Mountains
- ▶ Giving your time
- ▶ 50 volunteer events since 2022

**MEND  
OUR  
MOUNTAINS**

Help repair our best loved landscapes

**ACT**

BMC ACCESS & CONSERVATION TRUST

**BMC**



DONATE NOW



With who?



# Who are the Volunteers?

- ▶ Wide age range 23-76, males and females
- ▶ Majority are of working age
- ▶ Importance of volunteering days in work contracts
- ▶ Single and multiday events



# What do volunteers get out of it?

- ▶ Passionate about the outdoors, hill and mountains
- ▶ Enjoy meeting like-minded folk
- ▶ Keen to give back

“In order to enjoy  
the mountains tomorrow,  
we must take care of them today”



# Paths

- ▶ Making a resilient, sustainable walking surface
- ▶ RESISTING EROSION
- ▶ Not making path easier!



# Paths



# Paths



# Invasive Species: Rhododendrons



Nov 2022



Nov 2024

# Invasive Species: Himalayan Balsam



# Invasive Species: Sitka Spruce, Birch



# Redundant tree guards



# Redundant tree guards



# Redundant tree guards



# Litter picks



# Re-profiling peat hags



# Moss Planting



# Collaboration with BMC and Moors for the Future

- ▶ Moss planting
- ▶ Ideal task for large group of volunteers
- ▶ A popular task
- ▶ No particular skills required
- ▶ Little equipment: stick or cricket stump!!
- ▶ Hill fit, waterproofs, boots
- ▶ Planting something always seems more positive than removing it!
- ▶ Moors for the Future arrange planting site and moss plants





What do we do?  
And why do we do it?



# Drivers of Degradation

## Air Pollution

# Drivers of Degradation

## Peatland Wildfires



# Drivers of Degradation

## Drainage and erosion



1000s of hectares of bare peat

Deeply eroded landscape

1976  
VS  
2003



# Our restoration programme

Revegetation – Heather brash and seed





Rewetting – blocking gulleys and drainage channels

# Sphagnum moss





When Moors for the Future  
met the BMC...

**The Moor Climate  
Action Project**

£90,000 of seed funding unlocked a further £2.5 million in capital grant schemes

Getting hands on – sphagnum moss planting through Winter season

Advocacy and engagement – restoring the landscape and raising the profile for our work in local communities

A man in a dark t-shirt and khaki trousers is walking through a vast, open landscape of degraded peat moorland. The ground is dark and rocky, with sparse, low-lying vegetation. In the background, rolling hills are visible under a cloudy sky. The scene is framed by a semi-transparent dark red overlay that contains text.

60 hectares of degraded peat moorland  
affected by wildfire

4.9 hectares of challenging terrain  
(nearly 7 football pitches) planted in  
scrapes by hand by the BMC volunteers





# The Goyt Valley Derbyshire, UK

78,000 sphagnum plugs over 20 hectares  
planted by volunteers!

Enabled restoration work over 325 hectares,  
including;

- 1200 gully blocks
- 55 hectares of vegetation diversification
- 1km of reprofiling



# BMC unlocks funding

- ▶ This project demonstrates strong collaboration between **Nature Conservation** experts and **Outdoor Sports** stakeholders.
- ▶ The **BMC's Access & Conservation Trust** provided £90,000 in funding, which was instrumental in unlocking a further £2.5 million through the **Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme**.
- ▶ Meanwhile, **Natural England** and the **Moors for the Future Partnership** provided vital guidance, training, and scientific oversight.

# Value of outdoor enthusiasts as volunteers?

- ▶ Passion for the landscape
- ▶ Hill fit
- ▶ Don't mind getting cold and wet: planting season is over winter months
- ▶ Have necessary equipment: boots, waterproofs, rucsacs
- ▶ Have necessary knowledge: staying warm, navigation, first aid skills
- ▶ Their work on peatland restoration across the Peak District and South Pennines has not only benefited the environment but also set new standards in Outdoor Sports engagement with conservation.



# Benefits of the Award



- ▶ **RECOGNITION** by outdoor sports industry, and other industries who have approached BMC to be involved outdoor projects, donating money to the charity and attending events.
- ▶ **PROOF OF TRACK RECORD** of project delivery is recognised by other larger donors which enables the **BMC Access and Conservation Trust** to fund more projects, and unlock even more funding for conservation work.
- ▶ **INCREASES VISIBILITY** of the **BMC** and **Moors for the Future**.

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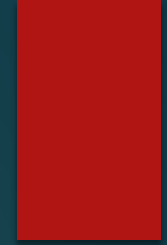


- ▶ **INSPIRES:** Increased visibility of volunteer projects inspires more volunteers to attend, so that more work can be done
- ▶ **EDUCATES:** More volunteers increases the education of the outdoor community on the effects of climate change on peatlands, and peatland restoration, which then further educates the wider community

# The Future



- ▶ In 2026 the BMC starts a fundraising campaign to raise £100K
- ▶ Hope to fund a dedicated **Wildfire Ranger** to patrol moors at risk of wildfires, combined with public engagement and education on wildfire prevention.
- ▶ Regular moss planting arranged with **BMC volunteers**
- ▶ **THE COLLABORATION CONTINUES!**



THANK  
YOU!

