

## Fact sheet 3: The building concept

The Peak District National Park's Moorland Centre in Edale was opened in August 2006 both as a visitor centre and the UK's first moorland research base. The building incorporates several 'eco-friendly' features including a 'green' roof of sedum turf, recycled stone and a ground source heat pump (see fact sheets 1 & 2).

### The Building Message

The scheme combines a number of key elements:

- Entrance is via a walkway and below a waterfall.
- Externally the roof consists entirely of flora (see fact sheet 2).
- The two main chambers are divided by 'sky'. This is the highest part of the building and consists of structural glazing so that there is minimum obstruction between visitor and 'sky'. The waterfall flows over the glass. Light is induced into the two adjoining chambers from 'sky'.
- The intervention between the new building and the historic building is minimal. The gable of the traditional building has been restored and is totally visible through the glass from the outside of the new structure.

### Sustainable features

Whilst the building is intended to be evocative of the moors and to some extent of ancient structures, it also provides the message of sustainability. In particular:

- The planting scheme around the building is designed to draw attention to the nearby moorland ecosystem. The planting beds are

deliberately wet, just like a peat bog.

- Outside recycled stone flags from Lancashire mills link with the restoration work on the Pennine Way where they are used to protect fragile peat surfaces from trampling damage.
- The sedum roof both reduces the visual impact of building and demonstrates how flora can improve insulation values in a moorland project (fact sheet 2).
- Under floor heating is connected to a ground source heat pump which recycles heated water from the ground. It also allows maximum flexibility for internal exhibitions (see fact sheet 1).
- The waterfall is a reminder of how water can be recycled, in this case it is pumped from the cairn to high level and used to cool the glass and reflect excess heat.
- The use of reclaimed stone in the construction of the new centre demonstrates the use of recycled and sustainable materials in construction.
- The roof space in the old farmhouse is used as an occasional bat roost. Access and egress points were carefully maintained during the construction work.

The Moors for the Future Partnership is hosted by the Peak District National Park Authority, and the Moorland Centre is a cornerstone in this £4.7m project funded largely from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Significant contributions also came from the Peak District National Park Authority, Countryside Agency, Natural England, Defra, European Regional Development Fund, National Trust, East Midlands Development Agency, local authorities, SITA Environmental Trust, water companies and the Moorland Association, private sector moorland owners. Visit [www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk](http://www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk).

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