

Issue 1

April 2004



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MOOR matters

THE QUARTERLY NEWS-ZINE OF THE MOORS FOR THE FUTURE PARTNERSHIP

What we are about:

- To restore and conserve moorland sites most damaged by access and recreational pressures.
- To enhance visitors' and local peoples' experience of moorland heritage and encourage greater care.
- To establish a learning centre to develop expertise about how to protect moorlands for the future and to meet the education and research needs of specific groups and the wider public.

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Moors for the Future - celebrating our 1st year

Welcome to the first edition of Moor matters!

This is the first of our proposed quarterly e-zines to keep you informed and updated in the work of the project.

The Moors for the Future is a 4.7million pound project, funded by Heritage Lottery, to restore the internationally important Peak District moors that have been damaged by fires, pollution and erosion - currently the biggest upland conservation project in Britain. We also aim to help educate people about sustainable use of moorlands and promote access to the moorlands.

The project has been up and running for just over a year. This introductory edition focuses on who we are, what we do and who is who. We hope you will find it of interest.



Airlifting on Bleaklow February 2004

If you know of anyone who may be interested in receiving their own copy or if you don't wish to receive further copies let us know.

Next issues...

The next issues will focus on our current research projects and restoration works. If you have any comments about what you would like us to include please e-mail us at clp.moors@peakdistrict-npa.gov.uk. The copy dates are 25th June and 1st October.

Project sows seeds of success

The first stage of re-vegetation work has begun on Bleaklow and Shelf Moor fire sites. A pre- and post-restoration programme has been set up to monitor changes and success of the fire site re-vegetation sites. This includes broad surveys, that can be accurately repeated by non-experts and volunteers also after project end as well as specialist botanical surveys to assess germination rates of grass species.

First results of the re-vegetation post-restoration monitoring indicate that biodiversity recovery seems greatest under heather bale/brush cover. In 2003 the fescue grasses showed the most successful germination rate to establish a root mat in the eroding peat.

Footpath Restoration sites have been mapped

and photographic evidence records the pre-restoration state. Aerial photography as well as fixed-point ground photography will aid the post-restoration monitoring. Restoration works have begun on heavily eroded paths to Higger Tor.

We have been working closely with the local community in Edale on plans to establish a new moorlands centre there. This important development would see the existing Fieldhead visitor centre completely redeveloped. In addition an adjacent derelict house will be turned into office space for the Moors for the Future staff who will set up and manage a research centre providing a national archive of moorland information for visiting researchers and schools, as well as providing facilities for community use. Stop press... Staff recruitment has finally been completed. Meet the team...



Chris enjoying an outdoor moment (GPS training)

Chris Dean, Project Manager

Chris has worked in Countryside Management since 1976 with three years at Agricultural College and an MSc in Countryside Management. Chris was previously with the Countryside Agency working on the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act and before with Calderdale Countryside Service. His varied career includes cleaning toilets in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, cave rescue work, endangered species protection and Project Management, with most of his career spent in

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the uplands of Northern England.

Chris has been busy getting the project up and running, including recruiting staff. His responsibilities include staff management and liaison with Heritage Lottery Fund and project partners. He is also responsible for reporting and monitoring. Now the project is up and running Chris will be concentrating the projects work on practical outputs, which will make a real difference to the conservation of the Peak District.



Sue on the moors

Sue Stone, Project Administrator

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Sue has extensive experience in administration and finance. Sue returned to full time study as a mature student and graduated in 1994 with a BSc Hons from Leeds University in Information Systems for Business.

running of the team office for the Moors for the Future project. Her responsibilities include carrying out day to day administration, drawing down of grants, preparation of reports, liaising with partners and providing administrative support.

Sue has over 4 years experience of liaising with project managers, claiming and monitoring ESF, ERDF and HLF project budgets. Prior to joining Moors for the Future Sue was Education Administrator with Derbyshire County Council's Education Department. Sue's current role is to ensure the smooth

She is also responsible for monitoring budgets and assisting in making future applications for funding. Sue submits the project claims to Heritage Lottery Fund and is the first point of contact for the Project.

"The Moors For The Future is currently the biggest upland conservation project in Britain."



Aletta

Aletta Bonn, Research Manager (job share)

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Aletta's background is in ecology with a PhD in conservation biology. She has been involved in a variety of research fields, such as community ecology, marine and wetland biology, macro ecology and biodiversity research.

Aletta's research within the Moors for the Future project focuses on biodiversity patterns and landscape classification. To build a sustainability baseline for the moorlands, she is currently organising the 2004 moorland breeding bird survey and vegetation condition assessments.

In the past few years she analysed species richness patterns as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Sheffield. Alongside this, she led education visits for the Peak District National Park Study Centre, Losehill Hall.

For initiating and fostering partnerships with universities, Aletta and Cath (see below) are establishing a Moorland Research Forum with annual meetings and developed a 'small project' grant scheme to facilitate moorland research in the Peak District.



Cath doing footpath surveys

Cath Flitcroft, Research Manager (job share)

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Catherine is currently completing a PhD at the University of Edinburgh, Department of Archaeology, on 'Blanket Peat Initiation in the South West of Scotland' and worked after her degree in Environmental Archaeology as a Field Archaeologist for commercial units across Scotland and the Midlands. She has also worked as an Archaeological Director on an excavation of a Late Bronze Age village on the Isle of Lewis,

Outer Hebrides and has recently completed the excavation report. She also works as a Project Coordinator for Groundwork Stoke-on-Trent, managing a project concerned with getting young, unemployed people back to work.

Her current role at Moors for the Future includes organising a large visitor attitude and recreational user survey to be carried out across moorland areas this year and next. She is also organising an upland footpath condition survey of the entire footpath network across the moorlands.

Matt Buckler, Conservation Works Manager matt.buckler@peakdistrict.gov.uk

Matt graduated with a degree in ecology from the University of Sheffield in 1991. He spent five years in Australia, before returning to work in conservation in the UK. Previously Matt worked for the National Trust for five years in Somerset and on the Dorset heathlands for two years. He is currently finishing an MSc in Habitat Creation and Management at Staffordshire University.

Matt's role in the team is to supervise the moorland restoration aspects of the project. This involves organising the project tenders and contracts and supervising the works, as well as insuring that the work is on time and on budget. Matt welcomes the challenge: "I hope that we can really increase the understanding of moorland restoration, which techniques work and which need refining," he said.



Matt on Bleaklow, February 2004.

Cass Worman, Research Assistant cass.worman@peakdistrict.gov.uk

Cass is a geography graduate from Manchester University with a BSc in Geography & Computing. Whilst a student at Manchester Cass developed Manchester University's 'Virtual Tour' of the Dark Peak. After doing a Post Graduate Certificate in 'Environmental monitoring, modelling and reconstruction' also at Manchester, Cass did a range of temping work across Manchester (including a receptionist which was great fun!)This would account for her professional telephone manner Ed.

Cass then worked for UNIGIS (which is a distance learning MSc course in GIS) at Manchester Metropolitan University.

Since joining the team last summer Cass has assisted in a wide range of projects including GIS, Computer Modelling and Monitoring work. She is also our 'in house' IT helpdesk and has put her skills to good use in setting up the Moors For the Future web site.



Cass on Bleaklow, March 2004

Carol Parsons, Information Officer carol.parsons@peakdistrict.gov.uk

Carol joined the team in January 2004 from Groundwork Creswell where she was working as Community Liaison Officer. Prior to this she was an Interpretation Ranger with Derbyshire County Council's countryside service for over 5 years. Her other experience includes working as a Project Officer at Sheffield Wildlife Trust.

Carol's role is to promote the project locally, regionally and nationally. She will be managing the interpretation aspects of the project. This includes progressing the major redevelopment of the national park centre at Edale into a 'moorlands centre,' including an office base and research suite for the project. She is also responsible for setting up our new library of information, web site and producing this newsletter. Carol will also work with Dan in organising events and developing and disseminating the 'moor care' messages.

Carol studied at Sheffield Hallam University gaining a degree in Countryside Recreation Management and later a PG Dip. in Landscape & Society from Cheltenham and Gloucester college H.E.



Carol modelling the new fleece

Blanket bog is one of the world's rarest habitats - even more threatened than tropical rainforests.

Dan Boys, Moor Care Ranger daniel.boys@peakdistrict.gov.uk

After completing a Geography and Environmental Management degree at UWE Bristol, Dan spent a year volunteering for the Avon Wildlife Trust before joining the National Trust, initially as an Assistant Warden at Attingham Park, Shropshire and then in March 2000 as Warden of the Hughenden and West Wycombe Estates, Buckinghamshire. Dan was responsible for the operation of countryside management on a day to day basis

increase peoples awareness of responsible behaviour and care for the moors, through publicising the new country code and developing a moorland bulletin. He is also developing a moorland events programme and aims to involve a wide range of new volunteers in aspects of moorland restoration. Dan will also be looking at identifying and improving moorland access and information for people with disabilities and developing public transport initiatives aimed at people visiting moorland areas.

Dan's main role as Moor Care Ranger will be to



Dan joined the team in August 2004



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WE'RE ON THE WEB:

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(This site is still under development)