Dear <<First Name>>, with autumn well and truly underway it is a good time to
look back at events which took place this summer on one of our environmental
monitoring sites in the South West Peak District.

Fire at The Roaches
2018’s most dramatic moment for the project came when a wildfire swept
through our Community Science monitoring site at The Roaches in early
August. The fire, started by a campfire in nearby woodland, burned for days -
with the smell of smoke being detected from as far away as Sheffield.

Monitoring the site
The site has been regularly visited by Community
Science volunteers over the last two years, who
have collected environmental data. In fact,
volunteers Rob, Jill, Helen, Martin and Rosemary
completed an annual vegetation survey just two
days before the fire started.

Monitoring island
Amazingly our core monitoring equipment
(including the camera which took the picture
of the fire above) survived - despite being
only feet away from the flames. This small
‘island’ of cottongrass and
Sphagnum
remained.

Replacing equipment
Any damaged ground markers and dipwells
across the rest of the site were quickly
replaced, so that monitoring can continue
uninterrupted into the future. The data
collected from this site is now more valuable
than ever.

Sphagnum survivors
Interestingly the most intact areas post-fire
appear to be those dominated by
Sphagnum
mosses, which look to be recovering already.
The information collected by Community
Science volunteers will help inform future
management and restoration of the site.

To find out more about Community Science monitoring please visit our website:

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Moors for the Future Partnership · The Moorland Centre · Fieldhead · Edale, Derbyshire S33 7ZA · United Kingdom