

Crag & Upland Care Fund Event: application guidance

In order for a work day or days to be supported and insured by the BMC, it must become an official event through our [BMC outdoor workday event application process](#).

This document provides additional information and guidance on what the BMC can do to assist you in running these types of event and what we need from you in return to ensure the event runs safely and smoothly.

Follow good practice:

Before you start planning any work, make sure you follow our Respect the Rock guidance on restoring or developing crags and speak to your local access rep to get any useful information on the site. It's important to do this anytime you carry out work on crags, but even more so if the work is happening as part of an official BMC event:

- **It's good to talk.** Discuss your ideas with the local [BMC Access Rep](#) before starting work, to establish if there are any known issues that should be considered.
- **Be aware of nesting birds.** Avoid carrying out tree/scrub clearance from 1st March-31st August when birds may be nesting. Check the [Regional Access Database](#) and don't undertake any work during restricted periods.
- **Check legal designations.** Many crags are covered by legal designations for conservation, geology or heritage. These include Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Scheduled Monuments (SM) and more. They don't automatically stop climbing or restoration work, but do mean there are special features to consider and formal consent may be needed.
- **Check landowner permission.** Depending on the access agreement in place, permission may be needed from the landowner. Failing to do this before starting work could result in lost access.
- **Consider other users.** Climbers aren't the only visitors to crags. Be mindful of other users, how they might view potential changes and consider public safety at all times.
- **Be aware of visual impact.** Limit the scope of work to only what is needed. Avoid indiscriminate vegetation removal. Often small changes can make a big difference, leaving the surrounding area untouched and undisturbed.
- **Check the fixed equipment policy for the area.** Discuss proposed work with your local [BMC access rep](#) before placing or removing any fixed equipment. Depending on the site and type of fixed equipment used, permission may be needed before work can go ahead.
- **Think twice.** Is the work you're considering essential to make a route or problem climbable? Keep all changes to the minimum required so they don't stand out in the landscape.

What financial assistance can the BMC provide?

Money is available to help fund various elements of work days or work that is required before/after workdays when volunteers are not on site:

- **Food for volunteers:** e.g. tea and cake during the day, sandwiches and chips in a local pub/cafe after the event as a thank you

- **Equipment:** funding is available to purchase hand tools, gloves, litter bags & pickers etc if needed.
- **Materials:** site signage, timber (e.g. for stiles), rock/chippings for path/crag base repairs (must be suitable local material), saplings for planting, fixed equipment for essential access and environmental purposes (in line with local ethics and agreed by local BMC Area meeting).
- **Professional services:** e.g. tree surgeons, pesticides application etc (work involving professional services is usually higher risk so should take place on alternate date(s) to the volunteer work day. Funding for contractors to co-ordinate complex work is also potentially possible, depending on the detail of what is proposed.
- **Travel Expenses:** key volunteers (i.e. organisers) can also get travel expenses, including for any travelling involved with arranging the work day, prior to the day taking place.

BMC office support:

Whilst local crag work days are generally organised and run by volunteers, staff in the BMC office are able to assist in a number of ways:

- Advice and assistance as needed in filling out the forms (including relevant BMC risk assessment forms) needed to gain BMC event approval and so ensure the event is covered by BMC insurance.
- Promotion of the event through the BMC's media and social media networks.
- Depending on the partnerships in place at the time, free products from companies the BMC has a commercial relationship with may be available as prizes/gifts for volunteers taking part.

Volunteer training:

In-house training can be arranged, depending on the particular subject area required. One example of this is where volunteers want to replace old/unsafe bolts, the BMC's Technical Officer is able (with plenty of notice) to run bolting workshops for volunteers at a suitable location.

If attending training courses would be beneficial to key local volunteers undertaking voluntary work in their area and depending on the exact circumstance, funding may be available to send volunteers on formal training courses. Regardless of the type of training, please speak to the relevant BMC Access Officer to discuss your requirements and work out a plan of action.