



OUR VISION

The British Mountaineering Council (BMC) represents over 75,000 members who explore and cherish the landscapes in which they undertake their activities. Our vision is to conserve and protect the mountaineering, climbing and hill walking landscapes of England and Wales for people and nature. Campaigning to protect areas from developments that damage their landscape character and detract from their recreational and amenity value is part of our core purpose.

Experiencing landscape is an intrinsic reason why our members go climbing and hill walking. The range of landscapes they regard as valuable is broad, from wilder environments of semi-natural habitat, including mountains, uplands, moors and sea cliffs, to outcrops bordering arable land and disused quarries, which can be in urban and rural areas.

All these landscapes are important for their scenic beauty and cultural value. They provide habitats for threatened species, hold important archaeological sites and create jobs in tourism and related industries, including recreation. Their conservation secures vital elements of our natural and cultural heritage.

These landscapes can also provide vital services in protecting water quality, reducing downstream flood risk and efficient carbon storage.

Our members value these landscapes as places to experience nature, challenge themselves and improve their health and well-being. We aim to raise awareness of these benefits among the general public.

The BMC wants these landscapes to be managed and protected for future generations so they remain sanctuaries for quiet and sustainable recreation. We will work with all those with an interest in conserving our important landscapes to strike a proper balance between development and conservation.

The BMC sees part of its responsibility as providing members with advice and information on landscape and biodiversity issues affecting landscapes of interest to them. The BMC will campaign so that developments do not have a negative impact on access to or the enjoyment of climbing, walking and mountaineering areas.

THE BMC'S ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY

The BMC will:

- Provide our membership with advice and information on all issues that affect our wild and valued landscapes and we will campaign to protect these places from inappropriate use, management and development.
- Will endeavour through the BMC access team, volunteers and local area structure to ensure that land management, developments and landscape change do not have a negative impact on important climbing, walking and mountaineering areas.
- Engage our membership on issues of national and local importance, communicating where appropriate through publications, presentations and training events.
- Aim to influence planning and policymakers at local and national level and support local action on individual proposals where it fits within the objectives of the Charter.
- Continue to work with other partner organisations and the Wildlife and Countryside Link(s), campaigning collectively to increase our influence.
- Exert political pressure by strengthening our links with political parties through stakeholder meetings, engagement, formal meetings and, where possible, field visits.

- Seek to become valued advisors to the various regulators (e.g. National Parks, Natural England, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra), Natural Resources Wales, Forestry Commission) where landscape issues affect the mountaineering and hill walking community.
- Continue to influence national policy and decisions for the benefit of wild and valued places and represent the BMC's views nationally on various policy framework consultations.
- Work with landowners and managers to help ensure our valued landscapes are protected.
- Produce general good practice advice so members continue to respect the land, its wildlife and the interests of those who live and work locally as well as other users.
- Offer to join and participate in Defra's Upland Stakeholder Forum.
- Engage with other landowning organisations (e.g. MOD, utility companies) that can use their permitted development rights in ways which affect land of interest to our members.

BMC GUIDANCE NOTES

The BMC will produce guidance notes that will ensure members and local groups have all the tools and information necessary to make representations on developments in their area that pose the greatest impact on our wild areas.

Each note will include an analysis of the factors that have led to an increase in pressure on our wild and valued places and outline the principles of when and how the BMC should influence policy or drive for change. BMC advice across England and Wales will remain consistent but analysis of the factors, background information and legislative mechanisms will differ on a case by case basis.

These principles include working within the BMC local area structure to agree locally accountable and plan-led action to steer inappropriate developments away from those areas of greatest interest and exert influence locally.

Initially, we will produce guidance notes on:

- 1 Energy and its Infrastructure
- 2 Minerals and Quarrying
- 3 Recreational Development

ACTION FOR THE BMC

The BMC will seek to carry out its role and:

- Produce informative guidance notes on specific landscape issues for our members.
- Dedicate an area of the website so that members can leave details of planning applications and issues of concern on an area by area basis.
- Attempt to forge better links with local authority planning departments producing awareness notes for them stating the economic, health, psychological, physical and spiritual benefits of mountain and coastal areas for many people.



WHEN AND WHERE THE BMC WILL GET INVOLVED?

The BMC will take decisions on whether to get involved in casework or policy processes on landscape issues on a case by case basis, taking a number of factors into account:

- The potential impacts on the landscape and on public enjoyment of it, including whether there would be impacts of national significance.
- The scale of the development proposal, the statutory and local designation or recreational significance of the host landscape.
- The wider implications of the policymaking process and outcomes.
- The amount of support from members when we are considering taking action.
- The extent to which a BMC intervention could add value to the work of others.
- The availability of resources, expertise and capacity of BMC staff and area volunteers.

For more information, please contact

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