



Peak District
National Park
Foundation

Impact Report 2024- 2025



Contents

Welcome	03
Who We Are	04
What We Do	05
Key Achievements	06
Restoring Habitats	
Moorland Restoration	08
Community Nature Fund	10
Landscape Trees	11
Improving Access	
Changing Places	12
Cressbrook Mill Bridge	13
Brunt's Barn Accessible Garden	14
Connecting People and Communities to Nature	
Visitor Centres	16
Ambassador Schools	17
Connect Fund	18
Protecting Our Cultural Heritage	
People of the Peak	20
Landscapes Unlocked	21
Thank You	22

“An increase in flexible funding has allowed us to provide seed funding to get ambitious but less fundable projects off the ground.”



Welcome

It is with a huge sense of pride that we present this year's Impact Report.

The Peak District is an iconic landscape that holds a special place in the hearts of people across the country and across generations. Whether a fell runner or climber, resident or holidaymaker, the Peak District offers vital breathing space and an irreplaceable connection with nature.

It is a privilege for us to lead the Foundation, a charity that is dedicated to channelling that love for the Peak District into action that secures its future. We are immensely proud of what our skilled and passionate team have achieved over the year, raising over £615,000 to fund projects that conserve nature, improve access and deepen connections with our natural world.

This year, we have seen a significant growth in project income. A major success was a large grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, which will enable us to lay the foundations for a volunteer-led programme to protect our Park's valuable cultural heritage. We are

excited to see this important initiative develop over the next 18 months.

Equally important has been the increase in our unrestricted income which is not tied to a specific project. This flexible funding has allowed us to provide seed funding to get ambitious but less fundable projects off the ground, and attract further investment to scale up and deliver transformation for nature. In 2023, we funded a pioneering new trial using AI technology to inform nature recovery interventions. We are delighted to see that this innovative work is expanding further as part of the Landscape Observatory initiative, which is being established thanks to significant funding from the Department for the Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs.

It has been great to support smaller projects through our Community Nature Fund and Connect Fund, including the development of community growing spaces and butterfly conservation initiatives. These projects leave a

lasting impact, enriching the lives of local residents and volunteers, while enhancing the local environment.

Looking ahead, our focus is on building upon these successes: growing our fundraising capacity, strengthening partnerships and maximising our impact for people, nature and heritage.

Finally, we want to thank everyone who has contributed to our achievements - our staff, trustees, volunteers, partners and supporters. Together, we are making a real difference to the Peak District, and we look forward to another year of growth, impact and conservation.



Roisin
Director



Jen
Chair of Trustees

Who We Are

Our Vision is a Peak District where nature and people thrive and are protected for generations to come.

Our Mission is to inspire and build a community of supporters who help to protect and enhance the Peak District National Park for future generations.

Our Values

Inclusive: We are open, approachable and committed to a National Park for all.

Collaborative: Everything we do, from fundraising to project delivery, is done in partnership. This delivers better outcomes for the National Park and its visitors.

Creative: We look for opportunities to develop new projects and partnerships so we can remain a resilient organisation with a diverse range of supporters and income streams helping us to realise our vision.



What We Do

Restore habitats

Nature is in crisis, even in our National Park. We're working to create bigger, better and more joined up habitats across the Peak District, supporting biodiversity and providing essential corridors for wildlife.

Improve access

There are over 1,600 miles of paths within the National Park. We're working to fund high quality path repair, improve access for people with disabilities and help more people enjoy their right to explore the Peak District.

Connect people and communities to nature

The more people are connected to nature, the more they will want to protect it. We are working to ensure people of all ages and backgrounds have opportunities to experience and care for our National Park.

Protect our cultural heritage

The Peak District landscape has been shaped by people. We're working to protect and conserve these irreplaceable heritage sites, from historic buildings and industrial structures to pre-historic features.



Key Achievements

Over the last year we have...



Supported

723 PEOPLE

from disadvantaged and marginalised communities to access the Peak District through our Connect Fund



Connected

7,821 CHILDREN

from 25 schools to nature through our Ambassador Schools programme



Co-funded two new Changing Places Toilet facilities, making it easier for people with additional or complex care needs to enjoy a day out in the Peak District



Invested

£518,067

into nature, access and engagement projects



Raised

£50,000

towards the reinstatement of Cressbrook Mill Bridge - hailed as a 'lifeline' to local people



Contributed

£74,475

to moorland restoration



Awarded

FOUR GRANTS

from our Community Nature Fund, helping to create and improve spaces for nature within our National Park



Moorland Restoration

© Phil Sprouson Photography

Expert Insight

We recently spoke with Matt Scott-Campbell, Partnership Manager at Moors for the Future Partnership — the organisation delivering our moorland restoration work — to hear about the state of the Peak District's uplands and the progress being made.

When Moors for the Future began twenty two years ago, the Peak District was home to the most degraded upland landscape in Europe. Huge areas of bare, eroded peat left the moors vulnerable, unstable, and stripped of biodiversity. Today, Matt told us, those scars are largely healed. With the vital revegetation of bare peat largely addressed, the focus is shifting towards urgently nurturing nature and ecosystem recovery as the crises of climate change and biodiversity loss continue.

In the last financial year alone, Moors for the Future delivered approximately £3 million of restoration across 1,500 hectares of moorland. That included hand-planting an extraordinary 2.5 million sphagnum moss plugs. Sphagnum is the key building block of healthy peatland: it locks in carbon, holds water, and creates the conditions other wildlife needs to thrive.

Matt shared one striking example of how quickly change can happen. On Kinder Scout, once defined by bare peat, the wetlands are now alive with insect life. This year, the team recorded a huge amount of bat activity across the plateau, far from any roosts. Just twenty years ago, the idea of bats feeding high on the moors would have been unthinkable. It's a powerful reminder that once ecosystems are restored, species return, biodiversity increases, and the whole

landscape becomes more resilient to climate change.

By 2050, Moors for the Future wants to see upland landscapes that are sustainable, resilient, and rich in wildlife. Peatland restoration, Matt explained, is also one of the most cost-effective climate solutions available. Unlike many interventions that rely on big changes in behaviour, restoring peat cuts emissions immediately - but it's also time-sensitive. "If we don't act now, we'll lose that opportunity," he told us. "The sooner we get our peatlands into a resilient condition, the sooner the CO2 emissions associated with degraded peatlands can be avoided."

We also heard how our support with seed funding is helping to accelerate their work: when one organisation steps forward, others follow, and momentum builds. Our contribution has helped reduce uncertainty for their team, giving them the stability to deliver more quickly, at greater scale, and with greater confidence. Together, we are helping to build landscapes that can thrive long into the future.



Featherbed Field Lab

Moors for the Future Partnership is delivering a major project to establish a research field laboratory at Featherbed North, alongside the Pennine Way. The site functions as a long-term research and demonstration hub, and will generate crucial data to inform best practice in moorland recovery.

We are proud to be contributing £68,000 for the first two years of this project. Thanks to SC Johnson and a generous individual for their support. Their donations helped leverage over £347,000 in additional support for the project.



© Moors for the Future Partnership

Wild Spaces - Kinder Scout

Restoration work on Kinder Scout is continuing, delivered by Moors for the Future Partnership. Through the planting of two million sphagnum plugs, the uplands of Kinder are being restored to a thriving habitat, and vital species are returning to this iconic moorland site.

We secured funding for this ambitious work through Wild Spaces, a cinema advertising initiative in partnership with Pearl & Dean, Giffgaff and National Parks Partnership. In September 2024, this pioneering project saw our work on Kinder Scout featured in cinemas across the UK, raising awareness of their vital habitat recovery work. Thank you to the Wild Spaces funders.



© Moors for the Future Partnership



© Phil Sproun Photography

Community Nature Fund

This year saw the launch of our Community Nature Fund, a grant scheme designed to empower local groups in protecting and enhancing nature in the Peak District.

In February, we approved funding for four initiatives to promote biodiversity, restore habitats, and encourage community engagement within the National Park.

Reviving the growing areas at The Beeches

Nature education charity The Visionaries are restoring 1.5 acres of overgrown gardens and orchards at The Beeches, a large community property in Bamford. Using agro-ecological principles, the project will create a community-led growing hub aimed at enhancing biodiversity, climate resilience, and community engagement through hands-on learning and land stewardship.

Rowland Butterfly Project

Rowland Parish Council is creating a butterfly corridor by planting wildflowers and grasses to support endangered species like the Wall Brown Butterfly. This will improve habitat

quality for pollinators and other wildlife while enriching the landscape for the local community.

Improvements to Old School Field, Hayfield

Sustainable Hayfield is transforming Old School Field into a biodiverse community space with orchards, wildflowers, and woodland improvements. Community volunteers will lead restoration efforts, enhancing local wildlife habitats and fostering environmental awareness.

The Beeley Bumblebee and Orchard Project

The Cavendish Village Hall Management Committee is restoring Beeley's neglected orchard to boost biodiversity and reconnect the community with nature. By planting rare local apple varieties and improving habitats for pollinators and wildlife, the orchard will become a protected, educational green space.



Landscape Trees

In April 2025, we launched our Landscape Trees project through a week-long campaign with the Big Give's Green Match Fund.

Thanks to our amazing community of supporters and the Big Give's match funding, we smashed our target and raised £21,220 to kickstart the project.

Landscape Trees will support farmers in the White Peak to plant standalone trees and small copses on their grazed land, linking isolated woodlands and creating vital wildlife corridors that support biodiversity. Trees like this are not funded by national planting schemes but are vital to help nature thrive - so this support from our donors and The Big Give is invaluable.



© Phil Sproson Photography



© Phil Sproson Photography



Thoughts from the experts



"They'll provide shade and shelter for the livestock, and for any crops underneath. They're going to draw up nutrients lower down and cycle those by leaf deposition. They're going to add in terms of wildlife, working in synergy with farming."

"The old adage says the best time to plant trees is 20 years ago, and the second best time is now."

Robert Thornhill
Great Longstone farmer



"Just a handful of trees can turn a bare field into a hotspot for birds and bats."

Rhodri Thomas
Land & Nature Team Manager,
Peak District National Park

Changing Places

During 2024-25, we supported the construction of Changing Places toilet facilities at Miller's Dale on the Monsal Trail and Parsley Hay on the Tissington Trail.

These state-of-the-art facilities complement the traffic-free trails at the sites, and help to unlock access to the countryside for those with additional or particularly complex care needs. Accessible bike hire is also available at Parsley Hay through the Peak District National Park Authority's bike hire centre.

Thanks to our generous funders, The Bingham Trust, Tarmac Landfill Communities Fund and Accessible Derbyshire for their support.



"The extra facilities they provide open up possibilities for people who need them to go out and enjoy the countryside with their family and friends instead of having to stay at home. We would like to see more Changing Places everywhere and especially in all our National Parks."

Gillian Scotford
Director of Accessible UK



Cressbrook Mill Bridge

We're proud to have supported the reinstatement of Cressbrook Mill Bridge, which was unveiled in December 2024.

Hill walkers, climbers and local residents once again have safe access to the Monsal Trail and circular walks from Cressbrook, and the fantastic rock climbing crags across the River Wye. The new bridge was made using 26,000 recycled plastic bottles and is expected to have a lifespan of 120 years.

Thanks to Defra's Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL), the BMC Access and Conservation Trust and the generosity of over 60 individuals, over £190,000 was raised to bring this vital crossing back to life.



Notes from the community

"I first visited this area as a teenager in 1978. I am now a Senior Citizen, retiring next week, and shall look forward to another visit to the area. Certainly very relieved to have our little bridge back."

Anonymous donor



"It's so vital that everyone collaborates on these small but hugely important projects because access is for everyone - not just for the walkers and climbers but the whole of the local community."

Henry Folkard

BMC Peak District Access
Area Coordinator

Brunt's Barn Accessible Garden

Spring 2024 saw the start of building works for a wheelchair accessible outdoor classroom and wildlife garden at the Peak District National Park Authority's conservation volunteer base in Grindleford.

The space is now up and running and enables people with physical or learning disabilities to take part in conservation volunteering, develop green skills and enjoy the health and wellbeing benefits of spending time in nature. Users have included students from Rotherham Opportunities College, which helps young people aged 16–25 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) develop skills and experiences to prepare for adulthood.



Students from Rotherham Opportunities College gardening at Brunt's Barn

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a blue beanie, sunglasses, a pink jacket, and orange gloves, stands in a garden. She is positioned behind a wooden raised garden bed filled with soil and small green seedlings. In the background, there are other garden beds, a greenhouse, and several people. A blue speech bubble is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing a quote. Below the quote, the name 'Nicola Lane' and 'Rotherham Opportunities College' are written. A shovel is visible in the foreground on the right.

"The students have gained skills in the garden; they have grown in confidence, knowing the plants need water or what tools to use for what job. For me, I see them develop their communication skills, their team skills, bond with each other, laugh and have fun, and relax. It has given them so much."

Nicola Lane
Rotherham Opportunities
College

Visitor Centres

In 2023, the Peak District National Park Authority's Visitor Centres were at risk of closing due to financial pressures. Thanks to a major multi-year gift from an anonymous donor, we have been working closely with the Park Authority to create a new, sustainable model for visitor and bike hire centres.



© Peak District National Park Authority

These sites will inspire visitors to learn about and protect the Peak District, whilst being underpinned by a financial model that secures their long-term future. If successful, it could become a model for visitor centres across other National Parks.

The funding has helped cover the immediate shortfall, keeping centres open while a consultation and development programme takes place. Now the focus is on maximising the potential of the Park's two largest centres in Castleton and Bakewell, as well as bike hire sites. A Business Change Manager was appointed to help design better business models, uncover new revenue opportunities, and strengthen what these centres offer.

We are deeply grateful to our donor whose support has made this work possible.

Vision for Peak District Visitor Centres:

"To help people engage with and understand the National Park and its unique qualities — while showing the vital role the Park Authority plays in preserving the Park for everyone, now and in the future."



© Peak District National Park Authority

© Peak District National Park Authority

Connect Fund

In our biggest year yet for the Connect Fund, we awarded £10,225 to 28 projects.

By supporting schools, community organisations, youth groups and refugee support groups, this funding enabled 723 people from disadvantaged and marginalised communities to visit the Peak District.



"Our friends live in shared houses and hostels in the busy city of Derby; they truly appreciated and benefitted from the freedom of the countryside and the relaxation of the whole day."

Derbyshire Refugee Solidarity

"Feeling supported and protected, encouraged and nurtured as a brown woman artist meant that I could be more courageous than I could have imagined."

ID on Tyne

"I love getting out in the woods as it helps with my mind, and to get away from things I can't deal with. It's been really nice and refreshing to meet people in situations like myself."

Social Material

"Had one of the most life changing weekends in the Peak District climbing, hiking and cycling outdoors with 80+ BPOC folks of all ages. Nature and community are so healing."

Wanderers of Colour





People of the Peak

We're thrilled to have secured £204,376 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund to kick off the development phase of People of the Peak—an ambitious project to transform how we protect and celebrate the Peak District's rich cultural heritage.

With a focus on dramatically diversifying and expanding our volunteer base, we aim to create inclusive opportunities for people of all backgrounds to get involved in heritage conservation. We're incredibly grateful to National Lottery players for making it possible to take this important first step.



Landscapes Unlocked

We're proud to launch Landscapes Unlocked, a landmark project made possible by generous funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, The Pilgrim Trust, The Wolfson Foundation, and The National Archives.

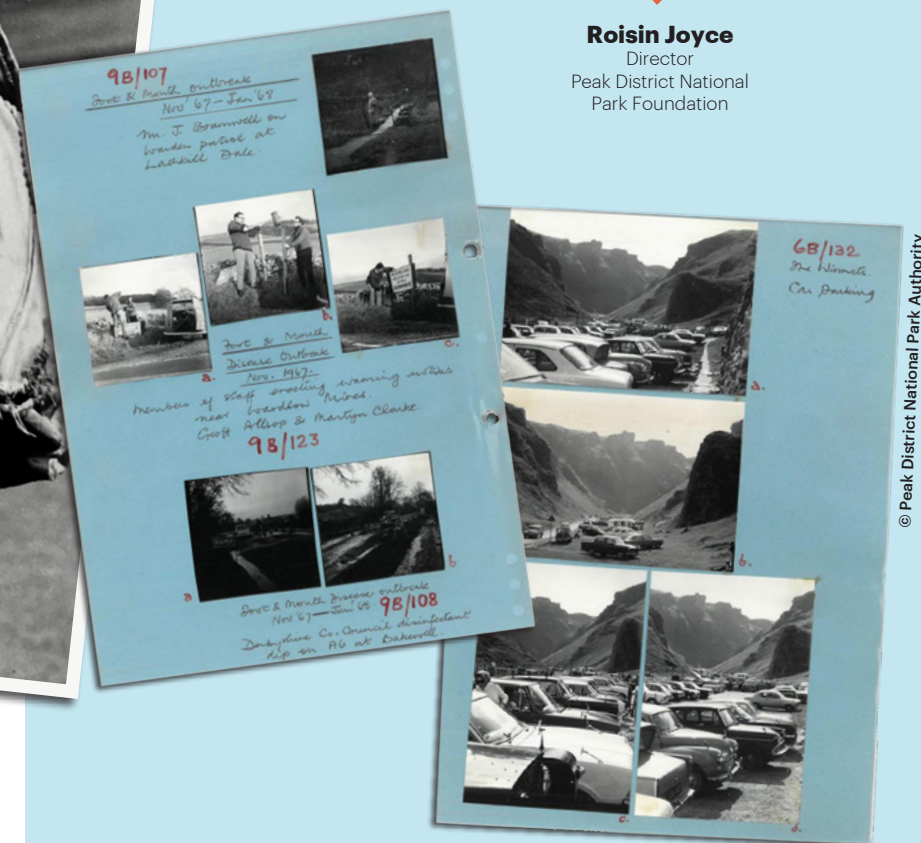
In partnership with the Peak District National Park Authority and Derbyshire Record Office, we will create the UK's first publicly accessible image archive from a national park. This will include over 40,000 images documenting the people, places and changes across the National Park throughout the 20th Century. The archive will provide a vital new resource for research, education and storytelling.



"This collection tells us about the changes to people and nature in our national parks... and has huge potential to help us better understand landscape change, a vital research area in the face of climate change."

Roisin Joyce

Director
Peak District National
Park Foundation



**ARCHIVES
REVEALED**

Made possible with
**Heritage
Fund**

**Pilgrim
Trust**

The Wolfson*
Foundation

THE	
NATIONAL	
ARCHIVES	

Thank You



Our funders

- Accessible Derbyshire
- Alpkit Foundation
- The Bingham Trust
- The Big Give
- Derbyshire Environmental Trust
- The Duke of Devonshire's Charitable Trust
- Emmanuel and Edwina Grodzinski Charitable Trust
- Fat Face Foundation
- Forest Holidays
- Giffgaff
- Leonard Curtis LLP
- The National Archives
- The National Lottery Heritage Fund
- Pearl & Dean
- Pilgrim Trust
- Ramble Worldwide Education Trust
- SC Johnson
- Tarmac Landfill Communities Fund
- The Wolfson Foundation

Peak Partners

Gold

- Breedon Cement Ltd
- Bumper International Ltd
- Cafédirect Plc
- Equip Outdoor Technologies UK Ltd
- Visit Peak District and Derbyshire

Silver

- Carbon Jacked Ltd
- Feel Good Do Good Ltd
- Mount Cook Adventure Centre Ltd
- Pinelodge Holidays Ltd
- Trails for Good Ltd
- White Peak Planning Ltd

Bronze

- Be Your Best Version Ltd
- Canine Cottages
- Helen Rose Photography
- Holiday Cottages
- PAF Consulting Ltd
- Peak Cottages
- Phil Sproson Photography
- Reynolds Research

A huge thank you to the Peak District National Park Authority. Their continued support for core costs means that we can focus our funding on vital projects in the Peak District.

Finally, thank you to all of our donors whose generosity is helping us to protect the Peak District for generations to come.





Impact Report 2024– 2025

The Peak District National Park Foundation

Aldern House, Baslow Road
Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1AE

01629 700606

hello@peakdistrictfoundation.gov.uk

