

Buxton Mountain Rescue Team Environment, Conservation and Access Policy

Amended by the Trustees of B. M. R. T. July 2003

Buxton Mountain Rescue Team shall always endeavour to minimise the detrimental impact of its actions on the environment and will, in all its activities, respect the conservation of the national heritage.

Buxton Mountain Rescue Team shall also endeavour to minimise its disturbance of people living in rural areas and the disruption of farming or country practices.

Except in the course of a rescue whereby human life or injury to human life is endangered, Buxton Mountain Rescue Team shall never knowingly or deliberately carry out any act which may permanently;

- Damage land or any natural feature of the land.
- Damage any flora growing on the land or the habitat of such flora.
- Disturb any wildlife or the habitat and breeding areas of such wildlife.
- Pollute, dam or divert any watercourse.
- Disturb and endanger any farm animal.
- Destroy or damage any growing crop including hedges and trees.
- Damage any property including walls, fences, gates and signs.
- Obstruct free public or private access along any road, track or footpath.
- Obstruct free passageway into or out of any gateway.

Buxton Mountain Rescue Team shall, in pursuance of this policy, adopt the following principles for access onto land for training purposes.

- Always seek permission from the landowner before using any land for training purposes.
- Provide third party liability insurance cover through The Mountain Rescue Council of England & Wales.
- Attempt to use a variety of different areas to minimise environment or conservation issues through over use.
- Attempt to use land best suited to the particular type of training to be undertaken.
- Formulate a training programme with consideration and respect of the environmental and conservation policies of the British Mountaineering Council, The National Trust, The Peak District National Park and other similar bodies.

- Respect known flora and fauna on the nominated land and consider the impact of the training event at that specific time of year.
- Obey any nesting, shooting or other access restrictions legally imposed or requested by the landowner or tenant.
- Shall not permit any dog to be off lead other than dogs registered with the Search & Rescue Dog Association.
- Where belay anchor points are required natural features will be used as a first choice.
- Where trees are used as belay anchor points ensure such protection is provided to prevent damage to the bark.
- Where natural belay anchors are not appropriate and ground stakes are used ensure the land is returned to its natural state after removal.
- Where climbing nuts are used careful consideration will be given to the rock structure to prevent damage the crag.
- Rock pegs or rock bolts will not be used.
- Popular climbing crags will not be used for training whereby such training will prevent public use.
- Stretcher work will not be practiced on popular climbing areas.
- The crag top will be protected to prevent soil or vegetation damage by rope movement.
- Any accidental damage caused will be reported to the landowner or tenant as soon as is possible.