



# **BMC North West Area**

---

**Online (Zoom) meeting  
Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022 19:00**

- Slides - on BMC Communities site
  - <https://community.thebmc.co.uk/>
- Recorded
- Microphones - off
- Chat - questions, issues

# Welcome

---

- New to Zoom?
- New to BMC meetings?
- Ask questions, give comments
- Keep it concise (if you can)
- Civilised - new ideas
- Not a SPAG test
- Problem? message in chat
- Bear with us - give us feedback

**Lovely to  
see you**

---



## Area Meeting Agenda

- |     |   |         |
|-----|---|---------|
| 1.  | Welcome and apologies for absence                                     | 3 mins  |
| 2.  | New Co-Chairs and Secretary – introduction and outline of priorities  | 5 mins  |
| 3.  | Minutes of Ordinary Area Meeting held on 25-10-2021                   |         |
| 4.  | Matters arising not covered elsewhere                                 | 2 mins  |
| 5.  | Reports from area representatives                                     |         |
|     | • Access  | 15 mins |
|     | • Clubs   | 5 mins  |
|     | • Hill Walking  | 10 mins |
|     | • Youth and Walls   | 10 mins |
| 6.  | North West events calendar – recap of upcoming events                 | 5 mins  |
| 7.  | Ideas for future meetings and other events (venues, activities, etc.) | 15 mins |
| 8.  | Report from most recent Members Council                               | 15 mins |
| 9.  | Any other business  | 5 mins  |
| 10. | Date of next meeting – Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2022             | NA      |

# Committee introduction

Katie Allen – Co-chair

Interests: climbing and hiking

Based in south Manchester

Contact: [bmcnwchair@gmail.com](mailto:bmcnwchair@gmail.com)



Agustin Guardiola – Co-Chair

Interests: climbing, fell running and hiking

Based in south Manchester

Contact: [bmcnwchair@gmail.com](mailto:bmcnwchair@gmail.com)



Katie Coffield – Secretary

Interests: hiking, climbing and skiing

Based in south Manchester

Contact: [bmcnwsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:bmcnwsecretary@gmail.com)





# Committee priorities for 2022

## Succession planning

Actively recruit more volunteers to share the workload and ensure smooth succession planning for when existing volunteers stand down.

## Engage with more BMC members and promote inclusivity

## Trialling smaller independent meetings that report on main meetings

e.g. Belmont access meeting (spring)

## Introducing a Wilton Management Group annual report

## Items 3 - 4

3. Minutes of previous area meeting

4. Matters arising not covered elsewhere



## **Agenda Item 5**

### **Area Reps Reports**

**The volunteers who make the magic happen**

**Access & Guides**

**Les Ainsworth & Mark Hounslea**

**Clubs**

**Dominic Oughton**

**Hill Walking**

**Steve Charles**

**Youth & Walls**

**Stuart Holmes**



# Access Issues

Jan 2022

Les Ainsworth

# Wilton One

Because of work I could not manage to get to the tree planting at Wilton One, but six volunteers came along and all the trees that the BMC provided were planted above Grey and Red Walls. There was quite a lot of rock to be dug out, so we shall now just have to wait and see how the new tree fare.

At the other end of Wilton One, especially at the Allotment there are still several self-seeded small trees and saplings close to the foot of the rock. For any climbers who want to help out with keeping our crags in good condition, please take a bow saw and spend an hour or so removing this growth from the area immediately below the rock in Wilton One.

# Egerton

Egerton is a great quarry, but visitors tend to focus just on the area between **Red Wall** and **Cherry Bomb**. This is a great pity, because since Lancs Rock (2016) a lot of good climbing has become overgrown. This process has then been exacerbated by a lack of traffic and the longer that the routes are left in their current condition, the harder it is going to be to restore them.

Recent work by a handful of volunteers has made a great improvement to the right-hand side of Grooved Walls and the routes on the Lower Tier of the Empty Quarter (i.e. right of **Forgotten Roof**), which are both now well worth a visit. This shows what can be done, but there are still some areas urgently in need of some TLC. Therefore, I would like to ask for some volunteers to spend a couple of hours restoring Egerton by going over there and doing any of the following:

**Grooved Walls:** Removing vegetation and some saplings from the left-hand side (i.e. up to **Vlad**).

**Amphitheatre Area:** There has been a significant rockfall on **Spindrift**, so could someone check it out to assess whether it is still viable, but take care, it still appears that there is some doubtful rock.

**Wood Buttress:** Much of this buttress could benefit from a good brushing and there is some digging to be done on the ledges right of **Wednesday Corner**.

# Silverdale Sea Cliffs

I am pleased to be able to report that there is now climbing access to all but one buttress on the coast immediately north of Silverdale.

This sport climbing area has been well bolted by Andy Hyslop and friends and it provides some pleasant varied climbing.

Climbers wishing to visit should obtain a Costa Silverdale guide by Andy Hyslop, which is available as a downloadable pdf. The most appropriate parking is probably just short of the beach, close to the Silverdale Hotel. The access arrangements are very straightforward and are:

1. Currently there is no climbing on la Republica.
2. No new bolts are to be added without agreement from the land owners.
3. Park sensitively and don't leave any litter.

Climbers should also be careful to monitor the tides, which can come in very quickly and catch out many visitors.

## General

This year I am trying to improve the parking at two crags and to focus the restrictions for nesting birds at two other locations. I will keep local climbers informed of any progress.

As usual, I am afraid that I am disappointed to note that so few climbers are being proactive in caring for the crags and climbs within the North West. The stats are obvious; if every climber in our area spent just a couple of hours every two or three years we could easily maintain most of our routes and climbing areas in pristine condition, but still the vast majority just leave it to others. Indeed, if when we each came across a bit of new growth on a route we spent just a few seconds removing it before it took hold, there would be virtually no need for more extensive cleaning.

So I am saying to all of you that if you come across a climb that is becoming overgrown, don't just move to another route, but come back and clean it. Similarly, if there is a bit of litter at the crag or brambles on the path, do something about it. That way we can all benefit from a much better climbing environment and, perhaps more to the point, those few dedicated climbers who do more than their bit in maintaining our climbing, can spend more of their time climbing.



# Clubs

**An update from Dom...**

# Hillwalking Report, January 2022



Steve Charles

## **Nationally**

- No current initiatives to report

## **Locally**

- Walks
- Upland restoration projects

# Hill walks in 2022

- Calendar not yet complete
- JAW (Joint area walk) with Peak area, date TBC
- Open club walk with Rucsac Club, date TBC
  - Offers from other clubs welcomed!
- Area walks:
  - Forest of Bowland
  - Winter Hill
  - Black Hill
  - Anyone interested in suggesting/leading a walk contact me!



# Upland Restoration Projects

2021

- Moss Planting Holcombe Moor Feb 2021
- Invasive species clearance Nov/Dec 2021
  - Fantastic response from members
  - Over 40 people signed up
  - 2 dates arranged, but extra date arranged to try and accommodate everyone



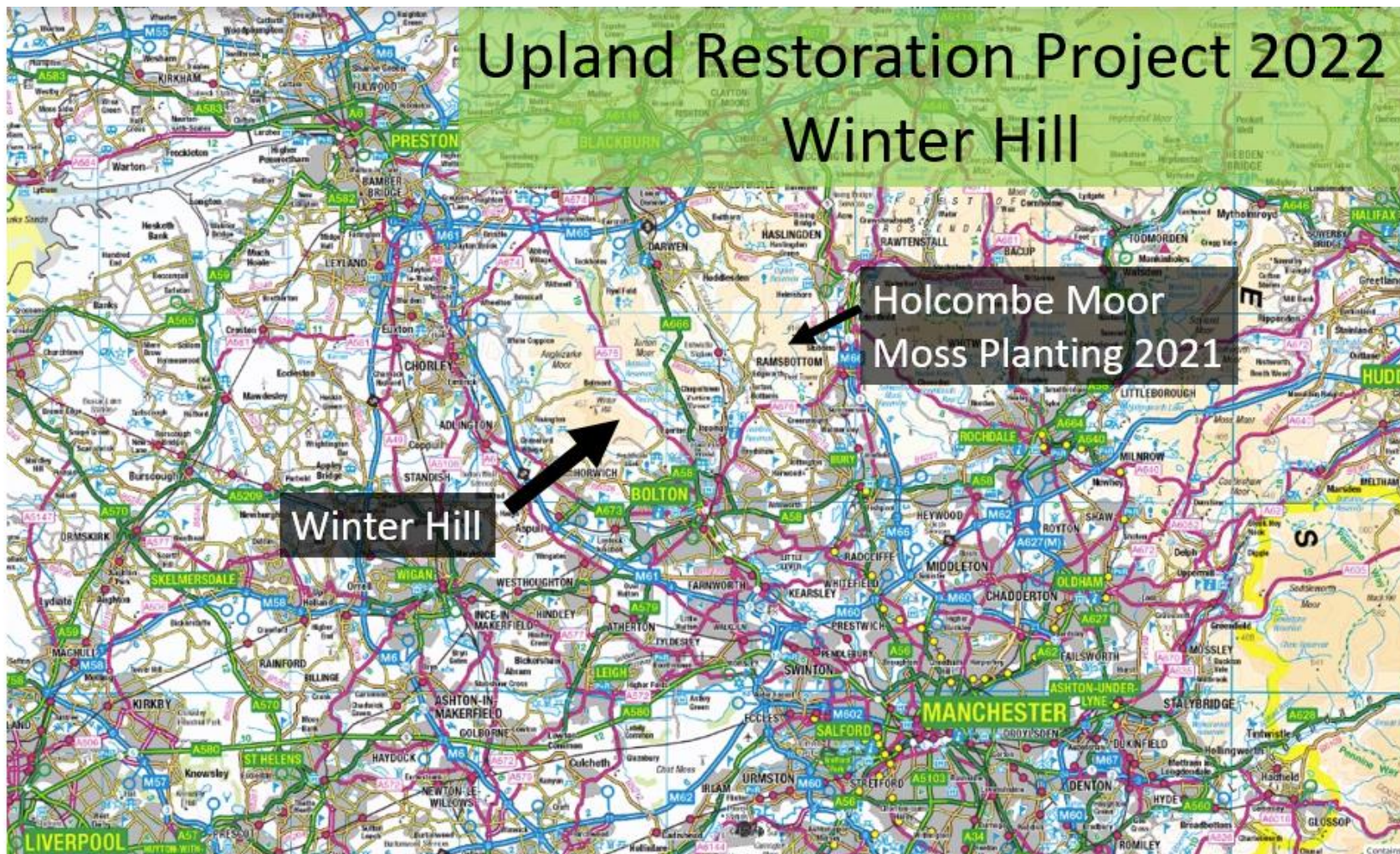


# Upland Restoration Project 2022

## Winter Hill

Holcombe Moor  
Moss Planting 2021

Winter Hill





# Winter Hill 2021

- Invasive species removal (rhododendron)
- Challenging weather but 22 people turned up over 3 days
  - Sub-zero temps, high winds, rain
- Very successful, hundreds of plants removed
- One more date for Feb
- Then more after bird ground nesting season



# Plans for 2022

## Walks

5 walks agreed just awaiting dates  
Further ideas/ volunteers  
welcome!



## Upland Restoration Projects

### Winter Hill

- Invasive species clearance  
Extra date 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb
- Moss planting 6000 plugs  
11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> March
- Further rhodo clearance in  
Autumn in better weather!



Please contact: [stevecharles25@gmail.com](mailto:stevecharles25@gmail.com)  
if you want to get involved in hillwalking events, or  
just vaguely interested!

Clean-ups

Upland restoration projects

Ideas for Walks

Organise a walk

More volunteer reps needed!





# Youth & Walls

**An update from Stuart...**

## 6. NW Events calendar 2022

- Invasive species clearance at Winter Hill - 23rd February
- Moss planting at Winter Hill - 11th and 12th March
- Several walks planned - dates to be announced in due course
- Area meetings on 18th April, 21st June and 24th October (October date also includes AGM)
- Wilton Fest 3rd September (?)
- What else? Stay tuned for the next agenda item :)
- Check the BMC Communities NW page (<https://community.thebmc.co.uk/ListEvents.aspx>) and the BMC NW Facebook page for event details.

## 7. Ideas for future meetings and other events

- Location
- Theme e.g hike, crag clean up, conservation, pub quiz

All ideas are welcome, we want to hear from you. We will send out a survey after this meeting where you can express your views and thoughts.

# Final Agenda Items

- 8. Report from Members Council & related topics
- 9. Any other business
- 10. Next meeting Monday 18-04-2022, format tbc



**Thanks**

**How was it?**

**Please pop comments in chat:**

**What went well?**

**What could be better?**

**What was missing that you'd like to see?**

---