

# Crompton Moor

The site of Crompton Moor is made up of a variety of habitats including open moorland, plantation pine woodland and dramatic quarries. This 75 hectare site rises above the town of Shaw and forms a gateway to the Pennine Hills and beyond.

Enjoy walking, horse riding, cycling, and bird watching. For a more challenging outdoor pursuit, why not try one of the permanent orienteering courses or the heritage trail?



## Wildlife

Designated a Site of Biological Importance (SBI) in 2003, this extensive area of moorland consists of a mixture of acid grassland, marshy grassland, dry heath and a wet bog. Much of the site is dominated by purple-moor grass with areas of significant heather cover. There are also coniferous plantations and woodland cloughs. Old Brook is the main stream that flows through the site, which falls over the edge of Pingot Quarry to form an impressive waterfall.

The site is of considerable value to birds with a large variety that can be found including, kestrel, red grouse, golden plover, snipe, curlew and meadow pipit. Animals that can be seen include fox, weasel, common shrew, stoat and hare.

## Recreation Activities

### Walking

There are several walks on the moor of different levels and a history trail depicting various features of interest on the site. Various public footpaths and desire lines criss-cross the moor, the Oldham Way and the Crompton Circuit walks also run through the site.

Details of these walks can be found online at [www.oldham.gov.uk](http://www.oldham.gov.uk).

### Orienteering

In conjunction with the Greater Manchester Orienteering Council a permanent course has been installed on the moor. There are several courses including a challenging 'light green' course for more experienced orienteers. Maps are available from Alexandra Park and can also be downloaded at [www.gmoa.org.uk](http://www.gmoa.org.uk)

### Horse riding/cycling

A concessionary bridleway circuit for horses and cyclists links Brushes Clough quarry with the moorland – maps can be downloaded from [www.oldham.gov.uk](http://www.oldham.gov.uk). Other activities include picnicking, bird watching, and dog walking.



## Management for recreation and wildlife

A significant amount of funding has helped to improve the moorland habitats for wildlife, including restoring areas severely damaged by fire, increasing the heather on the moor, creating wet heath and pond areas, restoring drystone walls, the regeneration of clough woodlands, and the management of conifer plantations for wildlife. The path and bridleway network has been enhanced and the access track and car park to Brushes Clough have been refurbished. This site is jointly cared for by Oldham Council, The Oldham Countryside Service Volunteers and The Friends of Crompton Moor. Please contact Environmental Services if you would like to get involved in conservation and management tasks on the moor.



## The Influence of Man – Farming

Originally this site was heather moorland and following enclosure acts in the 18th century several farms were built, the remains of which can still be seen. Around each farm the land was divided into fields used mainly as pasture for cattle and sheep – the dry stone wall field boundaries can still be seen.

## Mining and Quarrying

This area has also been mined for coal as the rock of the moor contains bands of coal very close to the surface. Remains of spoil heaps and disused mine shafts can still be seen. The coal was used at local farms and taken to Shaw to fuel the steam driven machinery in the mills. Sandstone quarrying commenced in the late 19th Century at Brushes Clough and Pingot Quarries and continued until the early part of the 20th Century. During the 1970's the quarry areas were reclaimed, thousands of trees were planted and the site was transformed into an area for recreation. Brushes Clough reservoir was constructed in the early part of the 19th Century using stone quarried on site.

## Contact:

Environmental Services,  
Alexandra Park,  
Kings Road, Oldham,  
OL8 2BH

E: [environmentalservices@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:environmentalservices@oldham.gov.uk)  
T: 0161 770 4056



No motorbikes

No camping

No fires

