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#WORLDWILDLIFEDAY2025

UK LAWS PROTECTING UK MOORLANDS





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THE WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT (1981)

What is it?

This law is a cornerstone of UK conservation, offering legal protection to rare species and habitats.

- Illegal to harm or disturb protected species (e.g., hen harriers)
- Protects breeding grounds of rare moorland birds
- Safeguards habitats from destructive activities





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THE COUNTRYSIDE AND RIGHTS OF WAY ACT (2000) (CROW ACT)

What is it?

Right to Roam – but with
protections!

- Defines public rights-of-way clearly
- Strengthens protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)
- Empowers authorities to enforce habitat protection





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SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST (SSSIS) & SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION (SACS)

What is it? Conservation designation for high-value habitats.

- Highest protection from damaging activities
- Conservation plans required by law
- Important for biodiversity and rare wildlife





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THE HEATHER & GRASS BURNING REGULATIONS (2021)

**What is it? Limits
controlled burning on
moorlands.**

- Restricts burning on peatlands to prevent carbon emissions
- Protects sensitive habitats from fire damage
- Promotes alternative habitat management





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ONGOING THREATS TO MOORLANDS

- Illegal burning and persecution of wildlife
- Habitat loss from intensive farming and construction
- Climate change impacting sensitive ecosystems





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HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Report illegal activities
- Support local conservation projects
- Advocate for stronger protections

