**FIRST BRITISH WOMAN TO TRY AN EXOSKELETON**

Sophie Morgan was paralysed from the chest down at just eighteen and she was one of the first to try out the new technology here. This is her story:

It was 2003 and I was eighteen years old. I’d just left school and spent the summer travelling, I was having the time of my life. But then one night my life changed forever. A car accident damaged my spine and nearly killed me. I was paralysed from the chest down and would never walk again. My priorities quickly changed as I was forced to reassess my life and I decided to swap law school for art school. I’ve not let my disability hold me back and I know I can do anything I want to, but the one thing I can’t do is stand up. This is Rex, an exoskeleton robot from New Zealand which is going to enable me to stand up. This pioneering technology has just arrived in the UK. It’s just something that really is something from a dream. Technology is finally enabling disabled people to defy their physical restrictions. Walking along Brighton beach was incredible and returning in a wheelchair will never be the same. But the costs are out of reach for many and the pace is slow, but knows where we’ll be ten years from now? I could even be running down Brighton beach.

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