

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (as  
amended)**

**PROOF OF EVIDENCE ADDENDUM**

**EVIDENCE OF FACT – DAN RICHMOND-WATSON**

**Appeal against enforcement notice issued by Peak  
District National Park Authority by Dunlin Limited**

**Planning Inspectorate Reference:**

**APP/M9496/C/18/3215789**

**Site: Land at Mickleden Edge, Midhope Moor, Bradfield,  
South Yorkshire, S36 4GX**

**Date: June 2021**

1. With the delay in the hearing date for this Appeal several seasons have passed since I submitted my Proof of Evidence. With passage of time the management of the moor has continued including ongoing monitoring and maintenance works to the track as well as other further developments which I will discuss below.

### **Capital & Other Works**

2. In February 2021 I engaged in a discussion with Natural England for further works to improve and restore the moor (see email dated 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021, **Appendix 1**). Through a series of emails it was established that grant funding was available for a Feasibility Study, both to truth find new areas that could be improved as well as carrying out an assessment of the success of previous work. This falls under Option PA2 of the Countryside Stewardship Scheme and is the starting point for a further agreed capital and other works programme as part of Natural England's Environmental Land Management system.
3. I duly applied to Anne Goodenough at Natural England (**see Appendix 2**). This application was subsequently approved by the Rural Payments Agency and Anne was kind enough to supply a suggested format for the 'Brief for the Feasibility Study for Midhope Moor' (see **Appendix 3**).
4. The Brief is essentially an information document which is provided to third party contractors to allow them to quote competitively. After some of to-ing and fro-ing with Natural England the Brief is close to being agreed and will be circulated to contracts. This will allow us to progress with the project in the Autumn.

5. I fully expect the study to confirm that not only has the initial restoration been a success but also that the land, initially earmarked for restoration by Moors for the Future, but below the agreed 500m contour agreed with Natural England under the original Higher Level Stewardship Scheme in 2013, will also require restoration works. The Feasibility Study will specify the nature of the works but they are likely to include capital and maintenance works similar to those carried out under the existing HLS agreement. There is also likely to be a requirement for some maintenance works to the original gully blocking as the original capital works programme has had time to bed in. Both maintenance and further capital works will require use of the track for access.
6. The Track has continued to be used for the general management of the moor and has been specifically used to access the land beyond to carry out controlled burning and cutting of vegetation over the winter 2020/21. This work has been carried out, not only to reduce the combustible biomass and create fire breaks which reduce the wildfire risk, but also to regenerate the vegetation and allow other species, other than heather, to thrive.
7. Also over the winter of 2020/21 Moors for the Future Partnership carried out extensive works to the Cut Gate Path which included slabs being flown in by helicopters, the inversion of subsoils and re-profiling the track edges by excavators.

### **Fire Risk**

8. In late 2020 Anthony Barber-Lomax, Managing Agent of Fitzwilliam Wentworth Estates, embarked on the production of a Wildfire Risk and Mitigation Plan on behalf of the Peak District National Park Authority. The plan initially looked at the Derwent Massif, of which Midhope forms part. Using the Upland Management Group's Wildfire Matrix, as well as expert input from Steve Gibson, NFCC Wildfire Tactical Advisor and a Spanish

wildfire specialist who is, I understand an expert in this field of world renown.

9. The initial findings of this Report show that the land to the west of Midhope, owned by the National Trust, is extremely vulnerable to wildfire due, not only to the significant and increasing combustible biomass burden but also due to the land's inaccessibility to the emergency services. Some plans specifically related to Midhope from this work are included at **Appendix 4**
  
10. As previously set out the Midhope track was used by keepers in 2016 to access and put out a wildfire on c. 100 hectares to the west of Midhope. The National Trust's all terrain vehicle turned over, injuring two people and Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service's vehicle got stuck, both trying to access the site from the Derwent valley.

#### **Track Maintenance**

11. In May 2021 a further treatment of lime, seed and fertiliser, as well as heather brash was applied to the site and an additional 200 pegs were installed on areas where the matting had bubbled. Both of these applications have worked well and the track is blending in well with its surroundings. This process of monitoring and maintenance will continue.

## Appendix 1

## Appendix 2

## Appendix 3

## Appendix 4