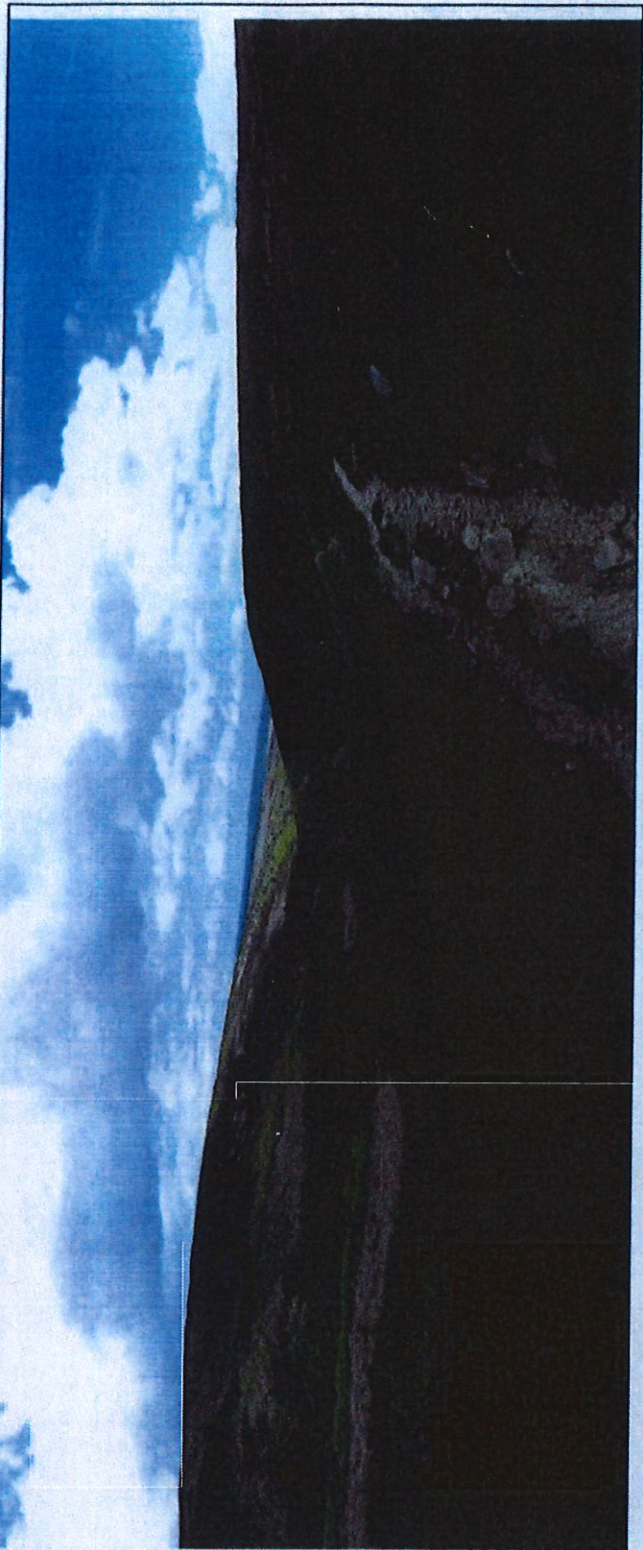




G

SK 1935 9762

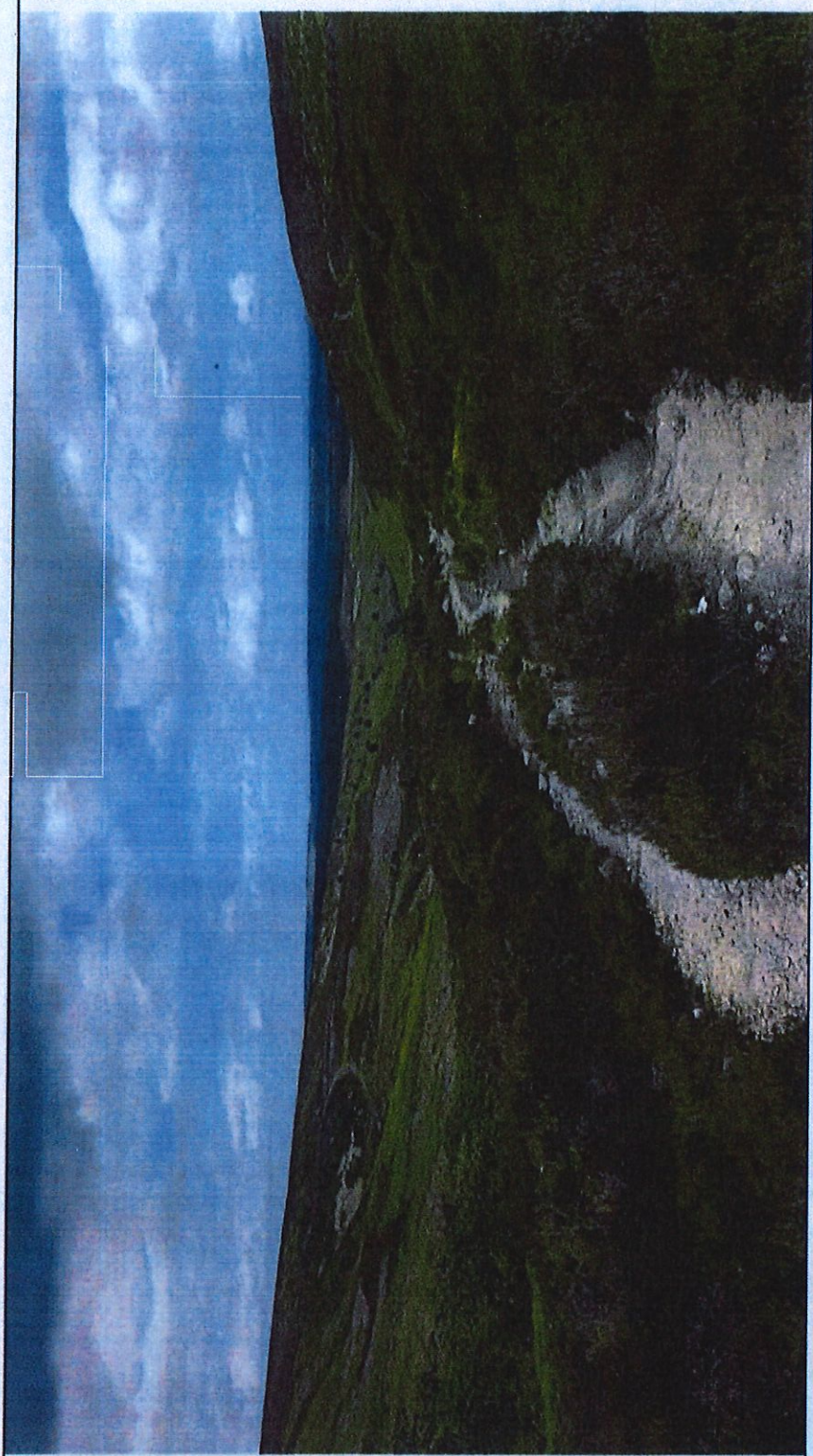


H

SK 1936 9758



SK 1937 9755



J

SK 1939 9747



K

SK 1937 9743



7. Planning Policy:

The Local Development Framework was adopted in 2011 and the area over which the development has taken place is identified as within the natural Zone. Policies L1 Landscape Character and valued Characteristics and L2 Sites of Biodiversity or Geo-diversity importance are the two key policies.

The applicant recognises the importance of protecting and enhancing this sensitive and important landscape. The very reason for undertaking the development is to prevent further degradation to this area of land whilst facilitating access to undertake wider moorland restoration work. The landscape and valued characteristics of the site thus being further enhanced through the areas of bare ground being restored and the route seeded to enable revegetation. The sites Biodiversity or geo-diversity importance has been recognised and the European designations addressed with Natural England who were consulted before installation and consented to the works being undertaken. It was deemed that the works were required to complete the wider moorland restoration whilst addressing the previous deterioration caused by the previous owner.

The site lies within the Dark Peak and classified as Open Moorland, within the Landscape Strategy and Action Plan 2009. Within this document it lists three key guidelines to manage this area of land.

1. Manage the network of tracks and footpaths to maximise opportunities to enjoy the landscape
2. Enhance and restore moorland landscapes
3. Encourage diverse approaches in moorland management

The works undertaken through this application meet all of the above. The route was an existing track that had been badly degraded through miss management by the previous owner. The works undertaken set to restore and enhance the previously degraded route with a long term sensitive solution, permitting access for wider moorland restoration works. The adopted approach is diverse, set to protect and enhance the wider moorland landscape.

8. Summary

In summary this route has been used to traverse the valley providing access to the wider moorland for a number of years by previous owners. Repair works having been previously undertaken to prevent further deterioration to the route by previous owners.

The works were undertaken with the support of Natural England, the government agency responsible for overseeing European Designated sites and its purpose is to accommodate a wider Stewardship Scheme. The matting offers a viable long term access across this difficult terrain. The route is essential for the restoration of the wider moor, estate management, livestock enterprise and emergency response. The matting has been laid to protect and enhance the area and restore previous damage, which we believe meets the requirements of the local and national planning policies and that of the relevant government organisations.

In the event that retrospect planning should not be granted and enforcement action undertaken, to see the matting removed, the restoration of this area will be significantly delayed and the previous good work undone. The removal of the matting may also cause damage to the vegetation and underlying peat body. Furthermore it will prevent the continued restoration of the wider moor, which has commenced. It is however hoped that the good stewardship undertaken by the current owner with the support of Natural England to rectify the previous deterioration in condition will be recognised and planning permission granted.

Appendix One: Photographs taken July 2017

