

Proposal for appointment to the Joint Advisory Committee

- i. representative from the Moorland Association

Background

The Moorland Association

The MA is a member's organisation for the owners and managers of moorland in England and Wales representing over 1 million acres of uplands. It has representatives on the executive committees for both Nidderdale and North Pennines AONB.

The object of the Association is:

*To encourage the conservation of heather moorland in England and Wales (the “**Moors**”) for the lasting benefit of all persons entitled to enjoy it by conserving and encouraging the Red Grouse and its habitat and by promoting the conservation and enhancement of the ecology and natural beauty of heather moorland and the proper standards of livestock husbandry and by promoting public awareness of the importance of the Moors and their impact on the economy of their locality.*

Within the Forest of Bowland AONB, the Moorland Association membership covers over 26,000 ha; roughly one third of the designated area and almost all of the area above the moorland line. Members include a wide range from small syndicate shoots to large corporate land owners such as United Utilities who collectively are custodians of almost all of the acreage of the Bowland Fells SSSI and SPA.

Current key issues for the Association

The Moorland Association is well aware of the importance of hen harriers in both a national context and also locally for the Forest of Bowland AONB Partnership. It is committed to hosting more hen harriers on more grouse moors in a sustainable way and is working with Defra and partners to finalise a Joint Recovery Plan. The Moorland Association condemns all wildlife crime and illegal activity.

The Moorland Association is also committed to improving the functioning of deep peat across its landholding. Over 90% of all upland peatland restoration in England to date has been on moors with management for red grouse. The MA is working at a national level with Defra, Natural England, protected landscapes and other organisations to investigate how land managers can help to speed up the restoration process whilst balancing outcomes for grouse and sheep.

Decision required

The Committee is requested to:

- i. consider this proposal and if minded, approve the appointment of a nominated representative from the Moorland Association to the Joint Advisory Committee