

Dear Darren Green

**Access to information request – RFI 1710**

Thank you for the very comprehensive reply to my Environmental Information Regulations request which I sent to you in late September this year.

I would like to challenge your reply in *section 3- Blanket bog draining*, that

*“ From the information Natural England holds, there are no Natural England consents which would permit the drainage of blanket bog”*

I believe that this is incorrect in relation to the March 2012 Consent for Walshaw Moor Estate Ltd. This Consent allows the maintenance of drainage within a 50 metre radius of grouse butts. There is a long line of newish grouse butts on the very degraded, heavily-drained blanket bog on Heather Hill. Maintenance of these drains, as permitted in the Consent, will surely prevent the recovery of this blanket bog.

I attach photos showing the Heather Hill grouse butts, drains and degraded state of the blanket bog. (This includes photos of denuded peat, dying sphagnum moss (which is in very short supply compared to what is present in healthy blanket bog and encroaching heather.) I took the photos in August this year. I've reduced the resolution of the photos in the hope that this will allow them to go by email

From this evidence it seems clear that the March 2012 Consent for Walshaw Moor Estate Ltd allows highly damaging drainage of blanket bog on Heather Hill to continue. I would appreciate information about how Natural England can justify this, given its duty to protect blanket bog habitats according to the EU Habitats Directive.

Kind regards

Jenny Shepherd

Jenny Shepherd  
Web Content Creator, Writer, Digital Filmmaker  
01422 842468, 07974 302 437  
[www.energyroyd.org.uk](http://www.energyroyd.org.uk)  
[Linked In](#)

10 Attached Images







