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DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT / SUPPORTING STATEMENT

The accompanying documents are presented in support of the Project in relation to the Jugger Howe Nature Trail on Fylingdales Moor.

Fylingdales Moor occupies 6.8 thousand acres of (mainly) heather moorland on the eastern side of the North York Moors National Park. The former Grouse Moor is owned by Sir Frederic Strickland-Constable, and is now managed exclusively for wildlife conservation and upland sheep farming. The Moor is a SSSI, SAC and SPA for its bird assemblages (e.g. Merlin and Golden Plover) and is an important archaeological site. The moor is also home to a number of rare plant species, and Jugger Howe beck holds important populations of Water Voles.

Since 2006, the Hawk and Owl Trust has been responsible for the conservation management of the moor (previously under the WES agreement; currently under the Higher Level Environmental Stewardship Scheme (HLS)). The Trust is also responsible for delivery of the Outreach and Education aspects of the HLS.

As part of our programmes of wildlife conservation and outreach and education, the Trust began to plan a Nature Trail on the moor in order to encourage greater public enjoyment, understanding and appreciation of the moorland ecosystem, its archaeology and moorland management regimes. With the help of the National Park Authority, and advice from Natural England, we have mapped-out and way-marked the route of the Trail. Where appropriate, heather has been cut on the trail route, and some slopes have been stabilised with recycled wood from Jugger Howe beck. The trail has been surveyed for adjacent plants and other wildlife in preparation for the production of a Trail leaflet giving information about what to look out for when walking the Trail. This leaflet will be produced by the Hawk and Owl Trust. Thus, we have now reached the point where the completion of the project requires the purchase and installation of the boardwalks as outlined in the specification.

Discussions have previously taken place with the NPA's Rangers, Ecologist, Archaeologist and Farm & Moorland Officer regarding this project due to the special nature of this moorland, and all work has been supported by them.

The purpose of the boardwalks is to provide good proactive access management. Several areas of the route are wet which may cause people to find different routes around these wet patches expanding the disturbance zones for breeding birds and trampling the ground flora.

