



NYM / 2012 / 0820 / FL

# Tree Surgeons

(C. J. Zoeller & R. Zoeller)

Broadlands Properties Ltd  
137 Scalby Road  
Scarborough  
YO12 6TB

18 February 2012

NYMNPA

- 5 MAR 2013

Dear Mrs Hazelwood

Re: Tree Survey, Troutdale Moor

Please find enclosed the tree survey carried out at Troutdale Moor. I have enclosed 3 copies as required by North York Moors National Park.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries, or if I can be of any further assistance.

Yours sincerely

Colin J Zoeller

**Tree Survey carried out at Troutdale Lodge, Troutdale – proposed new access to moorland**

The moorland on the top of Troutdale is located within the North York Moors National Park and is an example of a Bronze Age field system and designated an ancient monument (Natural England). To maintain this historic archaeological feature, the incursion of primary species trees and scrub needs to be controlled to preserve the area as moorland and prevent the transformation into woodland which is evident in surrounding parts of the dale.

At present there is no suitable vehicular access to the land at the top of this dale.

The woodland on the northwest facing slope up the side of the dale leading to the plateau is a steep area of varying age mainly multi-stem Birch, Holly, Rowan and some Oak. The age differentials go from young to over-mature specimen within the wooded slope; with saplings and young trees clearly visible establishing amongst the Heather on the moorland at the apex. This is mainly due to natural progression and little conservation management arising from access issues.

To halt the progress of the tree cover and retain the moorland as part of the diverse habitat on this site an open surface, non-metalled access route is proposed within the wood up from the base, in a straight line from the head of the dale, up to the top of the moor.

This route will be created in the hillside by excavator traversing through the wood leaving a cut into the top side and maximum of 4m width level camber stone track. All soil and stone from the site will be utilised for this line through the wood, which will have limited impact on the wood and minimal impact to visual amenity from across the dale and public access areas. Exposed stone and soil will not be manicured and natural vegetation shall be allowed to establish on the turned over sides to the track bed.

Small, low conservation value trees within the proposed track route will be left on site to form habitat piles for insects, small mammals and other wildlife as well as decay fungi. These trees are not significant individuals that are critical to the woodland and would be category C.2 trees (BS.5837:2012).

Some mature Oak within this hillside wood should be avoided for the purposes of the access track leaving the soil within the root protection area of these trees undisturbed and free from compaction by heavy machinery. Soil

level changes over the root zones of these trees should also be avoided. This to be in accordance with BS.5837:2012.

To avoid any potential damage to the ancient monument site at the apex of the access route, it is proposed that a permeable membrane material covering the existing ground contours is installed and then overlaid with a flexible cell structure, secured by pins, and backfilled with dust to 50mm stone. This will form the basis of a turnaround area so wheels shall not churn up the surface at the top of the access, whatever the prevailing ground conditions may be, and distribute the weight of vehicles to prevent compaction damage.

Once established, the access will allow the effective control of Birch, Bracken and other colonising species to maintain and enhance the Heather cover on the moor and the ecological diversification that this site offers whilst causing minimal short-term disturbance to a limited swathe of the dale side wood.

Some new tree planting of suitable species can take place during the subsequent season (November to March) where any visible sign of the track may become evident from across the dale.

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