



**National  
Trust**

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High Peak Borough Council/ Staffordshire Moorlands Borough Council  
Per David Smith  
Principal Officer Communities and Partnerships

(via email- [david.smith@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk](mailto:david.smith@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk) )

Dear Mr Smith

**Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) (Wildfires) consultations 2021 – High Peak Borough Council/ Staffordshire Moorlands Borough Council**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your consultations on the Public Spaces Protection Order (Wildfires) 2021. We have a few comments that we would like you to consider – and are submitting the same in respect of both High Peak Borough Council and Staffordshire Moorlands District Council proposed PSPOs.

As a significant landowner and manager of land within the Peak District National Park, which has experienced, and is at risk of, wildfire, we broadly support these proposals.

It should be noted that, under Countryside and Rights of Way legislation, fires are already not allowed on open moorlands, so it would be helpful to be clear why these PSPOs are required above and beyond what already exists.

Enforcement is likely to be a key issue. It would be helpful to understand what plans and resources are in place from the local authorities to deliver this. If a PSPO is approved we would recommend you implement initial focussed enforcement to 'get the message out'.

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The PSPOs may themselves act to raise awareness and this would be welcomed. They also needs to be regarded as part of a broader strategic approach aligning with the Countryside Code, #Peak District Proud etc. The work last year by partners in the Peak District to co-ordinate action in response to the various and changing Covid Government requirements and guidance was positive and we need to build on that going forward.

Regarding the specific conditions in the PSPOs, we request that an exemption is included for otherwise lawful land management activities by owners and occupiers of land. It would be undesirable for these to be inadvertently outlawed. In particular, 4 a) and b) are not practical for land managers and should not be treated as absolute. There is a precedent for this in the way Traffic Regulation Orders are often framed with exemptions for land management activities.

We hope you find this helpful. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely



Jon Stewart  
General Manager, Peak District

Cont/d