

Raptor Persecution UK

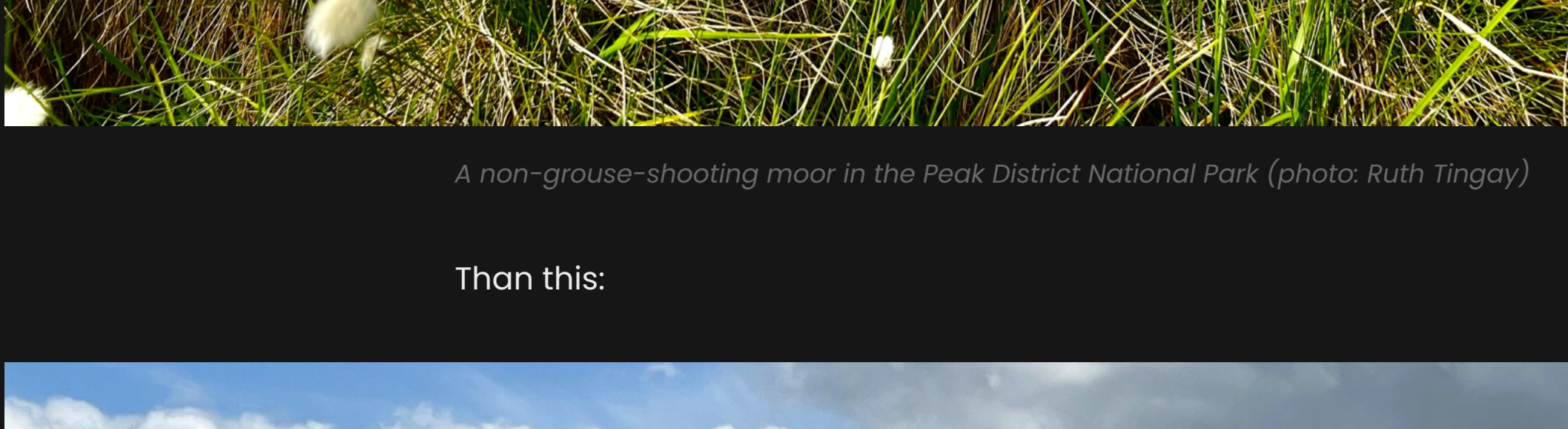
Emails of support for United Utilities' decision not to re-new shooting leases

RaptorPersecutionUK
July 28, 2023
News

Further to the news that north-west water company United Utilities (UU) has decided not to renew any more grouse-shooting and pheasant/partridge-shooting leases on its land once the current leases expire in 2027 (here), the shooting organisations have gone into meltdown, first making veiled threats towards UU in the media (see here) and then whipping up the shooting community into a frenzy with familiar hyperbole that UU's decision is an 'insult', a 'disaster', a 'travesty', 'tragic' and 'appalling'.

You won't be surprised to learn that I disagree with all of those claims and welcome UU's vision to restore their land for the benefit of wildlife and wider ecosystem health, and thus people.

I'd much rather see this:



A non-grouse-shooting moor in the Peak District National Park (photo: Ruth Tingay)

Than this:



A driven grouse moor on UU land in the Peak District National Park (Photo: Ruth Tingay)

It's still not clear (to me, anyway) just how many shoots will be affected by UU's decision. BASC says on its website, 'It's estimated that more than 30 shoots will be shut down as a result' whereas the Countryside Alliance says on its website that UU's decision "...will close seven grouse moors and three low ground shoots'.

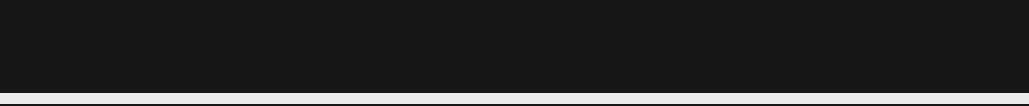
Whatever the number, the shooting organisations are predicting rural Armageddon, as they often do when there's the slightest urge of any threat to shooting, and they're now running a campaign to urge their members to write letters of complaint to UU's chief executive Louise Beardmore, I guess in the hope of piling on the pressure and persuading UU to reverse its decision.

They're entitled to express their opinions, of course, so it would be good if counter views to this attack were also heard by UU, to commend their decision and encourage them to hold firm. Who knows, the support may also encourage them to sort out their terrible sewage dumping record.

Emails can be sent directly to Louise Beardmore:
Louise.Beardmore@uuplc.co.uk

You might also want to cc your email to the UU press office, who I'm told are taking an interest: externalaffairs@uuplc.co.uk

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