

Application for installation of grouse butts above Hawsden Burn

Method Statement

The proposal consists of erecting one line of 10 sunken grouse butts approximately 40-50 yards apart, across the In Hill (NT9523 1117), Langleeford 394892, 621969. Please see the attached map showing the proposed location with the new line of butts coloured red. The area is not within a SSSI and there is no archaeological features within the vicinity of the proposed area.

The proposed work is likely to commence in early July 2015, weather dependent. By this point, birds should have finished nesting and the ground should be dry enough to travel on without causing damage to vegetation. Materials will be taken to site using a rubber tracked dumper to minimise damage and the existing hard core road will be used. If possible, any quad bike tracks will be used for the small off-road section.

Once on site, a rubber tracked mini digger will be used to dig the butts in so the amount of damage caused is kept to a minimum. The top layer of vegetation will be carefully dug out and placed to one side. Butts will be dug out to a depth of roughly 6'. Each butt will have a single length of wavy coil piping buried from the butt extending to a maximum of 10' away with the direction being dependent on the slope and topography. This will act as a soak away and prevent water pooling around the standing area. No other drainage or ditching work would be required. Hogging gravel will then be added to provide the hard base and wooden panels will be put in place. These will be 6'x6' wooden panels constructed off site. The panels will either be completely sunk or will be only 2' or so above ground level, depending on the topography and soil conditions. The vegetation that was put to one side at the beginning of the project will be re-instated to cover the wavy coil piping, it will be placed around the butts to camouflage the wooden panelling and will be used to cover any other ground disturbed by the work.

The project also includes the removal of two existing lines of wooden panel grouse butts, shown blue on the attached plan. This work will take place at the same time as the erection of the new butts and will only take a few days to complete. The wooden panels will be dismantled by hand and taken away using the rubber tracked dumper. Work will only be carried out if ground conditions allow and there are no nesting birds within the area.