

Andrew Gilruth

From: Andrew Gilruth
Sent: 20 February 2026 18:22
To: SM-NE-FOI (NE)
Subject: FoI request

Dear Natural England,

Please treat this as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am seeking a small, clearly bounded set of process / governance / QA “audit trail” records for the production and publication of:

Natural England Research Report RP2967 – “Definition of Favourable Conservation Status for Blanket bog” (and/or the internal project/publication record that corresponds to this published report).

To keep this request within the appropriate cost limit, I am not asking for all emails, all drafts, or underlying datasets at this stage. I am requesting only the specific records listed below (or their nearest equivalents).

For each item, if the specific record is not held, please confirm explicitly that it is not held for RP2967 and identify the substitute record (if any) that is used instead.

1) Publication approval / workflow record (single record extract)

Please provide the publication approval and sign-off record for RP2967 from the system used to manage technical publications (often described as a “technical publications database” or equivalent internal publication workflow), showing the following fields (or equivalent):

- publication/report identifier (eg. RP2967) and title
- dates for: submission, review, approval, and publication/release
- approving officer(s) role/title (names acceptable if already recorded; if not, role/title is sufficient)
- any recorded QA category / QA level / evidence assurance level or similar classification assigned to the publication
- any recorded notes indicating required review steps (eg. peer review, specialist sign-off)

If the publication/workflow record does not itself contain QA/evidence assurance fields, please also provide the document or record referenced by the workflow as evidence of QA completion (eg. a linked checklist, gateway note, sign-off memo, or attached review record), limited to the minimum needed to evidence completion.

You may redact or omit unrelated fields provided the above information is included.

2) QA / peer review completion record

Please provide the completed QA / peer review checklist or form (or equivalent record) used to confirm that RP2967 met Natural England’s internal evidence/quality standards prior to publication.

If there is no single checklist/form, please provide the closest equivalent QA completion record (e.g., internal approval memo, QA sign-off note, or governance gateway document) that confirms QA/review was completed.

In addition, please provide any response-to-reviewer table (or equivalent close-out document) used to address review comments for the final pre-publication review round only (i.e., the last round before publication). If none exists, please confirm it is not held.

3) Governance / oversight record

Please provide one recorded item (minute extract, decision log entry, approval note, or email) that shows the governance route used for RP2967, specifically:

- whether a Technical Steering Group (TSG) or other governance group oversaw/endorsed the DFCS definition for blanket bog; and
- the date of that oversight/endorsement (or, if none occurred, a record stating that no TSG/governance review was required or was undertaken).

If the relevant governance body is not called “TSG”, please provide the equivalent record for the body that fulfilled that function.

4) Version list

Please provide a list of document versions held by Natural England for RP2967 (metadata only), limited to:

- filename (or document title)
- date created and/or last modified
- document status (draft/final) if recorded
- author/owner job title/team if recorded (names not required)

This is requested as a list only; I am not requesting copies of drafts at this stage.

Scope and practicalities

- Time period: from the start of drafting/commissioning of RP2967 up to the publication date.
- Search locations: limited to the publication/workflow record and the RP2967 project folder / record set (or equivalent).
- If you consider that any part of this request would exceed the appropriate limit, please supply the remainder and provide advice and assistance under section 16 identifying the narrowest refinement that would bring the outstanding part(s) within the limit.
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If you consider information exempt

Please cite the specific exemption(s) relied upon and release all reasonably separable non-exempt information.

Yours faithfully,

Andrew Gilruth

Chief Executive

The Moorland Association
Tower Court, Clifton Moor
York YO30 4XL



 The Moorland Association	Moorland Association members are responsible for over a million acres of the moorlands of England and Wales www.moorlandassociation.org
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