

Appendix C – Statement from the Tenant Farmer

12 May 2023

Statement of Robin Moxin – Tenant Farmer

I have made significant progress in achieving a sustainable farm, invested heavily in farm infrastructure, increasing biodiversity and adopting regenerative agricultural practices.

My primary aspiration for the farm is to utilise the entire farm holding to accommodate a larger number of livestock. This would involve expanding the existing grazing areas to provide adequate space and resources for a growing herd.

1. I aim to continue establishing healthy pastures and grazing systems that can support my livestock and biodiversity to prevent overgrazing.
2. I also aim to maintain the farm infrastructure including the fencing, shelters, and feeding areas to provide a safe and comfortable environment for my livestock.
3. I will continue to implement sustainable land management practices to improve soil health, prevent erosion, and maintain the health of the ecosystem.

The whole farm was blighted by anti-social behaviour however this has now been narrowed down to the top field on the southern boundary. The fencing and bunding has had a huge impact in reducing the trespassing and intimidation. The problem persists but in a much-reduced scale. As a livestock farmer, securing the land from trespassing and harassment is an important concern of mine.

I have:

1. Secured the farm: I have invested in the farm holding with significant fencing and gates to prevent unauthorised access. However these must be regularly inspected and repaired due to vandalism.
2. Signage: I have installed “no trespassing” signs throughout the boundaries of the farm, but more often than not these are pulled down or ignored
3. Police: Although reports of vandalism to the farm property and livestock are reported to the local police, they are unable to react as they are under resourced and these crimes fall below their priority calls.

The trespassing and anti-social behaviour has been creating significant difficulties across the farm. There have been numerous occurrences of entire lengths of prestressed/tensioned wire having been cut and fence posts/fence wire having been up routed and stolen or dragged across fields. This often results in livestock being harmed by the cut fencing wire and on many occasions the livestock have then broken out onto the public highway, which no doubt causes hazards for road users and the general public.

After having gained access to the farm holding, the trespassers abuse, taunt and harass farm staff and livestock. Livestock have suffered significant injuries and distress, resulting in some of the injured livestock being put down. Livestock feed and bedding has been set on fire and substances thrown over them making them unusable.

Although the fence has been effective to a degree, I have found that the placement of the bunding has had a larger impact. It is more difficult for the trespassers to gain access to the farm across the banded areas.