Evidence to support Fell runners kill ground nesting birds	Evidence to the contrary
Disturbance leads birds to avoid or reduce their use of ideal nesting sites. This is likely to have the biggest impact on the population size a site might otherwise support.	Fell runners programme of runs on this moor means that during the nesting season: Only a very small area of land is actually visited; Any potential nest site will only be run past once; And the total amount of time people run past will be approximately 2 minutes. Therefore a bird is very unlikely to abandon an ideal nesting site.
Disturbance will lead to an increase in nest failure, for example through an increase in nest predation rates. Predators such as crows and gulls, can be attracted to areas with high numbers of people and increased activity from adult birds around nests (caused by repeated flushing of incubating adults) may reveal the nests to predators.	There are at least 4 active crow traps on this moor. The Moors for the Future survey shows only 3 carrion crow nests and only 13 individual crows seen at all on the whole of the Peak District moors. There are numerous "fen" traps for stoats and weasels. Therefore predation from any of these bird/mammal species will be very low. RSPB's Peak Malpractice Reports describe in great detail how Raptors fail to nest on this and other adjoining moorland, therefore predation from Raptors will be very low. Gulls are not seen on this land. Fell runner usage (see above) will not result in "repeated flushing" of any nest sites.
Where levels of disturbance by people are already high, an increase in numbers of visits is likely to have relatively little impact. However if the same increase in visitor numbers were to occur in a different part of the site, where previously there was little or no disturbance, then the impact is likely to be much more marked ie patterns of use change.	Fell runners usage of this land has remained more or less unchanged for many years ie at a similar level to now. Fell runners experience suggests that visitor numbers to these moors are concentrated on a few major paths/routes. Very few people are ever seen on open moorland off the paths.
Disturbance is more likely to impact on a species population when: Individuals are attempting to breed;	See Fell runner usage above; runners only visit a tiny area of the land and only pass any potential nest site once per nesting season.
A bird species is particularly rare;	Fell runners have not been notified of particularly rare species here. Peak Malpractice report alleges deliberate disturbance by other parties.

A species is particularly clumped in it's distribution (for example winter roosts, breeding colonies);	The Shepherd survey shows an overall spread of nesting, not clumping together.
There are no alternative sites available;	As above, the Shepherd survey shows a wide spread of potential nest sites.
Energy costs of displacement are high due to poor weather, bird condition, shortage of food.	Any "displacement" due to Fell runners will be extremely short lived and will only affect an extremely small number of nests.
Where a footpath has been established, birds will nest closer to it having learnt that they are unlikely to be disturbed as visitors are less likely to leave the path.	The majority of runs on this land follow one of the major footpaths.
Young chicks will die if disturbed in cold wet weather and separated from parent birds.	The landowner shuts this land for a period covering 5 weeks ("statutory closure") when chicks are vulnerable. Fell runners respect this closure.
Gamekeeper says grouse chicks if disturbed impale themselves on stalks of burnt heather.	In 30 years fell runners have never seen any impaled chicks.
Gamekeeper says he saw nests trampled.	Bird surveys show the density of bird nests on Peak District moorland means the probability of standing on a nest is equivalent to the chance of winning the lottery jackpot. This means the "Absolute risk" of one individual standing on a nest is extremely low. Therefore the "Relative risk" of a group of runners standing on a nest is also extremely low. This also implies the chances of disturbing birds is low and this is borne out by runners actual experience. Very few birds are ever seen on a run. Other "Evidence": 3 years ago Natural England said overall bird numbers are "good". Also "species of concern" did not appear to nest on this moor anyway. Moors for the Future report says some Eastern Moors have world record breaking numbers of grouse.

	RSPB is a conservation body that will now be managing moorland, but has no plans to restrict access. An RSPB manager said that the chances of standing on a nest are virtually nil. If a nest is disturbed it will only be a problem if the parent bird cannot return soon. This is not the case with runners. Walkers may disturb a nest for a longer period, people picnicking will be a problem. Fell runners only visit this moor about 4 times during the nesting season (the period when the gamekeeper says grouse nest). Most runs follow one main footpath. Therefore there are only 1 or 2 runs over open moorland, following a combination of paths and open moor. Therefore by this usage alone, the chances of damage or disturbance is extremely low. The gamekeeper said his main worry was dogs. Fell runners have addressed this concern. Runners have adapted their calendar at the request of the landowner. This moor can be split into 3 geographical areas – one area is not visited at all, 2nd area rarely visited (no visits last year during nesting season), limited visits to 3rd area (see above). Given runners continued usage of this and other moorland at the levels described, over many years, surely if damage was being caused, it would be very obvious, easily identified in terms of damaged corridors/routes and with a large amount of undisputable physical evidence. None of this evidence of damage has been identified. Birds can be more adaptable than rigid "expert opinion" suggests. *Kinder Scout a portrait of a mountain 2002* mentions a survey that shows Golden Plover do not feed on the plateau but adult birds take

	turns to descend to in-bye land to feed. Therefore recreational use on the plateau will not disturb Golden Plover feeding. The Moors for the Future survey states Ring Ouzel is especially vulnerable to disturbance and usually do not nest in areas frequented by recreational users. Since then there have been numerous examples of these birds nesting very close to routes in continual use by climbers and also nesting close to one of the busiest car parks in the Peak District.