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From: Gordon Hatton, Long Street, Topcliffe, Thirsk.

I WAS interested to read the arguments for and against the re-introduction of grouse shooting on a moor in West Yorkshire (Yorkshire Post, April 15).

Having read the article, I find myself slightly in favour of grouse shooting as the points made by Phil Pugh seem rather more convincing than those made by Louise Robertson.

As far as I can see, the issue of cruelty is a non-starter. The red grouse on the moors live in a natural environment, then for a short period in the late summer and autumn run the risk of being killed by gunshot, before possibly ending up on the menu at a smart hotel in Harrogate. How much better this is than the life and death of the average chicken or turkey which one might purchase at the local supermarket.

The red grouse is a bird unique to the British Isles and without managed grouse moors, it would most certainly be on the endangered list.

Access to the moor should be little affected. Actual shooting over grouse moors occurs on very few days per season and not at weekends or on public holidays.

The damage to the environment issue is largely a red herring. Grouse moors are a managed landscape just as much as sheep pasture or arable land, but the purple moors of upland Yorkshire are very much part of the county's heritage and it would be sad to see an area like this revert to rank sedges, moor grasses and bracken.

Yes, why not bring back grouse shooting to the moor, but not at the expense of other wildlife, please.

From: Adrian Thornton-Berry, Moorland Association representative for Yorkshire.

I CONGRATULATE the paper on seeking both sides of the argument of the re-introduction of red grouse shooting on a moor in West Yorkshire. One point that went unanswered, however, was the accusation by the League Against Cruel Sports that grouse moor managers, through "techniques such as burning and gripping... can release carbon into the atmosphere". Firstly, no one is gripping moors in this day and age.

Moorland Association members have been carefully blocking up thousands of kilometres of drainage "grips" for over 15 years, reversing the Government's policy of drying out the moors in the hope of increasing the productivity of upland areas in the 1950s.

Secondly, well managed moorland for grouse shooting has been proven to actually lock up carbon rather than releasing it according to the Carbon Accounting for Land Managers' (CALM) tool.

The re-introduction of grouse moor management on the moor will safeguard iconic and globally important heather moorland and enhance populations of birds which are struggling to breed elsewhere in Britain, all at no cost to the taxpayer. Win-win for everyone.