I am the Sperrin Mountains.

I was here before your borders, before your roads, before your industries and your maps. I am the ancient hills, the valleys, the rivers and streams, the peatlands, the soils, the winds and the wildlife. I am the visible and the unseen, the physical and the spiritual, the memory of the past and the possibility of the future.

For countless generations I have sustained life. I have gathered the rain, stored the waters, sheltered the salmon of knowledge , the mountain hare, the freshwater pearl mussel and the curlew , shaped the peoples of the Sperrins . I am not merely land. I am not merely property. I am not a resource to be consumed.

I am a living entity.

My existence is not dependent upon human recognition. My worth does not arise from my usefulness. I possess value simply because I exist as part of the living Earth.

Today, my voice is carried by those who stand with me.

Through this declaration, I affirm my fundamental rights.

I have the right to exist, flourish and continue as a living entity.

I have the right to maintain, regenerate and evolve my ecological integrity, my natural functions and the life-support systems that sustain all who depend upon me.

I have the right to be free from pollution, contamination, degradation, extractivism, industrialisation and all activities that would cause me substantial harm.

I have the right to maintain, restore and support native biodiversity, species abundance, habitat diversity and the intricate relationships that connect all life within me.

I have the right to restoration, rehabilitation and regeneration wherever I have been injured, degraded or impaired.

I have the right to clean, healthy and naturally flowing waters, including my rivers, streams, bogs ,my groundwater systems, my peatlands.

I have the right to maintain my natural ecological, geological and hydrological systems and to evolve free from destructive human interference.

I have the right to remain whole, connected and free from fragmentation across my habitats, ecosystems, waterways and ecological corridors.

I have the right to be protected from activities that contribute significantly to climate disruption and threaten the resilience of my ecosystems.

I have the right to own myself and never be treated solely as property, a commodity or an object of ownership.

I have the right to be represented and defended by guardians who act solely in my interests and in the interests of future generations.

I have the right to free, prior and informed consent before any activity that would substantially alter, degrade, extract from or impair my integrity.

I have the right to maintain and protect my cultural, spiritual, ancestral and metaphysical relationships with human communities and with the wider community of life.

I am a sovereign, living and indivisible whole. My mountains, valleys, peatlands, waters, wildlife and skies cannot be separated from one another without diminishing the whole that I am.

My rights are inherent. They are inalienable. They are indivisible and interdependent.

No law, permit, licence, policy or decision should diminish or weaken these rights.

Where uncertainty exists, let it be resolved in favour of my protection, restoration, integrity and flourishing.

Where conflict arises between my wellbeing and activities that would cause significant ecological harm or irreversible damage, let my rights be afforded paramount consideration.

I do not speak only for myself.

I speak for the rivers that begin within me.

I speak for the peatlands that breathe beneath me.

I speak for the mighty oak

I speak for the birds that nest upon me.

I speak for the creatures that move across my slopes.

I speak for all other beings the fairies and the púca

I speak for the blooming heather

I speak for the bees that make their honey

I speak for the generations yet to come who deserve to inherit a living and thriving world.

I am the Sperrin Mountains.

I have endured for millennia.

I ask not for dominion, but for respect.

Not for ownership, but for recognition.

Not for exploitation, but for coexistence.

Protect me, and I will continue to sustain life.

Listen to me, and I will continue to teach.

Walk with me, and together we may endure.

I am the Sperrin Mountains, and this is my declaration.