

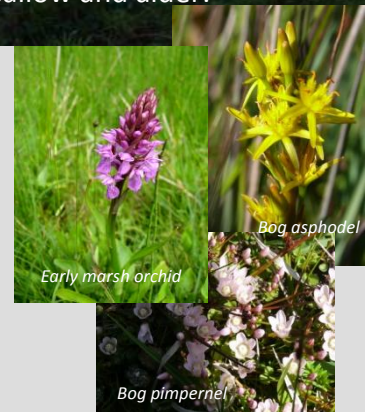
Hense Moor – reviewing its management

The grassland, mires and woodland that make up the attractive and varied landscape of Hense Moor reflect its varied geology and many centuries of use by people. Hense Moor is a Site of Special Scientific Interest - its wildlife habitats are nationally important for the range of plants and invertebrates they support. Heathy grassland, gorse and bracken on the porous Lower Greensand of the valley sides give way lower down to flushes and seepages where this meets the more impervious Keuper Marl. Springs support luxuriant growth of mosses with several beautiful and interesting flowering plants including bog asphodel, bog St. John's Wort, bog pimpernel and the uncommon pale butterwort and great sundew. In lower-lying more acidic areas, there is wet heathland with purple moor-grass, cross-leaved heath and a variety of sedges. Areas of rushes have marsh orchids and marsh helleborines with impressive stands of greater tussock sedge close to the main stream. In spring, carpets of golden saxifrage and ramsons bloom in the wet woods of willow and alder.

Hense Moor has long been common land and local people with rights have gathered fuel and grazed animals here for centuries. Along with Luppitt Common and Hartridge it is owned and administered by the commoners through the Trustees Committee which organises its management. This continued management, particularly by grazing – something lost from so many of our commons – has ensured that Hense Moor's special value for wildlife has been retained.

As well as the grazing, in recent years there has been much additional management funded by Natural England's Higher Level Stewardship Scheme. Scrub has been cleared, which together with controlled burning has brought grazing back onto the mires, allowing uncommon plants and invertebrates to re-establish.

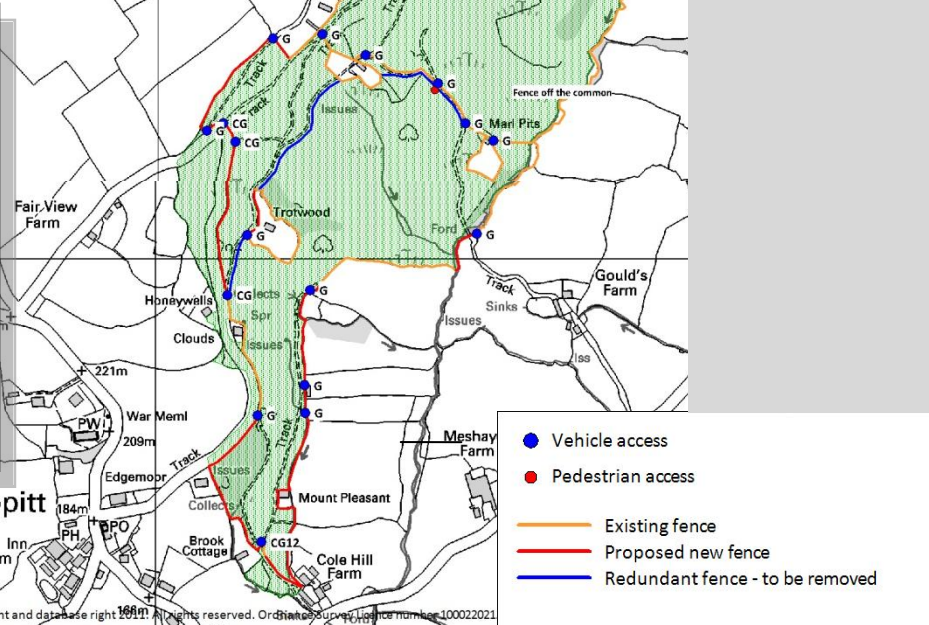
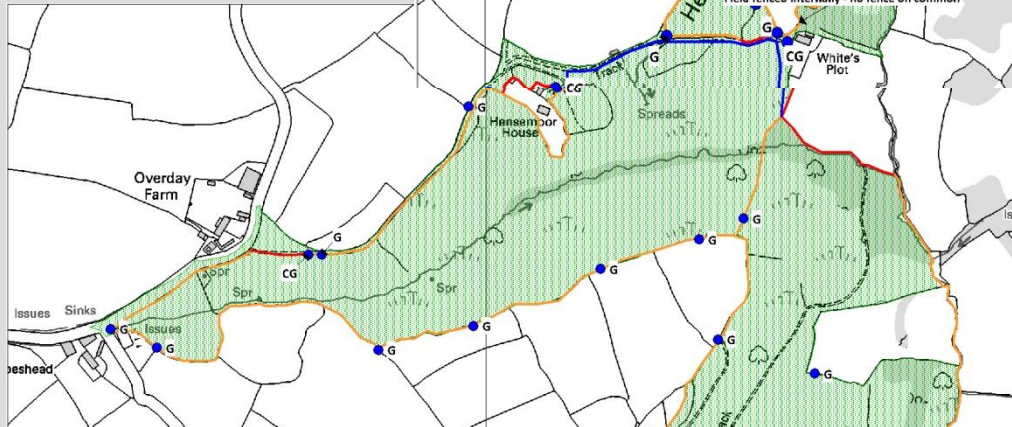
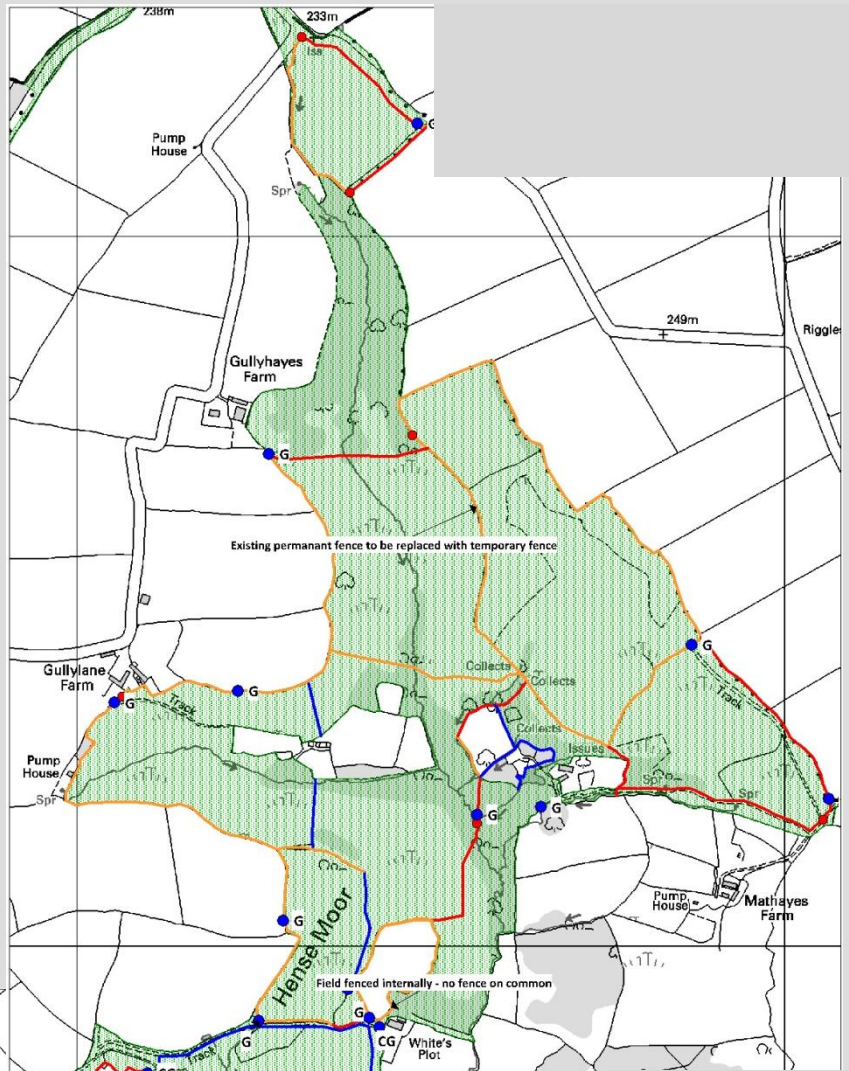
As grazing is so essential to maintain the special wildlife here, it is important to manage grazing to get the best results. It has become clear that this will mean removing or replacing existing fences. We are developing a proposal to rationalise fencing and will need to make an application to the Planning Inspectorate for approval, in line with legislation on registered commons such as this. Before submitting this plan we are keen to have the views of all those who live close to Hense Moor or who visit it, so we have produced this paper to outline the proposal.



Proposed amendments to the fencing



Recent scrub clearance followed by grazing at Hense Moor



On Thursday July 28th 2-8pm there will be a 'drop-in day' at Luppitt Village Hall.

Come along to see more detail and discuss the proposals. However, if you are unable to attend, you can contact us at Footprint Ecology, Forest Office, Cold Harbour, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 7PA, or e-mail rob.mcgibbon@footprint-ecology.co.uk.