

Jane Noble
Senior Access Officer, Rural Strategy
Environmental and Economic Policy Service
(01243) 756863 (Tel)
(01243) 777232 (Fax)
jane.noble@westsussex.gov.uk
www.westsussex.gov.uk/countryside

**Countryside
Access Forum
for
West Sussex**

The Grange
Tower Street
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 1RH
(01243) 777100

Our reference: JN/2008.21

David Elliott
National Trust
Marley Common Head Warden
Swan Barn Farm
Collards Lane
Haslemere
GU27 2HU

12th November 2008

Dear Mr Elliott,

Fencing of Marley Common for Management Purposes

I am responding to the above consultation on behalf of Countryside Access Forum for West Sussex (CAFWS), **an independent statutory advisory body**, set up to give access advice to various bodies with an interest in countryside access.

Thank you for consulting CAFWS regarding the joint proposals of the National Trust and the Lynchmere Society for fencing Marley Common to enable management of the Common by grazing with cattle. The Forum also welcomed feedback on the grazing at Black Down. CAFWS considered the reports and plans provided at its meeting held on 29th October 2008.

The Forum was pleased to hear of the positive management benefits that had been achieved as a result of fencing Black Down Common without having a detrimental impact on the public's access and enjoyment of the area. As a result the Forum supports a similar approach for the management of Marley Common. Particular comments relating to the fencing proposals are:

- The Forum welcomes the significant number of access points proposed which should allow easy access onto the Common for walkers, and specifically on the bridleway for walkers and riders (horse and bike). It is noted that additional access points will be provided if required by neighbours.
- The Forum supports the line of the fencing principally circumnavigating the Common without the need for unnecessary intrusive dividing fences to depict land ownership. It supports efforts to minimise the visual impact of the fencing through careful siting.

Please accept this letter as the Forum's endorsement of the proposals.

The Forum hopes these comments are helpful and looks forward to being involved at all stages of this and future consultations.

Yours sincerely



Jane Noble
Forum Officer, Countryside Access Forum for West Sussex

Copy for information to:
Peter Brown – Chairman, CAFWS
Glynn Jones – Vice-Chairman, CAFWS
All members of CAFWS
Craig Bowdrey – Secretary to the Forum
Christine Luff – WSCC Right of Way Team
Leader

Lisa Creaye-Griffin – WSCC Rural Operations Group
Manager
Deborah Urquhart – WSCC Cabinet Member for
Environment & Economy