

Census of the New Forest Commoners 2011

**A report based on census data and the marking fee
register from 1965 to 2010**

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Table of contents

1	Introduction	3
2	Census results.....	4
2.1	Mail out and response rates	4
3	Individual commoner and household information	5
3.1	Age and gender of practising commoners.....	5
3.2	Occupation.....	6
3.3	Commoning practice.....	6
3.4	Back up grazing land.....	8
3.5	The next generation and those unable to common	11
4	Commoners views on current commoning issues.....	12
4.2	The most serious problems that commoning presently faces	12
4.3	The most important encouragements to commoning.....	15
4.4	The reasons that commoners continue to turn out	17
4.5	Single Farm Payments and Verderers' Stewardship Scheme.....	18
4.6	Ideas for future HLS spending.....	22
5	Responses from young commoners	23
5.1	Introduction	23
5.2	Commoning practice.....	23
5.3	Location of holdings and back up land.....	25
5.4	Expansion of commoning	26
5.5	The most serious problems that commoning presently faces	26
5.6	The most important encouragements to commoning.....	28
5.7	The reasons that young commoners turn out.....	29
5.8	Single Farm Payments and Verderers' Stewardship Scheme.....	30
5.9	Ideas for future HLS spending.....	32
6	The Marking Fee Register 1965 to 2010.....	34
6.2	Present situation	35
6.3	The commoning population: 1965 to 2010.....	37
	Appendix I.....	46
	Appendix II	48
	Appendix III.....	59

1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This report is the third in a series which records the views and make up of the commoning population since 1991. They have all been based on postal surveys sent to all commoners paying marking fees, and therefore recorded on the marking fee register for the previous year. The first census was carried out as part of the background research for the 'Illingworth Report'¹ undertaken by the Forestry Commission. The census was sent to 359 commoners, and a further 309 non commoning CDA members, and received a 58% response from commoners. It was the first time that any systematic survey of the commoning population had been undertaken, or effort made to analyse the make up of the community and its views.
- 1.1.2 Following this, in 2001, a second census, using a similar methodology was undertaken with the support of the Verderers and Commoners' Defence Association. The form was an updated version of one sent out in 1990, which allowed some comparisons to be made between the two surveys, particularly in relation to the composition of the commoning population and the views which commoners held. A total of 452 forms were sent out in February 2001 and again a response rate of 58% was achieved. The results were compared with those from the 1990 census and showed that, while many commoners' concerns remained the same as they had been 10 years previously, a number of trends in commoning and the local agricultural economy were of concern for the future.
- 1.1.3 The present census has endeavoured to follow the main structure of the two previous ones, using the same questions as far as possible, but including a number of new questions appropriate to the present situation. The most significant new areas of the 2011 form have been the Verderers' Stewardship Scheme and Single Farm Payments, and the attitudes of young commoners to their future in the Forest. A second short questionnaire was included at the request of the Young Commoners' Group specifically to ask their members how they feel about the group's activities. The results of this questionnaire are recorded in a separate report, while young commoners' responses to the main questionnaire are recorded as a section of this main report.

¹ Forestry Commission, Department of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (1991) Report on the Working Party on Grazing in The New Forest (Commonly referred to as the Illingworth Report)

2 Census results

2.1 Mail out and response rates

- 2.1.1 A total of 742 census forms were sent out in mid January 2011. An initial response of 202 was received by the cut off date in early February, when a reminder was sent to all those who had not returned their forms. This resulted in the return of a further 192, making a total of 395 or 53% of those sent out.
- 2.1.2 This response is lower than that received in 2001 and 1990, and comments from commoners indicate that this in part may have been due to the inclusion of 'financial' questions on the form. However, since the form was sent to all commoners believed to be over the age of 14, some households will have received multiple forms, and may have considered that the return of more than one was a duplication of effort.² Census forms were sent to commoners at 558 addresses and returns were received from 339 households, which gives an address response rate of 61%. A similar comparison included in the 2001 report gave a response rate of 68%.
- 2.1.3 The number of commoners has increased considerably since 2001. While this is partly due to an increased interest in the activity and community of commoning in recent years, changes in the Verderers rules regarding commoning have meant that all individuals who turn animals out must have their own brand and be registered individually as a commoner. In the past many younger commoners continued to turn out under their parents' brand as a matter of convenience. Since this is no longer possible, the increase in commoners – particularly younger ones – must in part be the result of these changes.
- 2.1.4 In total, household information was received on 1239 individual commoners and their family members, with 107 being double counted as a result of the number of commoners in some households who responded to the census. In addition details of 339 households have been received, these two interpretations of the data (from individual commoners and households) forms a good basis for understanding the nature of the commoning population as a whole, while allowing the views and experience of individual commoners to be fully considered.
- 2.1.5 When information held on the Marking Fee Register was analysed to compare those who responded to those who did not (e.g. length of time commoning, type and size of herd), there is no clear evidence of a non-response bias. Details of this analysis are set out in Appendix X.

² Conversely, a small number of households receiving only one form, asked for a second (or obtained one from another commoner), so that the views of both household members could be expressed independently. These have been included in the numbers sent out.

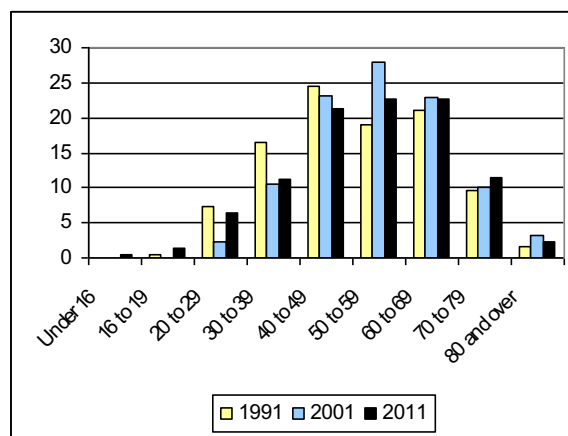
3 Individual commoner and household information

3.1 Age and gender of practising commoners

3.1.1 The age profile of those respondents and their spouses who are presently involved in commoning is set out in Table 1. The data are set out for the 20 years covered by the three censuses: 1990, 2001 and 2011 and show that the age distribution is presently more widely spread than it was in 2001, showing a similar distribution to that of 1991, though with smaller percentages in the age groups between 20 and 40 years old. In 1991 commoners and their spouses aged between 20 and 40 years old made up 24% of the total population. In 2001 this had dropped to 13% of the total, but by 2011, it had risen to 18%

3.1.2 While the largest percentage of commoners and their spouses who actively common still remains in the age group between 40 and 70, this percentage has declined from 74% in 2001 to 66% in 2011, and is more in line with 1991 when they accounted for 65% of the total population. However, it should be noted, when looking at these figures that the changes in the Verderers' rules regarding the registration of commoners as individuals rather than families may have had an effect on this distribution (hence the inclusion of 2 commoners under 16 in the 2011 data).

**Chart 1: Age distribution of commoners and their spouses:
1991 to 2011 (%)**



3.1.3 Continuing the situation described in both 1991 and 2001, there remains a larger percentage of commoners and their actively commoning spouses who are women. In 1991 55% of commoners/spouses were women. This dropped to 51% in 2001 but had increased to 54% by the time of the present census, although these changes are probably too small to have any reliable statistical significance.

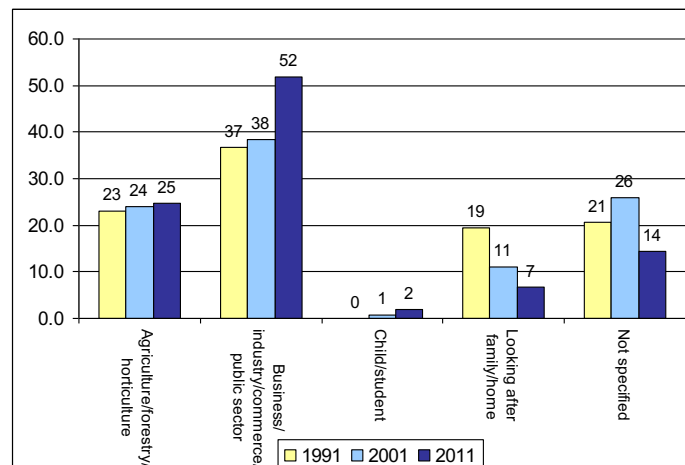
**Table 1: Gender of commoners and their spouses:
1991 to 2011**

	1990	2001	2011
Female	55.3%	50.5%	53.6%
Male	44.7%	49.5%	46.4%

3.2 Occupation

- 3.2.1 For many years commoners have been employed in occupations outside commoning, and increasingly outside the local rural economy. Because of the wide range of employments declared by respondents to the census, all activities have been grouped into major sectors which cover a wide range of activities. Thus the group that covers agriculture/horticulture/forestry includes farmers and growers, horse trainers, blacksmiths and livery owners, keepers, tree surgeons and forestry workers, while professional/business/commerce covers public and private sector employees and managers, service sector workers, tradesmen and professionals.
- 3.2.2 The figures for the present census show that over half (52%) of all declared occupations are in professional/ business/ commerce occupations. A quarter works in agriculture and forestry, while 7% described themselves as looking after their family and home.
- 3.2.3 When these results are compared with those of the previous censuses, it can be seen that, of all groups, the greatest percentage increase has been in those who work in non-agricultural occupations. This group has increased by 14% since 2001, while the percentage engaged in agriculture has remained largely the same. There has been a decline in the number of commoners who say that their main occupation is looking after their family and/or home, but this is likely to be a reflection of broader economic and social change than relating to commoning itself.

*Chart 2: Occupation of commoners and their spouses:
1991 to 2011*



3.3 Commoning practice

- 3.3.1 People who responded to the census were first asked about their commoning history and present level of activity. When asked whether they personally had common rights almost half (48%) said that they have rights on their house and/or holding, while a further 46% have rights through the rental or ownership of land. Six percent of respondents (24) said that they do not have rights

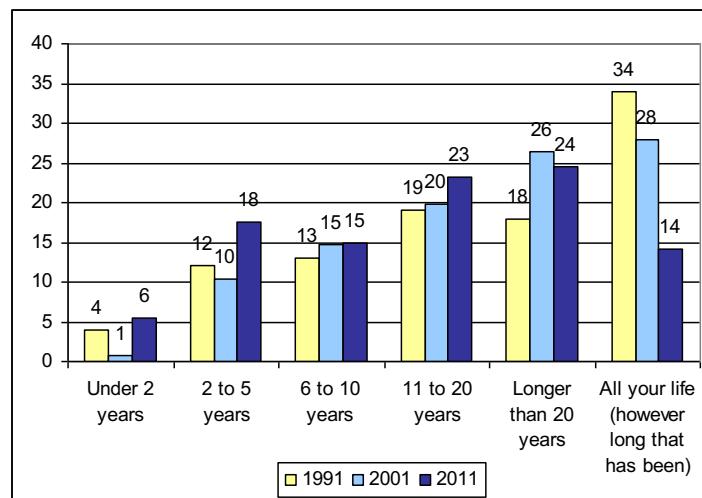
personally. Of this group 19 (79% of this sub group or 5% of all respondents) said that they used rights through a member of their family, while the rest have informal arrangements or arrangements in transition as a result of their own changing circumstances.

Table 2: Respondents' access to common rights

Do you have common rights?	If not, how have you accessed these rights?				Total
	I have common rights	Through a member of my family	Through an informal arrangement with friends/ neighbours	Some other way	
Yes, on my holding/ house	187 50.8%	0	0	0	187 48%
Yes, on land that I own/rent	181 49.2%	0	0	0	181 46%
No	0	19 100.0%	2 100.0%	3 100.0%	24 6%
Total	368	19	2	3	392

3.3.2 Respondents were asked whether they have turned out in the last 5 years, and 98% have done so. Those who have stopped (8) cited their age, a change in circumstances and road accidents as contributing to their decision not to turn out any more.

Chart 3: Length of time commoners have turned out: 1991 to 2011



- 3.3.3 When they were asked how long they have been commoning almost half (47%) of respondents said that they have been doing so for more than 10 years, and 14% said that they have been commoning all their life (how ever long that has been). While the percentage commoning for 11 years or more has increased since 1991 (from 27%), the number of life time commoners has decreased substantially (from 34% in 1991 and 28% in 2001)³.
- 3.3.4 Moreover, the percentage of commoners turning out for 5 years or less over the period has increased from 16% to 24%. This would appear to indicate an increase in the turnover of commoners, with fewer lifetime community members.

3.4 Back up grazing land

- 3.4.1 Respondents were next asked about the back-up land that they use to support their commoning. The results make clear that commoners' arrangements regarding land are complex. Less than two thirds (59%) own all or some of the land they use, just over half (52%) rent all or some land and a quarter (25%) use land as a result of an informal arrangement. However, almost half (43%) access land through mixed tenure, as shown in Table 3, below. Only 31% rely entirely on land that they own, while 24% rely solely on rented land, and a further 18% rely on both rented and owned land.

Table 3: Types of tenure used by respondents

	Number	Percentage
Own all land used	116	30.9
Rent all land used	91	24.2
Own or rent all land used	67	17.8
All land informally used	34	9.0
Own or use land informally	22	5.9
Rent or use land informally	19	5.1
Own, rent and use land informally	27	7.2
Total	376	100.0

- 3.4.2 The location of a respondent's holding appears to affect the type of tenure under which commoners' access backup land, with 44% of those in southwest, 50% of those living outside the area and 54% in the north owning all their back up land, compared to only 19% in Waterside. Conversely, almost half (46%) of those on Waterside rent all the land they use compared to 19% in the south west and 12% in the north (see Table 4 on the next page).

³ It should be noted that part of this change may result from people's response to the question in light of the changes to the Verderers' rules on turn out.

Table 4: Different tenure combinations by respondents living in different areas of the Forest

	Area where holding is located							Total
	South west	North west	North	Water side	South east	Central Forest	Outside area	
Own all land used	44%	29%	54%	19%	24%	32%	50%	31%
Rent all land used	19%	12%	13%	46%	34%	23%	0%	24%
Own or rent all land used	19%	19%	17%	16%	28%	17%	20%	18%
All land informally used	4%	9%	4%	7%	7%	11%	20%	9%
Own or use land informally	4%	12%	4%	3%	3%	6%	0%	6%
Rent or use land informally	4%	7%	0%	6%	0%	6%	10%	5%
Own, rent and use land informally	7%	13%	8%	4%	3%	7%	0%	7%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

3.4.3 Respondents were asked approximately how many acres of back up land they have in each of the tenure categories. On the basis of information given, average acreages across the Forest stand at 13 acres owned, 31 rented and 11 used through an informal arrangement while, in some areas, the average acreage owned and rented are much higher. This is largely the result of the inclusion of a number of extensive land holdings in the figures in the south west and north west of the Forest which range in size from 170 to 700 acres.

3.4.4 Using the median rather than the mean⁴ to calculate an average land holding indicates that the area of land owned is likely to be closer to 6 acres, land rented to 10 acres and land used under informal arrangements to 5 acres. The combined median land holding of each commoner stands at 9 acres, although areas employed as back up in the south west, north and northwest are higher than those in the Central Forest area, Waterside and the south east of the Forest (see Table 5 on the next page). Using median figures and the total number of commoners as a base, the census suggests that nearly 11,000 acres of back up land are presently used for commoning in the New Forest.

⁴ The 'mean' or 'average' is based on the sum of all the land claimed, divided equally between the number of commoners who say that they have land. The 'median' is a better way of understanding the scale of land use where a small number of such large holdings has been included, in that it is the value that stands right in the middle a numerically ordered list of the all the declared land holdings.

Table 5: Median acreage owned, rented and used informally by commoners living in different areas of the Forest

	Acres Owned by you	Acres Rented by you	Acres used under an informal arrangement	All land
South west	7	17	4	14
North west	6	10	6	10
North	6	5	7	14
Waterside	6	6	8	7
South east (including Lymington)	4	6	2	8
Central Forest	5	11	5	9
Outside area	3	6	3	3
Total	6	10	5	9

3.4.5 Respondents were next asked about the suitability of the location of their back up land for commoning purposes, and whether they feel that they have enough. Overall, more than three quarters (77%) said that all the land they use is suitably located. However, land that is owned is more likely (88%) to be suitably located than that which is either rented or used informally. Following from this more than a third (36%) of land used informally is considered partly or totally unsuitably located for respondent's commoning activities.

Table 6: Suitability of back up land location

	All suitable	Some suitable	None suitable
Owned	87.8%	7.4%	4.7%
Rented	73.1%	22.2%	4.7%
Used informally	64.0%	16.9%	19.1%
Total	76.5%	15.7%	7.8%

3.4.6 Over a quarter (28%) of respondents said that they want to have access to more land. When they were asked to say how much more they thought would be useful to their commoning, 99 put a figure on the area they thought they needed. This ranged from 1 to 150 acres, with a median of 10 acres. If this need, multiplied to include the whole population, were to be satisfied it would require a further 3,000 acres of land across the Forest area.

3.4.7 Those who considered their land unsuitably located or wanted to have more, were asked where they would prefer to have land. Table 7, on the next page shows that almost a quarter (24%) of those who gave details said they just want it within the Forest boundary, while nearly half (47%) want land close to their holding and 11% want it in a specific parish. Amongst those whose land is unsuitably located, 17% want it close to other land that they presently use. Seven percent want land away from busy roads, and 5% want land that is 'just more suitably located'.

Table 7: Where land would preferably be located

	More suitably located		More Land		Totals	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
In Forest boundary	32	34.8%	15	14.4%	47	24.0%
Close to my holding	28	30.4%	65	62.5%	93	47.4%
In a specific parish	5	5.4%	17	16.3%	22	11.2%
Close to my other land	16	17.4%			16	8.2%
Away from busy roads	6	6.5%			6	3.1%
Just better located	5	5.4%			5	2.6%
Anywhere or not stated			7	6.7%	7	3.6%
Total	92	100.0%	104	100.0%	196	100.0%

3.5 The next generation and those unable to common

3.5.1 Respondents were asked whether their children and grandchildren are keen to keep on commoning. Almost two thirds (61%) of respondents with children said all of them are keen, and a further 16% said some of them are. Over half of those who have grandchildren (54%) said that all of them are keen, and a further 17% said that some of them are. On the other hand, 23% said that none of their children is interested, and 30% said that none of their grandchildren is interested in commoning.

Table 8: Whether children and grandchildren are keen to common

	Children		Grandchildren	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Yes	162	60.9%	52	53.6%
No	61	22.9%	29	29.9%
Some of them	43	16.2%	16	16.5%
I don't have any	93		114	
Total	266		97	

3.5.2 When asked if there is anyone in their family who would presently like to turn out but cannot, 12% of respondents said that there is. Although the reasons given vary widely and may relate to personal circumstances, over one third (36%) said that problems of back up land and housing are preventing them, while a further 13% said that commoning is too expensive for them to consider at present.

Table 9: Why relatives who would like to common are not presently able to do so

	Number	Percentage
Not enough back up land or housing	16	35.6%
No rights	8	17.8%
Too expensive	6	13.3%
No time	6	13.3%
Too young	6	13.3%
Other reason	2	4.4%
Too many restrictions on YC	1	2.2%
Total	45	100.0

4 Commoners views on current commoning issues

- 4.1.1 Respondents were asked to respond to a small number of open questions about the present state of commoning and their future as commoners. They were asked to respond in an unrestricted way, and make as many comments as they needed to express their views. As a result the tables in the following section frequently include more than one reply per respondent, and have two columns of percentages: one for the percentage of all comments that were made on a particular subject, and one for the percentage of all respondents who made that point.
- 4.1.2 Some respondents added additional pages to their census forms, or replied in letter format. Their views have been included where appropriate, as have quotes from the shorter replies written on the census forms.

4.2 The most serious problems that commoning presently faces

- 4.2.1 Respondents were first asked what they feel are the most serious problems faced by commoning today. A total of 718 separate points were extracted from the comments made by respondents, an average of almost two comments per respondent (hence the figure of 194.8% in the last cell of Table 10 on the next page). The largest number (131) were concerned with the high costs and poor returns for commoning, which make up almost two fifths (18%) of all the comments made. The second percentage column shows that over a third (36%) of all respondents included this issue in their reply. Comments made include 'No market for NF ponies/ donkeys etc.', 'Incredibly difficult to make money doing it. To keep it viable and relevant commoners have to be able to make a profit', 'Valueless ponies; excessively overpriced farmland; fluctuating beef prices, excessive ponies, not enough "real" livestock: i.e. not ponies'.
- 4.2.2 The second most reported problem area is public ignorance, urbanisation and the pressure that tourism places on commoning, which make up 16% of all comments made. The second percentage column shows that almost a third (31%)

of all respondents included this issue in their reply. People made comments such as ‘The relentless pressure on the New Forest for recreation and environment’, ‘People pressure, holiday homes, lack of understanding of the forest & commoning’ and ‘Ignorance of tourists regarding feeding etc ponies - general ignorance (of) why commoners exist’.

4.2.3 Additionally, problems that bureaucracy causes to commoning make up a further 12% of problems mentioned. Comments included ‘The only group who appear to have a grasp of the issues facing commoning are commoners themselves. External agencies, constantly changing, have imperfect understanding and cause confusion and therefore threat.’ (though this last group did include a number of complaints about the government’s intention, current at the time, of passing the Forest over to an agency other than the Forestry Commission).

Table 10: The most important problems facing commoning today

	Number of Responses		Percentage of Cases
	Number	Percentage	
High costs/poor returns	131	18.2%	36.0%
Public ignorance/ urbanisation / pressure of tourism	111	15.5%	30.5%
Affordable back up grazing	100	13.9%	27.5%
Affordable housing	96	13.4%	26.4%
Bureaucratic ignorance and pressure	88	12.3%	24.2%
Road traffic accidents	67	9.3%	18.4%
Need to support young commoners	43	6.1%	11.8%
Poor management of stock/commoning	24	3.3%	6.6%
Problems with dogs	13	1.8%	3.6%
Stewardship Scheme/ unfair payments	11	1.6%	3.0%
There is no future	2	.3%	.5%
Something else*	32	4.5%	8.8%
Totals	718	100.0%	194.8%

* This group includes: Issues around disease/TB; planning problems; lack of employment; fallen stock disposal/abattoir; the stallion scheme; lack of community spirit; climate/ weather conditions

- 4.2.4 Over a quarter of all comments were made about the major problems that access to affordable grazing (14%) and affordable housing (13%) cause for commoners. Comments included ‘The price of land and houses so the younger generation can't carry on!’, ‘Affordable housing in the forest for younger generation. Lack of land in/ near the forest to buy/ rent’ and ‘Rising house prices - commoners unable to live near their stock. Rising prices of rented land as many commoners like us don't have land of our own.’
- 4.2.5 If these figures are compared to those collected in the previous censuses, it is clear that the issues which most concern commoners have not changed greatly over the past 20 years. The 2011 figures do introduce a number of new issues which did not appear in significant numbers in previous censuses: i.e. the need to support young commoners, problems with dogs loose on the Forest and issues around the Stewardship Scheme.
- 4.2.6 High costs and low returns remain the most significant issue for many commoners, as in 2001, although the situation in 1990 was apparently of concern to a smaller number of commoners. Second in all three datasets, concerns over public ignorance, the pressures on commoning caused by tourism and the general urbanisation of the Forest still represent a major problem for commoners.

Table 11: The most important problems facing commoning: 1990 to 2011

	1990	2001	2011
High costs/poor returns	11.8%	28.2%	18.2%
Public ignorance/ pressure of tourism/urbanisation	22.6%	21.0%	15.5%
Affordable back up grazing	13.9%	5.3%	13.9%
Affordable housing	16.8%	7.6%	13.4%
Bureaucratic ignorance and pressure	8.4%	9.9%	12.3%
Road traffic accidents	17.1%	6.5%	9.3%
Need to support young commoners	n.d.	n.d.	6.1%
Poor management of stock/commoning	3.4%	13.7%	3.3%
Problems with dogs	n.d.	n.d.	1.8%
Stewardship Scheme/ unfair payments	n.d.	n.d.	1.6%
There is no future	0.5%	1.0%	.3%
Something else*	5.3%	6.9%	4.5%

- 4.2.7 In 1990 access to affordable housing was the third most noted problem for commoning with 17% of respondents’ comments highlighting it, while access to affordable back up grazing was also seen as a serious problem by a large number of respondents (14% of comments). These figures had declined by 2001 when other issues were the focus of many people’s concerns, but have again risen back to levels very similar to those of 1990.
- 4.2.8 The danger faced by stock on the roads of the New Forest remains a major concern for commoners, although the number highlighting them has dropped since the first census when it equalled concerns about affordable housing.

However, it has risen slightly since 2001, when the percentage citing it fell to 7% of the total of responses.

- 4.2.9 Finally, concerns over bureaucratic pressures on commoning appear to be increasing. In 1990 they stood at 8% of comments, but rose to 10% in 2001 and now stand at 12% of all problems cited. These complaints include phrases like ‘people telling us what to do when some of them don’t know what they are talking about’, ‘bureaucracy, paper pushing’ and ‘too much red tape’ and ‘restrictive and oppressive regulations and controls’.

4.3 The most important encouragements to commoning

- 4.3.1 Respondents were next asked what would best encourage them to keep commoning. Almost one third (30%) of all responses related to the need for financial incentives (or fairer distribution of incentives) and/ or improved markets. As noted in the second percentage column of Table 12, 42% of respondents made such a comment. Comments included ‘Continuation of subsidies – Verderers’ grazing scheme & Single Payment as this is such a help to continue without losing too much money’, ‘The stewardship scheme and single payment scheme now make the ponies worthwhile, so long as it continues’, ‘Higher prices paid when sold - the price of feed is getting more expensive passport and microchip regulations is causing more expense, yet the price of ponies hasn't increased at the sales.’

Table 12: The most important encouragements to commoning

	Number of Responses		Percentage of Cases
	Number	Percentage	
Financial incentives/ fairer incentives/ better market	139	29.8%	41.6%
Love of Forest/ lifetime commitment	76	16.3%	22.8%
Affordable land to rent or buy	47	10.1%	14.1%
Grazing/ stock management improvements	32	6.9%	9.6%
Support for young commoners/ fairer access to commoning	28	6.0%	8.4%
Less bureaucracy/ red tape/ regulations	27	5.8%	8.1%
Better awareness of commoning/ less pressure from tourism	27	5.8%	8.1%
Affordable housing/ commoners housing scheme	23	4.9%	6.9%
Support from Verderers/ agisters	23	4.9%	6.9%
Traffic controls/ drivers to respect the forest stock	20	4.3%	6.0%
Nothing/too old/ stay healthy	12	2.6%	3.6%
Something else	12	2.6%	3.6%
Total	466	100.0%	139.5%

- 4.3.2 The second most frequent type of comment related to the commoners' strong commitment to the Forest, the way of life and their animals. Twenty-three percent of respondents included such a comment in their remarks, and they made up 16% of all comments made. Comments made included 'Tradition & heritage to keep our rights', 'Continuation in the close forest community and the desire to stay part of that' and 'whilst there are NF ponies on forest I will turn out.'
- 4.3.3 The third most often made encouragement was access to affordable land to rent or buy as back up grazing, often associated with a holding. 'More back up land for poor ponies', 'Availability of affordable holding (rented or purchasable) with suitable facilities and more back up land' and 'keep renting of fields at a sensible price!' Such comments made up 10% of the total and were made by 14% of all those who completed this section.
- 4.3.4 Many of the remaining encouragements were given prominence by very similar numbers of respondents, showing that issues such as improvements to grazing/stock management, encouragement to young commoners, a reduction in bureaucracy, better awareness of commoning by the public, affordable housing, support from the Verderers and agisters and traffic controls all rate highly as encouragements to sizeable sectors of the commoning community.
- 4.3.5 Table 13 shows that financial viability has been the most important encouragement for commoners in all three censuses, commanding between a quarter (1990 census) to over one third (2001 census), and remaining at almost one third in the present census.
- 4.3.6 However, the present census does show a marked increase in the percentage of comments relating to commoners' feelings of commitment to the Forest itself and their animals: they will continue regardless of any outside encouragement. If these results are cross tabulated with known characteristics of the commoning population (e.g. length of time as a commoners, number of ponies and cattle), there is no evidence of a direct relation between type of commoner and the feeling that commoning is part of their way of life, and their love of the Forest.

Table 13: The most important encouragements to commoning: 1990 to 2011

	1990	2001	2011
Financial incentives/ fairer incentives/ better market	24.2%	36.6%	29.8%
Love of Forest/ lifetime commitment	8.2%	8.6%	16.3%
Affordable land to rent or buy	9.4%	3.5%	10.1%
Grazing/ stock management improvements	9.8%	25.9%	6.9%
Support for young commoners/ fairer access to commoning			6.0%
Less bureaucracy/ red tape/ regulations	7.8%	5.2%	5.8%
Better awareness of commoning/ less pressure from tourism	9.4%	2.3%	5.8%
Affordable housing/ commoners housing scheme	7.8%	2.6%	4.9%
Support from verderers/ agisters	.4%	.0%	4.9%
Traffic controls/ drivers to respect the forest stock	23.0%	2.6%	4.3%
Nothing/too old/ stay healthy		6.1%	2.6%
Something else		6.6%	2.6%

4.4 The reasons that commoners continue to turn out

- 4.4.1 When respondents were asked the main reasons that they continue to turn out, the single most often repeated reason was that commoning is a way of life, a tradition based on family and community. Table 14, below, shows that 41% of all comments made include words such as ‘it’s in my blood; I love the life’, ‘(it is a) family tradition that it is important to continue’ and ‘it’s a community I love being part of and something I want my children to have the opportunity to continue’.
- 4.4.2 The second most often expressed feeling relates to the enjoyment the commoner experiences turning animals out and their commitment to their animals. Over a quarter (27%) of comments made included sentiments such as ‘it is my love to have "my" ponies as part of the ancient NF’, ‘we enjoy having the stock and seeing them near our holding’ and ‘(for) the pleasure of seeing livestock demonstrate natural herd behaviour’.

Table 14: The reasons that commoners continue to turn out

	Number of Responses		Percentage of Cases
	Number	Percentage	
Way of life/ sense of community	181	41.2%	55.7%
Enjoyment/ commitment to animals	117	26.7%	36.0%
Hobby/ interest	30	6.8%	9.2%
For the benefit of the Forest	29	6.6%	8.9%
To maintain cultural heritage/ rights	53	12.1%	16.3%
Farm/ grazing/ hay making reliant on it	19	4.3%	5.8%
Financial benefits of HLS	8	1.8%	2.5%
Will continue as long as healthy enough	2	.5%	.6%
Total	439	100.0%	135.1%

- 4.4.3 When the main reasons that respondents give for continuing in this census are compared with those given in the previous ones, the results show a great deal of similarity. The percentage that continues because it is their way of life and for the community they share has hardly changed over the 20 year period. Similarly, people’s enjoyment and commitment to their animals remains at the same level as in 1990.

Table 15: The main reasons that commoners continue to turn out: 1990 to 2011*

	1990	2001	2011
Way of life/ sense of community	43.4%	42.3%	42.2%
Enjoyment/ commitment to animals	28.6%	20.5%	27.3%
Hobby/ interest	16.8%	11.3%	7.0%
For the benefit of the Forest	3.6%	16.0%	6.8%
To maintain cultural heritage/ rights		5.5%	12.4%
Economic reliance	7.7%	4.4%	4.4%

* Note the percentages in this table vary slightly from the previous one because of the exclusion of the less frequently expressed reasons

- 4.4.4 The census was sent to a number of commoners who have not turned out in the present year, but are on the Marking Fee Register for at least one year since 2006. This made it possible to ask those who have stopped turning out why this was the case. In this situation, the comments that they made often related to their own personal circumstances. Nearly half (47%) of the comments related to loss of land or rights, a marriage break up, the children losing interest, or shortage of time. ‘Stopped late 2010 due to distance and winter road conditions if there was an animal (that) needed daily attention’, ‘Last turned out Dec 2009: not enough time.’ While a further 14% have stopped due to their age.
- 4.4.5 Other reasons given included the weight of bureaucracy, the ignorance of the public and traffic accidents. Cross tabulation of the reasons for commoners ceasing to turn out with length of time as a commoner and numbers of animals indicates that the majority of this group (28) are the owners of 5 or fewer ponies, and to have turned out for 15 years or less.

Table 16: Why commoners has ceased to turn out

	Number of Responses		Percentage of Cases
	Number	Percentage	
Changed personal circumstances	17	47.2%	47.2%
Lack of support/ too much bureaucracy	4	11.1%	11.1%
Ignorance of the public	3	8.3%	8.3%
Traffic accidents	6	16.7%	16.7%
Too many stallions	1	2.8%	2.8%
Too old/ retired	5	13.9%	13.9%
Total	36	100.0%	100.0%

4.5 Single Farm Payments and Verderers’ Stewardship Scheme

- 4.5.1 The next series of questions concerned the payments made to commoners through Single Farm Payments (SFP) and the Verderers’ Stewardship Scheme (VSS). Respondents were first asked whether they have ever received these payments. Over half of respondents (53%) said that they have never received Single Farm Payments, and over a quarter (28%) has not received Verderers’ Stewardship money.

Table 17: Whether respondent has received SFP and VSS payments

	Single Farm Payment		Verderers’ Stewardship Scheme	
	Number	%	Number	%
Never	207	53.2	106	27.5
In previous years	26	6.7	53	13.8
This year	47	12.1	58	15.1
This and previous years	109	28.0	168	43.6
Total	389	100.0	385	100.0
Not stated	6		10	
Total	395		395	

- 4.5.2 Table 17 shows that, of those in receipt of payments, 44% have received VSS and 28% have received SFP in 2010 and in previous years. However, 15% have received VSS and 12% have received SFP in the present year only, while 14% have received VSS and 7% have received SFP in previous years, but not this one.
- 4.5.3 When they were asked the principal ways in which the payments have supported their commoning, respondents make clear that the money was put to a wide range of purposes related to their commoning. Over a quarter of all responses (28%) relate to day to day costs such as hay and feed, with a further 11% including vet bills, wormers and fallen stock disposal and 9% saying it helps with back up land rents and maintenance.
- 4.5.4 Only a relatively small proportion appears to have been spent on investment. Twelve percent said that they have been able to buy, upgrade and maintain equipment, buildings and their holdings, while 2% said that it has enabled them to increase their stock.
- 4.5.5 There appears to be a general feeling that the money has helped in small ways. Eighteen percent thought it had been an added bonus, or reduced the cost burden of their commoning, although 6% said it had enabled them to continue as commoners. Conversely 8% felt that it was too small to make a difference, was unfairly distributed, or should only be paid out to those who really need it.

Table 18: How the money received in the past year has been spent

	Number of Responses		Percentage of Cases
	Number	Percentage	
Paid for feed/hay	115	27.6%	44.1%
Added bonus/ reduced burden	76	18.3%	29.1%
Upgraded/purchased/maintained buildings/ holding/ equipment	51	12.3%	19.5%
Paid for vet bills/ wormers/ disposal	46	11.1%	17.6%
Helped pay for backup land rent/maintenance	38	9.1%	14.6%
Unfair/too small/only for those who need it	32	7.7%	12.3%
Enabled us to continue commoning	26	6.3%	10.0%
Paid for passports/ microchipping/ marking fees etc	24	5.8%	9.2%
Able to increase stock	8	1.9%	3.1%
Total	416	100.0%	159.4%

- 4.5.6 When respondents were prompted to say proportionately how much of the money they have spent on a range of investments, inputs and services to support their commoning, it is clear that most has been spent in the day to day support of their commoning. Table 19, on the next page, shows that the largest expenditure is on feedstuffs and bedding, with only one fifth of respondents (20%) saying that they have spent none of the payment on this, and 11% spending all of it. Including this group, only 2% spent all the money on a single cost area, while 31% spent small amounts in many different areas of their business.

Table 18: Proportion of money spent on different inputs and services

	None of the money received	All of the money received	Most of the money received	Some of the money received	A little of the money received
To buy feedstuffs, bedding, etc	53	29	35	52	102
	19.6%	10.7%	12.9%	19.2%	37.6%
To buy/rent back-up land	162	7	7	22	73
	59.8%	2.6%	2.6%	8.1%	26.9%
To cover veterinary fees and other management costs	122	5	2	20	122
	45.0%	1.8%	0.7%	7.4%	45.0%
To invest in machinery and equipment	174	3	5	12	77
	64.2%	1.1%	1.8%	4.4%	28.4%
To repair buildings and equipment	173	1		5	92
	63.8%	0.4%		1.8%	33.9%
To purchase breeding or other stock	214			1	56
	79.0%			0.4%	20.7%
To upgrade or pay for new buildings	227			8	36
	83.8%			3.0%	13.3%
To improve the management of your backup land	159	1	1	8	102
	58.7%	0.4%	0.4%	3.0%	37.6%
To build/repair fences and ditches	122	4	1	8	136
	45.0%	1.5%	0.4%	3.0%	50.2%
To plant hedges/trees on your land	226	1		1	43
	83.4%	0.4%	0.0%	0.4%	15.9%
	1632	51.	51	137	839
	60.2%	1.9%	1.9%	5.1%	31.0%

4.5.7 If the ways in which the payments have been used by commoners are compared with the type of payments received, as shown in Table 20, on the next page, it can be seen that over half of those receiving only VSS highlight feeding costs, and 30% specify vets' bills and wormers, while a far larger percentage of those receiving the potentially far larger Single Farm Payments also include expenditure on investment in their commoning enterprise (i.e. their holdings and equipment).

Table 20: Differences between expenditure of VSS and SFP in 2010

	VSS this year	SFP this year	VSS and SFP this year	All respondents
Enabled us to continue commoning	3.7%	15.4%	15.0%	9.2%
Upgraded/ purchased/ maintained buildings/ holding/ equipment	4.9%	61.5%	27.6%	19.5%
Paid for feed/hay	51.2%	23.1%	38.6%	44.1%
Unfair/too small/only for those who need it	14.6%	7.7%	7.9%	10.0%
Added bonus/ reduced burden	23.2%	0.0%	37.0%	29.1%
Helped pay for backup land rent/maintenance	11.0%	23.1%	12.6%	12.3%
Able to increase stock	3.7%	0.0%	3.1%	3.1%
Paid for passports/ microchipping/ marking fees etc	18.3%	0.0%	10.2%	14.6%
Paid for vet bills/ wormers/ fallen stock disposal	30.5%	7.7%	10.2%	17.6%

4.5.8 Respondents were asked whether they would be able to continue commoning if the payments stopped. Two thirds (69%) of those who completed this question said that they would. The reasons given for continuing are very similar to those given in response to the question on the reasons for turning out: 'Because it has been in the family for generations and is a way of life', 'Not in it to make money', 'We do not turn out many animals and therefore do not expect financial help'. However, the remaining third said that they would find it difficult, and would have to scale back their activities: 'Not viable. Would want to continue but would have to consider costs', 'Could not afford to keep animals in winter'.

Table 21: Whether respondents would continue if payments stopped

	Number of Responses		Percentage of Cases
	Number	Percentage	
Will always continue	160	50.5%	58.0%
Managed before payments	49	15.5%	17.8%
Would find it difficult/ impossible	89	28.1%	32.2%
Commoning not about money	8	2.5%	2.9%
Something else	11	3.5%	4.0%
Totals	317	100.0%	114.9%

4.5.9 Three quarters of respondents said that they are either very or quite reliant on the payments that they receive. However 19% said that other forms of support are more important to them. These included practical support from other commoners, the agisters and Verderers, as well as other ways they think it would be better to support commoning, both financially and otherwise: e.g. through support for vet bills, wormers and marking fees, improved markets, affordable housing and land and education for young commoners and others keen to get involved.

4.5.10 The issue of continued payments may have particular significance for the future of the cattle herd. One respondent commented that 'keeping cattle has been steadily in decline, but would be greatly accelerated without subsidy. Cattle require much more regular attention and have more bureaucracy, making them

more difficult to combine with a full time job than ponies. The spread of TB requiring more frequent testing all adds to the problem’.

Table 22: How reliant respondents are on the payments

	No of Responses		Percentage of Cases
	Number	Percentage	
Very reliant	129	41.6%	46.2%
Quite reliant	80	25.8%	28.7%
Not reliant	33	10.6%	11.8%
Other forms of support are more important	54	17.4%	19.4%
Not sure at present	7	2.3%	2.5%
Too old to continue	4	1.3%	1.4%
Payments are bad for commoning	3	1.0%	1.1%
Total	310	100.0%	111.1%

4.6 Ideas for future HLS spending

4.6.1 Respondents were asked their views on likely ways in which the money from the HLS might best be spent to benefit commoning over the coming years. A total of 365 proposals were put forward by 245 respondents, and range widely over all aspects of commoning. The broad subject areas into which these suggestions have been grouped are set out in Table 23 below. The most often proposed area was in the development of what might be termed ‘commoning infrastructure’ (13%), and focuses principally on the number, distribution and condition of pounds on the open forest, and the need for a permanent incinerator for fallen stock.

Table 23: Ideas for use of HLS funding

	No of Responses		Percentage of Cases
	Number	Percentage	
Development/ management of commoning infrastructure	49	13.4%	20.0%
Incentives and grants for commoners	41	11.2%	16.7%
Traffic controls/ stop accidents to stock	40	11.0%	16.3%
Access to affordable back up land	38	10.4%	15.5%
Better forest management	32	8.8%	13.1%
Support young commoners	32	8.8%	13.1%
Affordable housing for commoners/ agisters	24	6.6%	9.8%
Incentives to breed ponies/ cattle	21	5.8%	8.6%
Improve public awareness	20	5.5%	8.2%
Continue with BRS improvements	18	4.9%	7.3%
Other	16	4.4%	6.5%
Improve marketing/ producers' co-op	14	3.8%	5.7%
Education for commoners	13	3.6%	5.3%
Stop encroachments by traffic and land owners	4	1.1%	1.6%
Stand up to bureaucratic pressure	3	.8%	1.2%
Total	365	100.0%	149.0%

- 4.6.2 The next most often suggested area for support was to provide incentives and grants to help commoners in specific ways (11%). These suggestions included ‘a hardship fund for vet costs so that commoners have reassurance that they can afford to pay for treatment in hard times’, ‘subsidised hay/ hard feed costs for commoners animals would be a big help & encourage commoners to bring in ponies going back in winter before they get too poor’, ‘Some form of help towards TB pre movement testing’, ‘Purchase of specialist tools/ equipment’, ‘Purchase of agricultural machinery which could be hired by commoners’ and ‘More help to encourage young commoners to run cattle on the forest’.
- 4.6.3 The third most often proposed area of support (11%) was for various ways in which the toll of animal death and suffering can be reduced on the Forest roads. Ideas such as ‘More schemes to reduce speeding on forest roads’, ‘signs and speed limits on forest roads to warn or trap speeding motorists’, ‘improve the road signage/ gateway to forest signs’ and ‘fencing (of) black spot areas’.
- 4.6.4 Also included are suggestions that ways should be found to make affordable back up land and housing available to commoners, support given to young commoners and a number of specific ideas about improving open forest management, amongst other ideas. A full listing of all the proposed ways in which respondents think that the funding could be spent are set out in Appendix II.

5 Responses from young commoners

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Responses to the census were received from 86 young commoners who completed the final section of the form regarding their future intentions as commoners. Their complete responses were selected as a group from the dataset and compared with those of the whole population. The results of this analysis and the additional questions aimed specifically at young commoners are set out in the following sections.

5.2 Commoning practice

- 5.2.1 As Table 23, on the next page shows, although almost all young commoners said that they do have common rights as a result of their house or land that they own/rent, 12% rely on the rights of a member of their family. This compares with 3% of respondents who are not young commoners.

Table 23: Young commoners' access to common rights

Do you have common rights?	If not, how have you accessed these rights?			Total
	I have common rights	Through a member of my family	Through an informal arrangement with friends/neighbours	
On my holding/house	38			38
	44.7%			44.7%
On land that I own/rent	36			36
	42.4%			42.4%
No	0	10	1	11
		11.8%	1.2%	12.9%
Total	74	10	1	85

5.2.2 When they were asked how long they had been commoning, 40% said they have been turning out in their own right for 5 years or less, while 15% have been turning out for 6 to 10 years and 23% for 11 to 20 years. Only a relatively small percentage (11%) said that they have been turning out all their lives. However, it is clear that some respondents have been commoning with their families for all their lives, but have only started to turn out under their own name more recently.

Table 24: Length of time that young commoners have turned out

	Number	Percentage
Under 2 years	7	8.4%
2 to 5 years	26	31.3%
6 to 10 years	12	14.5%
11 to 20 years	19	22.9%
Longer than 20 years	10	12.0%
All your life (however long that has been)	9	10.8%
Total	83	100.0%

5.2.3 Young commoners' responses to questions about their use of back up land indicate that they are more likely to rent the land they use than to own it. Table 25, on the next page shows that over a third (35%) of young commoners rent all the land they use while just under a quarter (24%) own all their land. This is the reverse of the situation for older members of the community where 33% own all the land they use and 21% rent all of it.

Table 25: Young commoners' tenure of back up land

	Number	Valid Percent
Own all land used	19	23.8%
Rent all land used	28	35.0%
Own or rent all land used	13	16.3%
All land informally used	11	13.8%
Own or use land informally	2	2.5%
Rent or use land informally	4	5.0%
Own, rent and use land informally	3	3.8%
Total	80	100.0%

5.3 Location of holdings and back up land

5.3.1 High house and land prices across the New Forest area are a well known problem for young commoners. The distribution of the commoning population shown in Table 26, below, clearly shows that many young commoners have found it difficult to establish themselves in the heart of the Forest. While 40% of older commoners and 34% of young commoners live in the central forest area, twice as many young commoners as older commoners live on Waterside. When the area in which a commoner's holding is situated is cross tabulated with the tenure of their back up land, it is clear that half the young commoners (50%) living in Waterside rent all their back up land.

Table 26: Location of holdings: Young and established commoners

	Young Commoner		Whole population
	Yes	No	
South west	5.9%	7.1%	6.9%
North west	9.4%	20.8%	18.3%
North	4.7%	7.1%	6.6%
Waterside	30.6%	15.6%	18.8%
South east (including Lymington)	14.1%	5.5%	7.4%
Central Forest	34.1%	40.3%	38.9%
Outside area	1.2%	3.6%	3.1%

5.3.2 Although there are slight variations in the percentage of young commoners and others who do not think that the land they use for back up is suitably located, these are not significant. However, there is a considerable difference in the percentage of young commoners who would like to have more back up land. Just over a quarter (26%) of older commoners would like more back up land, but over a third of young commoners (36%) say that they want more. Amongst

young commoners the median area of back up land required is half of that required by older commoners: 5 acres as opposed to 10.

5.4 Expansion of commoning

5.4.1 In the final section of the main census form young commoners were asked whether they would like to increase the number of animals that they turn out. Of the 86 young commoners who completed the survey, two thirds (65%) want to increase the number of ponies that they have, and 45% would like to increase the number of cattle. Additionally, over a quarter (27%) would like to increase the number of pigs they turn out and 9% the number of donkeys. One young northern commoner also said that they would increase the number of sheep they turn out.

Table 27: Young commoners who want to increase their stock

	Ponies	Cattle	Donkeys	Pigs	Sheep
Yes	65%	45%	9%	27%	1%

5.4.2 The number of each type of animal that these young commoners would like to add to their present herds is set out in Table 28 below. The table shows that almost two thirds (63% or 39 young commoners) of those who would like to increase their pony herd would like to add 6 or more animals, while 65% (or 26 young commoners) of those who like to increase their cattle holding would like to add 6 or more animals. Half of those who want to turn out more pigs (50% or 10 young commoners) would like to turn out 6 or more pigs.

Table 28: Number of animals of each type that young commoners would like to add to the present herd

	Ponies		Cattle		Donkeys		Pigs		Sheep	
1 or 2	6	9.7	6	15.0	3	37.5	7	35.0		
3 to 5	17	27.4	8	20.0	5	62.5	3	15.0		
6 to 10	25	40.3	10	25.0			4	20.0		
More than 10	14	22.6	16	40.0			6	30.0	1	100.0
Total	62	100	40	100.0	8	100.0	20	100.0		

5.5 The most serious problems that commoning presently faces

5.5.1 Young commoners made a similar number of comments about the problems they experienced as their older counterparts, but the differing percentages recorded for the problems in the list reflect their personal concerns. As with older commoners the first issue on the list is the problem of the high costs and low returns in commoning which make up 21% of all comments. Young

commoners made statements such as ‘Finance and not getting a good price for the foals’, ‘The cost of bringing them in & feeding if under weight’ and ‘Costs like TB testing which is an added cost that I think is the biggest problem as it not cheap at all.’

Table 29: Young commoners’ views on the most serious problems

	Young Commoner		Whole population
	Yes	No	
High costs/poor returns	21%	17%	18%
Affordable back up grazing	16%	13%	14%
Affordable housing	16%	13%	13%
Public ignorance/ pressure of tourism	11%	17%	15%
Bureaucratic ignorance and pressure	9%	13%	12%
Need to support young commoners	7%	6%	6%
Road traffic accidents	7%	10%	9%
Something else*	5%	4%	4%
Stewardship Scheme/ unfair payments	3%	1%	2%
Poor management of stock/commoning	2%	4%	3%
Problems with dogs	2%	2%	2%
There is no future	1%	0%	0%

- 5.5.2 The next most frequently stated problems are the need for affordable back up land and housing within the Forest boundary which, in combination, make up 32% of all comments made by young commoners, and are frequently linked. Statements such as ‘Availability of land at the right price in the right area and, more importantly, affordable housing.’, ‘Lack of affordable housing, lack of affordable land (back up grazing)’, and ‘Affordable housing for local commoners, so children can carry on commoning, and back up land affordable land buy or rent.’
- 5.5.3 All these three issues are more likely to be seen as problems for young commoners than established ones, and are all sometimes linked in light of the general financial problems of commoning: ‘People not being able to afford to keep their stock and not having enough land (due to cost) to keep them on.’ and ‘High feed costs due to poor summer hay yields and low demand for foals, this being a short term problem, cost of land and land moving away from commoning.’
- 5.5.4 Although public ignorance and the pressures of tourism, followed by bureaucratic ignorance and pressure are the next most highly rated problems for young commoners as well as older ones, in both cases the percentage of young commoners who see them as problems is lower than established commoners. This may be an indication of the changing focus of concern once the issues of land, housing and finance have, hopefully, been resolved.

5.6 The most important encouragements to commoning

5.6.1 When asked what would best encourage them to continue commoning, there was no significant difference between young commoners and their elders – financial incentives and better markets for their stock was the most often chosen priority for all respondents. Forty percent of comments from young commoners were in this area. They included words such as ‘Financial help like the Verderers’ Stewardship Scheme.’, ‘A stronger price for the animals at sale time.’ But the comments from young commoners were also more likely to include words such as ‘A much fairer allocation of financial support!’ and ‘If my children wanted to continue & participate in the commoning way of life and are not penalised on future payments to increase stock, as my generation has been,’ and ‘I would like to be included in future schemes. Presently all my costs are met by me working in (my) spare time, or by my parents’.

Table 29: Young commoners’ view on what will best encourage them to continue commoning

	Young Commoner		Whole population
	Yes	No	
Financial incentives/ fairer incentives/ better market	40%	41%	41%
Affordable land to rent or buy	25%	11%	14%
Love of Forest/ lifetime commitment	24%	22%	23%
Affordable housing/ commoners housing scheme	11%	6%	7%
Better awareness of commoning/ less pressure from tourism	10%	7%	8%
Support for young commoners/ fairer access to commoning	9%	8%	8%
Grazing/ stock management improvements	9%	11%	10%
Less bureaucracy/red tape/ regulations	5%	9%	8%
Traffic controls/ drivers to respect the forest stock	4%	7%	6%
Support from Verderers/ agisters	3%	8%	7%
Something else	1%	4%	4%
Nothing/too old/ stay healthy	0%	5%	4%

5.6.2 Following on closely from this is the need for affordable back up land, with a quarter of the comments (25%) made by young commoners relating to this, and often associated with the need for affordable housing close to the Forest (11%). One respondent commented that they would like ‘To be able to have my own house with land to common from for my family, but this seems to be impossible’, ‘Finding housing I can afford close enough to the forest with land’, ‘Finding somewhere to live fit for purpose of commoning’, and ‘I would like to increase my stock, but there is just not enough back up grazing available for a TRUE young commoner’.

5.6.3 The next most commonly stated encouragement made in almost a quarter (24%) of comments by young commoners was that commoning is their way of life: ‘It’s

been my way of life, bred in me. I will continue whatever’, ‘I do it because I love it! The forest is a big part of my life and in turning out I believe I am giving something back for the enjoyment that the forest has given me’, and ‘Tradition & heritage to keep our rights’.

5.7 The reasons that young commoners turn out

5.7.1 The reasons that young commoners give for turning out are very similar to those of their elders. The most often quoted reasons are that commoning is a way of life and gives them a sense of belonging to their community, with almost half the comments made by young commoners (47%) making these points. The next most frequently made comment is for the enjoyment of the life, the work and the animals that they own. Young commoners are more likely to make statements that fall into both these categories than established commoners, while the latter group are more likely to use expressions that fall into the category ‘for the benefit of the forest’ or ‘to maintain cultural heritage/ commoning rights’.

Table 30: The reasons that young commoners turn out

	Young Commoner		Whole population
	Yes	No	
Way of life/ sense of community	47%	39%	41%
Enjoyment/ commitment to animals	28%	26%	27%
Hobby/ interest	7%	7%	7%
For the benefit of the Forest	2%	8%	7%
To maintain cultural heritage/ rights	11%	12%	12%
Farm/ grazing/ hay making reliant on it	5%	4%	4%
Financial benefits of HLS	1%	2%	2%
Will continue as long as healthy enough	0%	1%	0%

5.7.2 While the difference in the way that younger and older commoners look upon their commoning is not great, it is interesting to note this apparent change of emphasis in commoners’ feelings about their relationship to their community, their animals and the Forest itself. Young commoners more often make comments like ‘Way of life in family for generations. Sense of belonging to a forest community. Enjoyment of breeding looking after ponies’, or ‘Family tradition and way of life, keeping country ways staying in the forest’ compared to many older commoners who might use words such as ‘To see that the forest is retained as an open area and not overgrown’, and ‘Ponies have been on the forest for many years and are now one essential part of the forest ecology. Without the livestock there would be no forest as we have it now’.

5.8 Single Farm Payments and Verderers' Stewardship Scheme

- 5.8.1 Over three quarters (76%) of young commoners have never received Single Farm Payments (SFP) and almost half (45%) have never received Verderers' Stewardship Scheme (VSS) money. This compares to 47% of older commoners who have not received SFP and 23% who have not received VSS payments. Only 14% of young commoners have received SFP in this and previous years, and a further 6% said they are in receipt of it this year only. Only 37% of young commoners have received VSS money in this and previous years, and a further 10% said they have received it this year only.

Table 31: Young commoners in receipt of SFP and VSS

	Single Farm Payment		Verderers' Stewardship Scheme	
	Number	%	Number	%
Never	64	76.2%	38	45.2%
In previous years	3	3.6%	7	8.3%
This year	5	6.0%	8	9.5%
This and previous years	12	14.3%	31	36.9%
Total	84	100.0%	84	100.0%
Not stated	2		2	
Total	86		86	

- 5.8.2 A number of young commoners commented on the problems that this is causing for them in their attempts to establish themselves as commoners. 'My late grandparents were on the schemes that I am trying to (get on. It) is very hard to carry on the long tradition of commoning' and 'The amount I personally receive is so small it has no benefit to my commoning activities. I am a YC who has been penalised for increasing my number of ponies so have not been able to invest in any of the items below'⁵. They feel that they are being unfairly treated by those who control the schemes, as well as seeing others receiving what they consider to be excessive payments for their commoning: 'Fair and equal treatment of all commoners', 'A reduction in the amount of animals some are able to turn out, and an increase on the lower level. I would ideally like to turn out 15-20 animals - an acceptable amount for commoning in general'.

⁵ Here the respondent is referring to the next question regarding the main spending areas for VSS and SFP.

Table 32: Use of payments made by young commoners

	Young Commoner		Whole population
	Yes	No	
Paid for feed/hay	18%	29%	28%
Paid for passports/ marking fees/ microchipping etc	18%	7%	9%
Added bonus/ reduced burden	17%	19%	18%
Helped pay for backup land rent/maintenance	12%	7%	8%
Upgraded/purchased/maintained buildings/ holding/equipment	11%	13%	12%
Paid for vet bills/ wormers/ fallen stock disposal	11%	11%	11%
Unfair/too small/only for those who need it	5%	6%	6%
Enabled us to continue commoning	5%	6%	6%
Able to increase stock	0%	2%	2%

5.8.3 While almost a third of comments made by older commoners said that they use SFP and VSS payments for buying feedstuffs and hay, only 18% of young commoners said that they do so. Conversely, only 7% of established commoners spend the money on passports/ marking fees/ microchipping, etc compared to 18% of young commoners. However, overall a similar percentage of both groups (36%) use the payments for these everyday running costs of commoning. Young commoners were more likely to spend payments on back up land rent and maintenance (12% as opposed to 7%) which may be a reflection of the larger percentage of young commoners who rent their back up land. However, there is no great variation in other spending areas, and it is probable that there is no significant reason for young commoners to spend the payments they receive differently from more established commoners.

5.8.4 The determination of young commoners to continue regardless of presence of financial assistance is very similar to that of the group as a whole. Two thirds of both groups (64% and 66%) said that they will always continue, or that they managed before the payments. Similarly, the percentage who would find it difficult is the same, as are the reasons that they give: 'The extra money helps with feed. I could not afford to keep the animals with out it' and 'Having lived at home up until now, it's fitted into family life, but I couldn't afford to turn out without it'. However, it should be noted that the numbers on each group in the table are small and should therefore be treated with caution.

Table 33: Whether young commoners would continue if payments stopped

	Young Commoner		Whole population
	Yes	No	
Will always continue	42%	52%	50%
Managed before payments	22%	14%	15%
Would find it difficult	29%	28%	28%
Commoning not about money	4%	2%	3%
Something else	4%	3%	3%

5.8.5 Young commoners are slightly less likely to say that they are very or quite reliant on payments than established commoners. Under two third of young commoners (62%) said they are very or quite reliant on them compared to 69% of older commoners. They are also more likely to say that other forms of support are more important to them. Twenty-one percent of young commoners made this comment, compared to 16% of older commoners: ‘Important, but other areas of support need to be looked into. It should not be all about money - greed!’ and ‘agisters are a great support. I will not rely on any form of payment’.

Table 34: How reliant young commoners are on the payments

	Young Commoner		Whole population
	Yes	No	
Very reliant	39%	42%	42%
Quite reliant	23%	27%	26%
Not reliant	15%	9%	11%
Other forms of support are more important	21%	16%	17%
Not sure at present	0%	3%	2%
Too old to continue	0%	2%	1%
Payments are bad for commoning	2%	1%	1%

5.9 Ideas for future HLS spending

5.9.1 Young commoners’ ideas for the future use of HLS money indicate some of their major concerns about their own future as well as that of commoning. The most often proposed use of funding is in providing access to affordable back up land, about which 15% of all suggestions were made. This compares with 9% of suggestions made by older commoners. Proposals such as ‘Try to encourage older land owners to free up a couple of acres of land that could be used by a young commoner’, ‘Buy parcels of land around the forest and let commoners

rent it (at) low cost' and 'Back up grazing for young commoners within their parish'.

- 5.9.2 The next most frequently made suggestion is for the development of commoning infrastructure, which attracts a similar percentage of comments from younger and older commoners. The third most often stated proposals are for the support of young commoners: which make up 14% of all comments made by young commoners compared to 7% made by older commoners. Young commoners make comments such as 'Continuity and expanding the number of courses available to YC i.e. trailer training, chainsaw safety', 'Purchase land to lease to YC who are struggling to find land' and 'Help the YC receive the headage payment. Otherwise there (will be) no future commoners'.

Table 35: Ideas for future use of VSS money

	Young Commoner		Whole population
	Yes	No	
Access to affordable back up land	15%	9%	10%
Development/ management of commoning infrastructure	14%	13%	13%
Support young commoners	14%	7%	9%
Incentives and grants for commoners	13%	11%	11%
Traffic controls/ stop accidents to stock	9%	12%	11%
Better forest management	7%	9%	9%
Education for commoners	7%	3%	4%
Improve public awareness	6%	5%	5%
Continue with BRS improvements	5%	5%	5%
Improve marketing/ producers' co-op	5%	4%	4%
Affordable housing for commoners/ agisters	3%	8%	7%
Incentives to breed ponies/ cattle	3%	6%	6%
Other	1%	5%	4%
Stop encroachments by traffic and land owners		1%	1%
Stand up to bureaucratic pressure		1%	1%

- 5.9.3 Perhaps rather surprisingly the provision of affordable housing for commoners and/or agisters is suggested by a smaller percentage of young commoners (3%) than older ones (8%). Considering that 16% of comments made by young commoners about the most serious problems that commoning faces today (see Section 5.5.2.), this small percentage is surprising and may relate more to the young commoners' awareness that this is unlikely to be something that comes under the umbrella of the HLS in its present form.

6 The Marking Fee Register 1965 to 2010

- 6.1.1 The Marking Fee Register has been computerised since 1965, providing an invaluable source of information about trends in the commoning population and the animals depastured. Over the past 20 years the information in this database has been accumulated and matched to provide trends data on population numbers, herd sizes and length of commoning over a period of 45 years. At the present time the database includes some 19,000 cases of which relate to 2032 commoners.
- 6.1.2 Each commoner is identified in the database by a unique number code, so that the data can be anonymised yet retain an historical path regardless of changing names or addresses. In this way the dataset provides an invaluable time series representing change and continuity of the commoning population and the animal herds of the New Forest. However, throughout this analysis, it should be noted that commoners vary greatly in the way in which they organise their business, so that the figures are only best estimates. For instance, some commoners turn out as a partnership, while others may pay their marking fees for different groups of animals in different ways: some under a partnership, others on their own behalf.
- 6.1.3 Thus, if a count of the total number of commoners is being sought, partnerships would increase the number of single commoners by a factor of 2, while a single person paying 2 sets of marking fees would similarly reduce the total. These arrangements also have a tendency to change over time (as when two single commoners are married, and may decide to combine their payments), thus making a full analysis of all the possible variations in nearly 19,000 cases impossible. As a consequence, the register has been analysed as it stands, and allowance must be made for small inaccuracies in the figures.
- 6.1.4 In the analysis set out over the following pages much of the data has been aggregated or grouped. Thus years have been aggregated into 5 year blocks: e.g. 1965 to 1970, 1971 to 1975, etc; and animal numbers into meaningful ranges: e.g. 1 to 5 ponies or cows, etc. This has been done to increase the legibility of the data and make it easier to compare different figures. However, it should be noted that this may also involve some loss of detail, and potential differences in totals and percentages in different analytical processes.

6.2 Present situation

6.2.1 In 2010 there were 623 fees paid to turn stock onto the New Forest. However, it should be reiterated that, when considering these figures, they are not a true representation of the actual number of commoners turning out stock. Although the great majority of commoning households only pay one marking fee, some are paid by partnerships (these could be couples, groups of siblings, or business partnerships), while a number of commoners pay more than one fee in a single year (for different groups of animals, or as part of multiple business arrangements). These figures are therefore only an approximation of the number of commoners turning out.

6.2.2 As Table 36, below, shows in 2010 marking fees were paid on a total of 7874 animals, of which almost two thirds (61%) were ponies, while a further 28% were cattle. Eighty-three percent of the ponies and 65% of the cattle were turned out by commoners living in the Forest, as opposed to those living in the Commons.

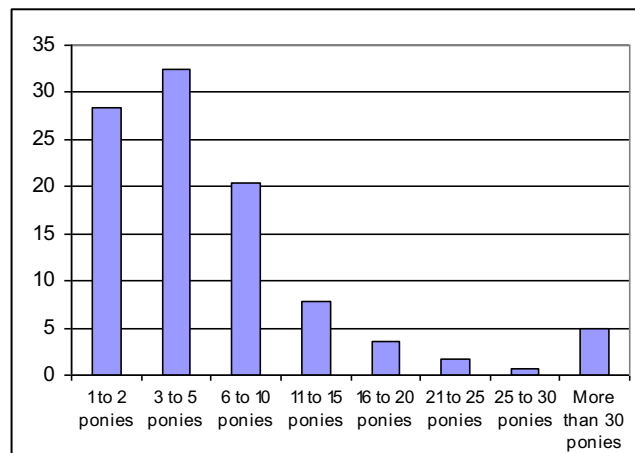
Table 36: Number of animals turned out in 2010

Animal	Area	Number	% of herd	Total
Ponies	Forest	3998	82.9%	4823
	Commons	825	17.1%	
Cattle	Forest	1460	65.4%	2234
	Commons	774	34.6%	
Donkeys				117
Pigs				547
Sheep				153
Total animals				7874

6.2.3 Just over one hundred donkeys were turned out, as well as 153 sheep. Although the number of donkeys turned out was fairly evenly distributed between the Forest and the Commons, as a result of the different laws governing the depasturing of stock, all the sheep were turned out on the commons. Prior to the pannage season only 14 pigs were recorded as having marking fees paid on the. However this figure rose to nearly 550 during the pannage season.

6.2.4 In 2010, 585 commoners turned out ponies; this represents 90% of all commoners, while only 20% turned out cattle. If the number of ponies that commoners turn out is analysed, as in Chart 4 on the next page, it can be seen that over three fifths (356 or 61%) of those with ponies have between 1 and 5 animals, and only 5% have more than 30. This latter group is made up of 29 commoners who turn out an average of 54 animals each.

Chart 4: Percentage of commoners depasturing ponies by herd size

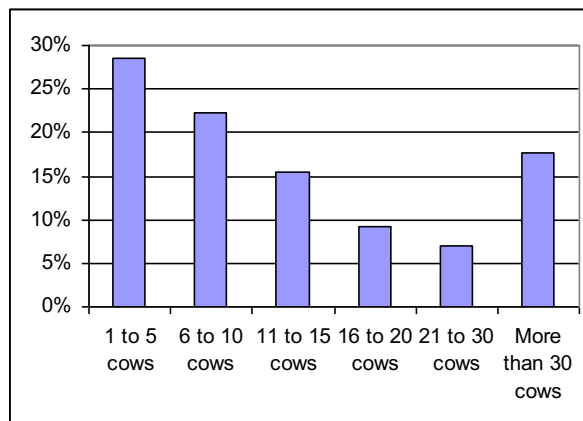


6.2.5 When the proportion of the pony herd depastured by each of these groups is brought into the equation, as in Table 37, below, it can be seen that the 60% commoners who have small herds (1 to 5 ponies) turn out one fifth (21%) of the total number of ponies on the Forest, while the small group of commoners (5%) with more than 30 ponies turn out almost one third (32%) of the total herd.

Table 37: Pony herd size and percentage of total herd turned out

	% of commoners	% of ponies
1 to 2 ponies	28%	5%
3 to 5 ponies	32%	16%
6 to 10 ponies	20%	19%
11 to 15 ponies	8%	12%
16 to 20 ponies	4%	8%
21 to 25 ponies	2%	5%
25 to 30 ponies	1%	2%
More than 30 ponies	5%	32%
Total	100%	100%

Chart 5: Percentage of commoners depasturing cattle by herd size



6.2.6 As mentioned previously, only one fifth of all commoners – a total of 130 - turn out cattle. Of this group, 37 (28%) turn out between 1 and 5 cows, while 23 (18%) turn out more than 30 animals. Thus over a quarter of those who have cattle account for only 6% of the cattle on the Forest,

Table 38: Cattle herd size and percentage of total herd turned out

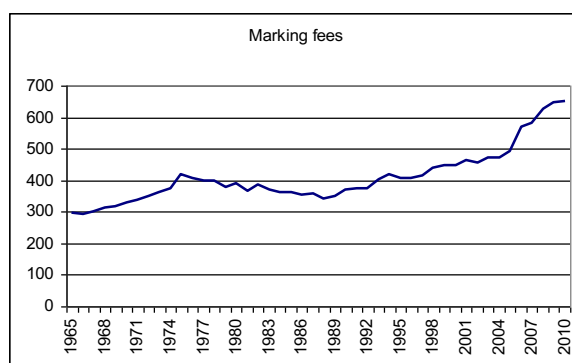
	% of commoners	% of cattle
1 to 5 cows	28%	6%
6 to 10 cows	22%	11%
11 to 15 cows	15%	11%
16 to 20 cows	9%	10%
21 to 30 cows	7%	10%
More than 30 cows	18%	51%
Total	100%	100%

6.2.7 Unlike pony owners, those who own a substantial number of cattle make up a significant percentage of all cattle owners. Eighteen percent of commoners with cattle (23) have more than 30 animals and these account for over half (51%) the cattle depastured. However, because of the small percentage of commoners who turn out cattle, any change in this small group could have a marked effect on the number of cattle depastured.

6.3 The commoning population: 1965 to 2010

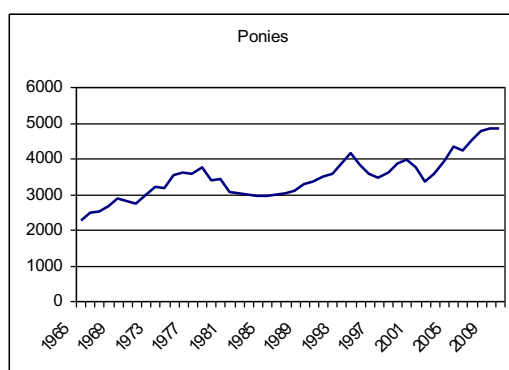
6.3.1 As Chart 6, below, shows there has been a steady increase in the number of marking fees paid for most years between 1965 and 2010. In the period from 1965 to 1975 the number increased from 299 to 420. During the late 1970's and the 1980's the numbers showed a small but steady decline to a low of 341 in 1988, when they then started to rise again. The rate of increase remained fairly stable throughout the 1990's and into the first years of the present century. But the period from 2004 onwards shows a greater rate of increase than was previously evident. In 2006 alone 74 new commoners started turning out and, by 2009 there were a total of 649. There are presently more than double the number of commoners turning out in 1965.

Chart 6: Number of marking fees paid: 1965 to 2010



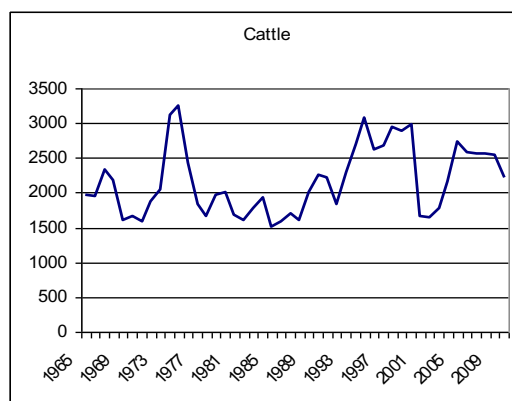
6.3.2 Over the same period the total number of animals turned out has also increased, though the increase has not been the same across the major species. In 1965 there were 2267 ponies marked for turn out. This number rose steadily until 1977, when there were 3732 ponies on the Forest. A fairly sharp decline in numbers to 2928 between 1977 and 1984 has been followed short periods of decline and increase to the present day, but with a general upward trend to a total of 4759 in 2010. This represents an increase of 210%.

Chart 7: Number of ponies turned out: 1965 to 2010



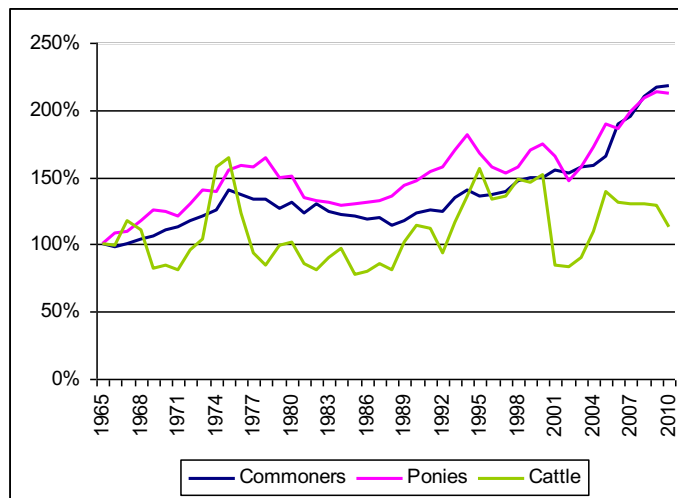
6.3.3 The number of cattle has not increased markedly over the same period. In 1965 there were 1971 depastured, while in 2010 there were 2220 – an increase of 12%. Chart 8, below, shows that cattle numbers have risen and fallen, responding to external forces, notably the market price for beef and the Foot and Mouth outbreak of 2001.

Chart 8: Number of cattle turned out: 1965 to 2010



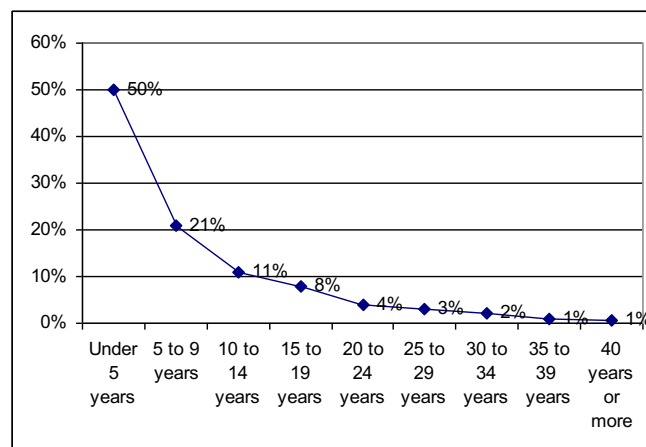
6.3.4 If the numbers of commoners, cattle and ponies recorded on the marking fee register in 1965 are set as baselines (100%), and the changes in the succeeding years charted against these figures, as in Chart 9 on the next page, it can be seen that the number of ponies has risen very much in line with the number of commoners, while the number of cattle appears to be largely unaffected by changes in commoners numbers, and has probably responded to outside forces.

Chart 9: Changes in the numbers of commoners in relation to number of ponies and cattle depastured: 1965 to 2010



6.3.5 The next section concerns the length of time over which commoners turn stock onto the Forest. Not surprisingly the numbers turning out declines as the period over which they turn out increases. Chart 10, below, shows the length of time that each commoner turns out according to the Marking Fee Register and covers all commoners included in the Register. It excludes the data from the years 1965 and 2010, because this would give misleading results for those who had been turning out before 1965 or continue to turn out now. The graph shows that 50% of those who start commoning turn out for between 1 and 5 years, while only 11% have turned out for more than 20 years.

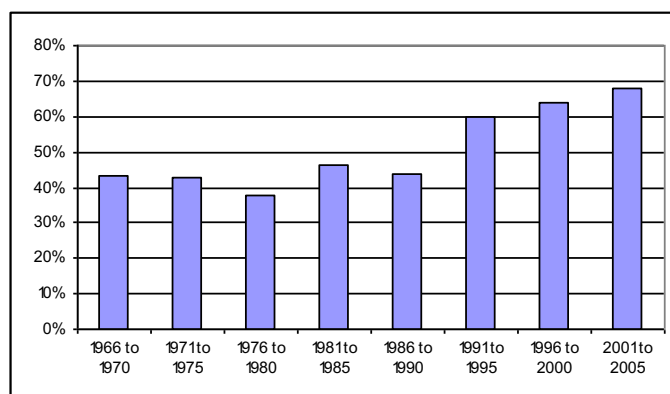
Chart 10: Number of years commoners have turned out



6.3.6 If these data are cross-tabulated with the date on which the person started to turn stock out, it can be seen that, over time, there has been an increase in the percentage of those who take up commoning only to stop after a short period. Thus Chart 11, on the next page, shows that the percentage of those turning out for 5 years or less has increased from less than half (43%) for those who took up commoning between 1966 and 1970 to two thirds (68%) for those who started between 2001 and 2005 (the data for those starting after 2005 have been excluded from the dataset).

Moreover, there appears to be a step change in the percentage turning out for a short period after 1990.

Chart 11: Percentage of commoners turning out for 5 years or less



- 6.3.7 Information from the census indicates that there is some concern amongst commoners that ‘new commoners’ sometimes cause problems for others as well as the agisters. One respondent made the point that ‘some “new commoners” cannot even recognise their own stock, even when they only have 2 ponies.... Often yearlings are now being turned out on their own in groups, when they should be paired off first with an older pony who knows the haunts...’
- 6.3.8 Chart 7 above (page 38) shows that the size of the pony herd has more than doubled since the start of the data series, while cattle numbers have increased slightly (Chart 8). As well as changes in the absolute numbers of stock turned out, there have been changes in the characteristics of the grazing herds over the past 45 years. Maximum pony herd sizes have increased by almost one third since the early years of the analysis, while the maximum size of cattle herds has declined. On the other hand, the percentage of commoners turning out small herds of ponies has increased significantly, while for cattle the percentage with large herds has increased.
- 6.3.9 Over the period of the dataset, the changes in the percentage of the pony herd owned by different groups of commoners (notably ‘small commoners’ and ‘large commoners’), shows that the composition of the pony herd is changing. In this analysis years are grouped and averaged into 5 year intervals, so that sudden changes in a single year do not mask the overall trends and three periods have been selected to make the changes more legible.
- 6.3.10 In the period 1965 to 1970, 51% of commoners owned 5 ponies or fewer. This percentage had increased to 61% by 2006 to 2010. Charts 11 and 12 show that, not only have the percentage of the commoning population that turns out small numbers of ponies increased, but the increase in the absolute number of commoners is concentrated amongst those who own small pony herds. In 1965-70 an annual average of 124 commoners turned out 5 or fewer ponies. By 2005 to 2010 this had risen to an annual average of 333 or by 170%.

Chart 11: Percentage of commoners owning different sized pony herds

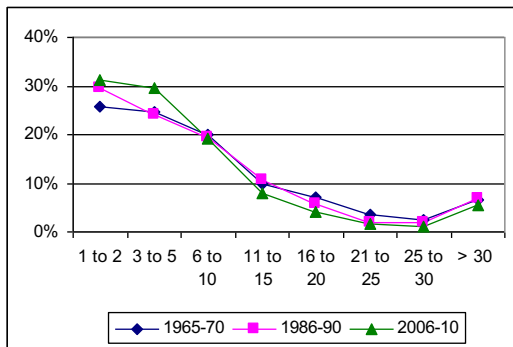
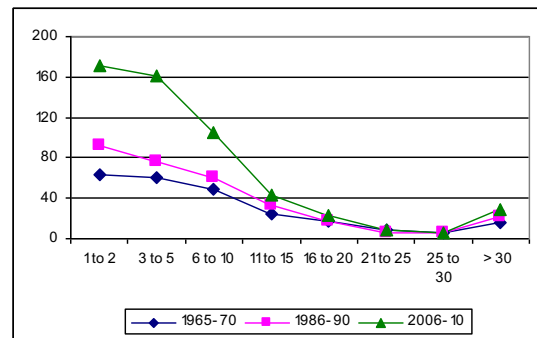


Chart 12: Number of commoners owning different sized herds



6.3.11 The charts also make clear that, although the percentage of the commoning population turning out between 6 and 10 ponies has remained stable over the 45 years of the dataset, the actual number of commoners in this group has increased from an average of 49 in each year in 1965-70 to 105 in each year in 2005-10.

6.3.12 In 1965-70 ponies in herds of 5 or fewer accounted for 13% of the total herd compared to 20% in 2005-10. As with the numbers of commoners, these relatively small increases are reflected in far greater increases in the actual number of animals. These have grown from averages of 324 per year in 1965-70 to 905 in 2005-10, an increase of 179%.

Chart 13: Percentage of ponies in different sized herds

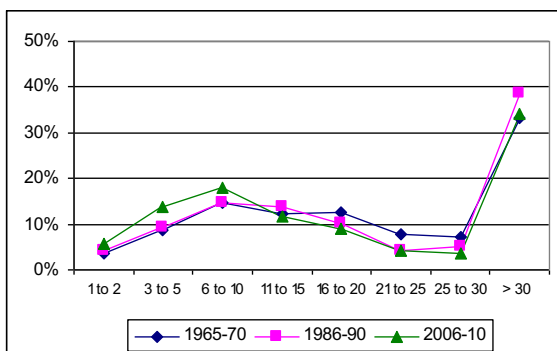
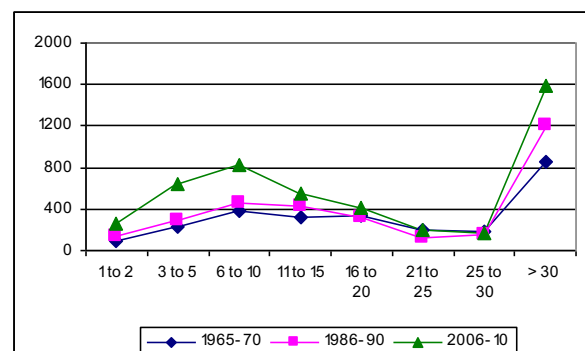


Chart 14: Number of ponies in different sized herds

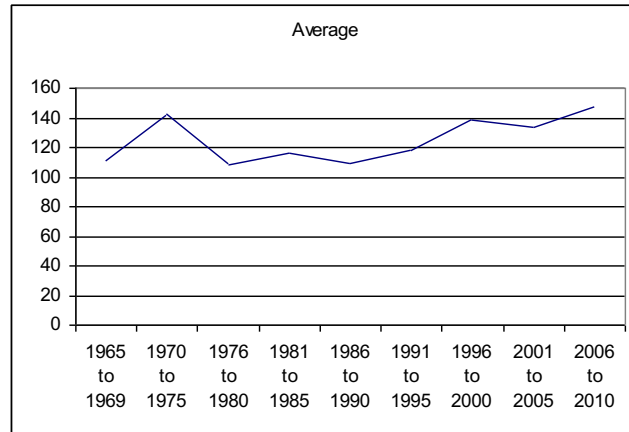


6.3.13 At first glance, there is little apparent change in either the number of large commoners or the percentage of the herd owned by them (Charts 11 and 12). In 1965 7% of the commoners had herds of more than 30 ponies, and this made up 33% of the pony herd. In 2010 5% of commoners had herds of over 30 ponies, and they made up 34% of the pony herd. However, because they own such large numbers of animals, relatively small changes in the number of large commoners can make big changes in the total number of ponies depastured. Thus the relatively small increase in the number of commoners with large herds has led to an increase in the number of ponies in large herds depastured each year from 863 to 1582, an increase of 83%.

6.3.14 This is the result of the increase in the size of the average herd for pony owners with 100 or more ponies (these are referred to as large herds hereafter) during the 45 years

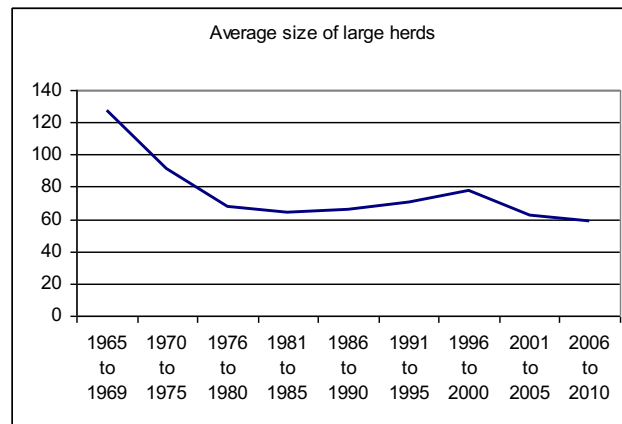
of the dataset. The average large herd size for the whole dataset is 126. However, as Chart 15 shows, the average large herd size has increased from 111 to 147 over the period. There is an early peak in 1973 when the average large herd rose to 143, but the general trend since the mid seventies has been upward.

Chart 15: Average herd size for commoners with more than 100 ponies



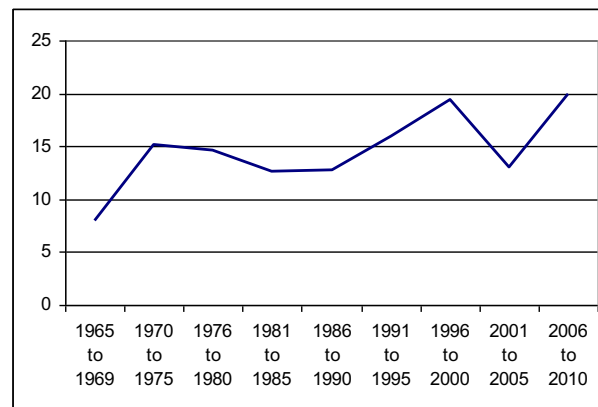
- 6.3.15 These data clearly show that there are two factors affecting the increase in size of the pony herd. The first is the large increase in the number of small commoners turning out between 1 and 5 animals. The second is the increase in herd size by the small number of larger commoners or graziers.
- 6.3.16 As noted earlier (page 38), trends in the distribution of the cattle herd are very different from the pony herd. Over the 45 years of the dataset the number of cattle varies in line with external factors, such as the market and the Foot and Mouth outbreak in 2001. However, it is possible to identify some changes in the characteristics of the cattle herd and the number of commoners with cattle that indicate that small changes in the commoning population may pose a greater potential threat than those in pony owning population.
- 6.3.17 The early part of the Marking Fee Register time series is characterised by a small number of owners with very large cattle herds. Between 1965 and 1974 one owner in particular had an average of 450 cows in his herd. This size of herd has never been repeated and, since the mid seventies, the average size of the biggest herds (over 40 animals) has varied between 59 and 77 animals. Despite the marked decline in maximum herd size, earlier graphs have demonstrated a small increase in the number of cattle depastured since 1965.

Chart 16: Average size of large cattle herds (over 40 animals): 1965 to 2010



6.3.18 The data show that there is far less variation over time in the characteristics of the cattle herd than that shown in the pony herd, as well as in the number of commoners owning cattle. The variation that is evident appears at the two extremes of each graph: i.e. for those with the smallest (under 5 animals) and largest herds (over 40 animals).

Chart 17: Number of commoners with large cattle herds (over 40 animals)



6.3.19 Chart 18, on the next page, shows that between 1965-70 and 2005-10 the number of commoners with small cattle herds has declined (from 49 to 38), while Chart 19 shows that in 2005-10 they represent 28% of all cattle owners, compared to 41% in 1965-70. On the other hand, the number of large cattle owners has increased from 7 in the 1965-70 period to 20 in 2005-10; from 6% to 15% of the population of cattle owners.

Chart 18: Number of commoners with different sized cattle herds

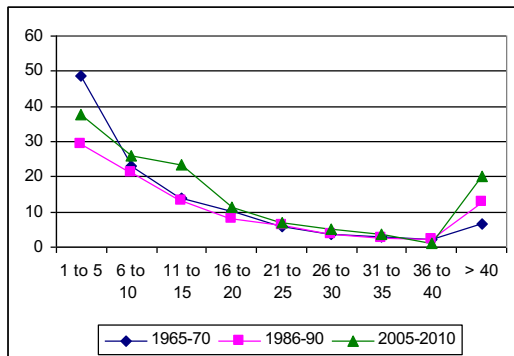
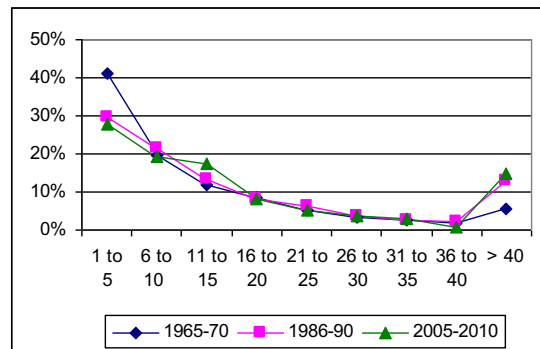


Chart 19: Percentage of commoners with different sized cattle herds



6.3.20 The number of cattle owned by these two groups has also changed in line with the number of herd owners. The number of cattle in small herds has dropped slightly (from 138 to 125), so that they represent 5% of the total herd compared to 7% in 1965-70. However, the number of cattle in large herds has increased from 849 in 1965-70 to 1180 in 2005-10, an increase of 38%. This is double the overall increase in the size of the depastured herd between 1965-70 and 2005-10, and is an indication of the way in which cattle are being concentrated in the hands of a small number of large herd owners.

Chart 20: Number of cattle in different sized cattle herds

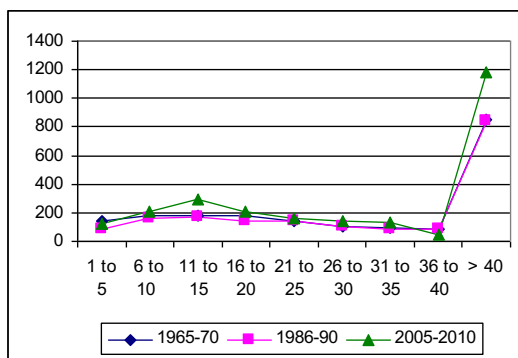
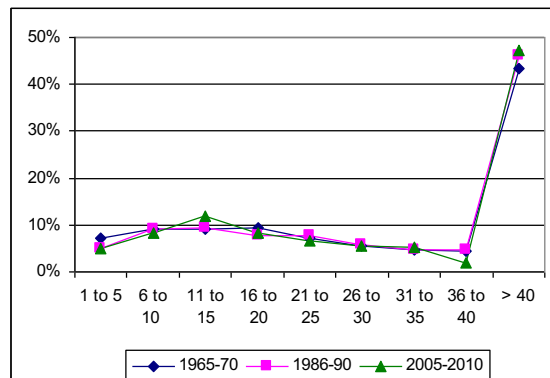


Chart 21: Percentage of cattle in herds of different sizes



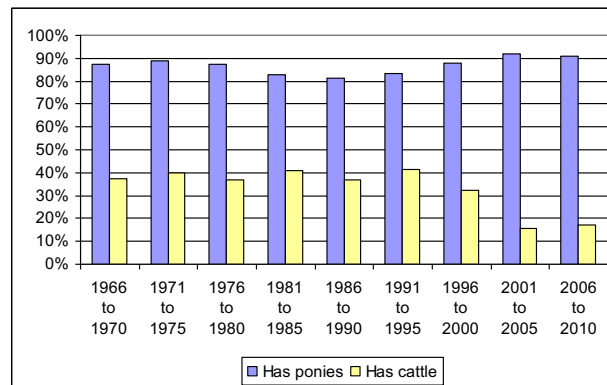
6.3.21 These changes are apparently small in the scale of the commoning population. However, in the period 2005 to 2010 just 20 commoners owned nearly half (47%) of all the cattle on the Forest.

6.3.22 Over the 45 years of the Register the actual number of owners of all cattle herds has remained stable, although it has reduced as a percentage of the total commoning population. Two out of five (38%) of those who started commoning in 1966 to 1970 turned out cattle. By the 2006 to 2010 time period only 17% of new starters did so.

6.3.23 The percentage of new starters who own ponies has remained relatively stable. Between 1966 and 1970, 88% of new commoners turned out ponies. While this

figure dipped slightly in the 1980's and early 1990's to 81-83%, in the period 2006 to 2010, 91% of newly starting commoners turned out ponies.

Chart 22: Percentage of new commoners turning out ponies and cattle



- 6.3.24 If the small number of commoners who presently turn out cattle is considered alongside the relative decline in the percentage of new commoners willing to turn out these more labour intensive animals, it can be seen that there is potential for a major decline in the size of the cattle herd in the near future.
- 6.3.25 In this context the issue of continued payments for commoning and the need to encourage and educate young commoners may have particular significance for the future of the cattle herd. One respondent commented that ‘keeping cattle has been steadily in decline, but would be greatly accelerated without subsidy’, while another said ‘More help (is needed) to encourage young commoners to run cattle on the forest’.
- 6.3.26 Additionally, the number of small farmer-commoners depasturing cattle is potentially at risk from the TB testing regime now in force on the open Forest. This has been reduced from four years to one, including the requirement that any animal that is sold outside of the 60 day period following the test has to be re-tested, at the owner’s expense. Since farmers in some parts of the Forest can retain their 4-year testing period by not turning their animals out, some may consider that the benefits of forest grazing their stock are outweighed by the restrictions on their ability to manage their herd in the best way. One farmer-commoner commented that support for pre-sale TB testing through the HLS may be a way to encourage the continued use of the forest by this important group of cattle owners.

Appendix I

Response Data

The overall response rate for the census was 53%. However, if the information known about those who were sent the form is analysed against whether or not they responded, some inferences can be made about the possibility of a response bias.

Response data was cross tabulated with year of taking up and length of time commoning, average numbers of ponies and cattle. The data are set out in Tables A1 to A4 below. They show that there is no clear trend in the response rate, with the possible exception of the owners of large herds of ponies.

Table A1: Year in which person started commoning

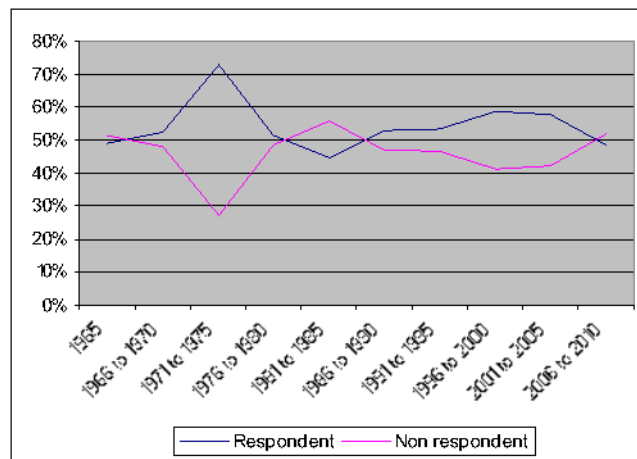


Table A2: Number of years person has been commoning

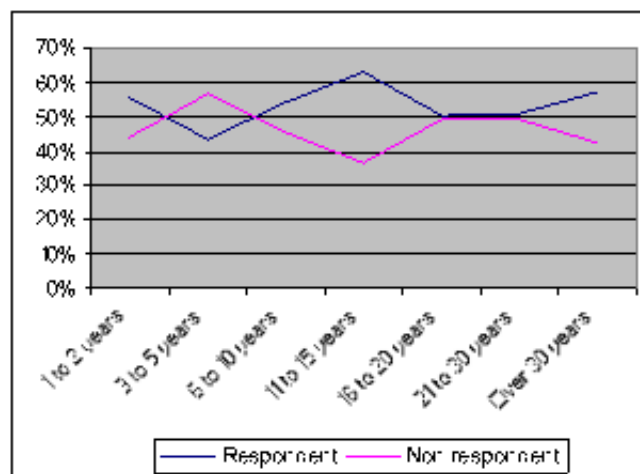


Table A3: Average number of ponies turned out

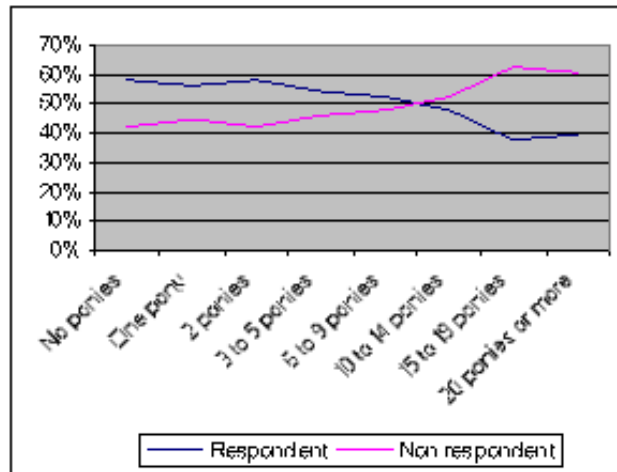
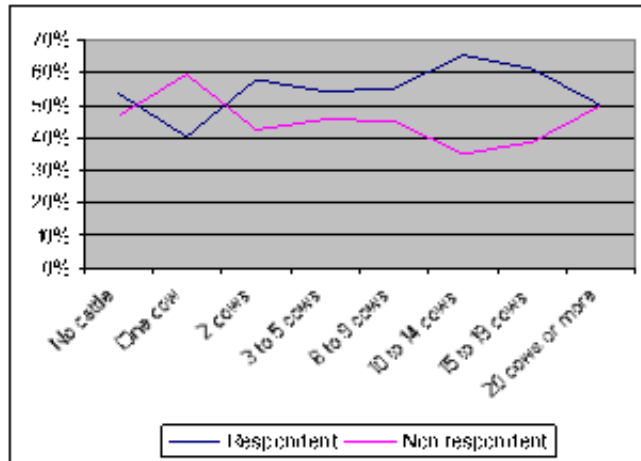


Table A4: Average number of cattle turned out



Appendix II

Verbatim replies to question regarding future use of HLS funding

Forest maintenance

Bracken and deer control.

Bracken clearance to allow grass to grow

Bridges over bogs; repairing paths which get eroded

Clear streams from debris to stop flooding: a good example Ipley river

Clearing commons overgrown gorse, bracken, cutting back of hedges along grazing areas
ditches cleared

Clearing leaves off grazing on open forest

Culling deer

Cut more bracken

Cut more bracken, improve the grazing

Ditch clearing & dragon teeth to stop vehicles parking anywhere

Ditches maintained and worse areas gravelled

Dragon teeth or whatever is required to stop people parking along the side of forest roads

Eradication of bracken, this is becoming the forest biggest enemy

Fern, gorse and heather management to benefit forest stock,

For repairing the pounds and putting gates at the underpasses so people can use them as of
when people need to get stock in

Grass grounds clearing needed e.g. kings gardens

Help to clear bracken, ragwort, help improve lawns

I believe a few more pounds would be very useful

I believe that walk ways/ riding should be improved as the grass is being trod on by people

Improve the grazing on the forest

Improvement areas to promote more grazing.

Improvement to forest grass grounds e.g. reseeded areas I know that ecologists like the fact
that it is returning to heath but as grass ground its a rare habitat & valuable grazing

Improving lawns liming the re-seeded areas clearing river blockages improving the old wood
by clearing falling trees

Lawn restoration & management.

Lawn/ green clearance

Maintain and improve ditches and dragons teeth, barriers to prevent visitor encroachment on
grazing.

Maintenance improvements

Make better barriers as some are difficult to unlock

Open forest bracken control, deal firmly with encroachment on to forest in general

Recreating the boundaries of the forest lawns which have been allowed to encroach by Silver
Birch, Brambles gorse

Roadside ditching and dragon teeth to prevent roadside parking with has now reached
epidemic proportions

scrub clearance and improvement of grazing

The northern commons need protecting. At the moment there is increased pressure from
visitors, there are no barriers to stop vehicles driving over them. Plaitford common has many
visitors the car park at Canada and now directly from campsite on New Road, Landford

Track and ride maintenance

Upkeep of forest pathways, especially in winter, bridges etc

Infrastructure

A couple more pounds to hold stock when found, while collecting trailer
For commoner members animal licks mineral blocks in winter away from roads
Maintenance of pounds
Maintenance of pounds
Maintenance of pounds
Make better barriers as some are difficult to unlock
Mending holding pens
More compounds
More pounds
More pounds
More pounds for catching/ loading stock
More pounds on forest, upkeep of pounds
More pounds on forest.
More pounds on forest.
More pounds on the open forest.
More pounds on the open forest.
More pounds when we need them
More secure pounds on forest for handling cattle
New gate at Turfhill pound would help loading making sure fallen stock can be collected and dealt with
One or two more mobile pounds to catch cattle for commoners that only have a very few (e.g. 2 or 3) cattle
Opening up all or nearly all enclosures: no justification now for these remaining closed, any planning can be fenced, as already one to keep deer out
Purchasing more mobile handling facilities and making them available to commoners to use
Use the money for upkeep of direct pounds and the safe access of them (with trailer etc.)
work on the pounds some looking worn, perhaps not as safe as should be

Support with wormers, etc

"Capped price" hay for practicing commoners so we don't have to compete with high income groups

A buyers co-operative run by a manager (HLS funded) to bulk buy animal feed stuffs/ fertiliser/ seed/ fodder etc. For commoner members animal licks mineral blocks in winter away from roads

Buy foals at a prices that gives the commoner a reasonable return e.g. £300/400 each and break to a reasonable standard and sell away from the Forest. At present 90% remain within 20 miles of Forest. Riding ponies cost £1000, so there is enough value added. Ours are sold so cheap people think they must be poor.

Buyers co-operative run by a manager (HLS funded) to bulk buy animal feed stuffs/ fertilisers/ seed/ fodder etc.

Compensate for road kill.

Discount vouchers for wormers

Electricity grant towards supplying holding on generator

Extra grants 4 improvements like building a pound in my field so I can halter break stock easier for improving selling price

Extra help for commoners dealing with hard winters with feed cost - maybe on forest feeding scheme to maintain stock when times are difficult

feeding station in very bad months would be helpful

Financial support for those cutting bracken for bedding,
 Free wormers,
 Free wormers, help with hoof trimming, vets fees
 Full payments/ market value for road kills in hit and run cases
 Funding towards wormers, microchipping, passports, deadstock collection, things that otherwise decrease value
 Funds could also be used to buy hay/ feed in colder weather
 Give more to the commoners and less to separate groups
 Grant for electricity supply to holdings dependent on generators
 Grants to improve or provide holdings
 Grants towards electricity supply for holdings reliant on generators
 Grants towards electricity supply for holdings reliant on generators
 Hardship fund for vet costs so that commoners have reassurance that they can afford to pay for treatment in hard times
 Help with cost of killed horses on roads
 Livestock trailers available for hire or use.
 Maybe subsidised hay/ hard feed costs for commoners animals would be a big help & encourage commoners to bring in ponies going back in winter before they too poor
 Microchipping of foals
 Microchips should be subsidised.
 Microchipping and worming
 Passports for registered NF ponies should be subsidised as the price is sometimes greater than the price of the pony.
 Pay for micro-chipping & registration for all commoners
 Pool of equipment to be leased out to small commoners
 Providing microchipping days at Beaulieu Rd. For commoners/ CDA/ NDRB members to help cost of passporting their animals that they may want to sell
 Purchase of agricultural machinery which could be hired by commoners who have only a few acres. Equally possible trailers/ horsebox for the same reason
 Purchase of specialist tools/ equipment
 Scheme to provide grants for upkeep of fencing of proven back up land
 Subsidies of marking fees,
 Subsidise marking fees microchipping, wormers
 Subsidising, microchipping for registered NF ponies.
 Subsidy for collection of animals killed on roads
 Support in buying hay & wormers.
 To help commoners through hard times e.g. redundancy illness, help with wormers, castration, help with microchipping of retained stock until they can be turned to forest.
 Vet available as drifts for microchipping
 Wormers (good quality) for depastured stock.

Land

Back up grazing for smaller commoner 'shared' back up grazing
 Back up grazing more available. Don't allow non-commoners to buy.
 Back up grazing, hay bank like in Ireland
 Back up land
 Back up land
 Back up land

Back up land is important as the forest itself and is being ruined daily, we need an incentive for landowners to turn away from horse culture towards commoning

Buy ground and rent at affordable rates to commoners

Buy parcels of land around the forest and let commoners rent it low cost.

Fund to buy back up land,

I think land is the biggest issue facing the future of commoning.

Invest in land

Maybe have land in areas where an animal needs coming in that they could use for free

More land available to commoners to rent.

Possibly to secure land for commoning at an affordable rate as a lot of land is for leisure horse keeping.

Prevent holdings in Forest (back up land) being used as riding establishments

Promote the need for rental grazing in the winter time,

Purchase ground to rent to commoners. Lease ground.

purchase land but not sure how this can be managed in a way to benefit all

Purchase land to lease to YC who are struggling to find land

Purchase of back up grazing land to rent out to needed commoners, and for future generations of commoners

Purchase of back up grazing to be leased

Purchase of back up land - youngsters to have priority

Purchase of backup grazing for commoners/ i.e. landbank

Purchase of grazing land.

Purchase YC back up land to share

Put the money towards purchasing up grazing land for commoners

Spend on commoning related housing land as this is the single biggest problem. Young people who want to common can't afford to do it independently

Subsidise back up land rent (e.g. part payment to landowners to encourage grazing land to be available to genuine commoners)

Subsidise back up land rent (e.g. part payment to landowners to encourage grazing land to be available to genuine commoners)

Subsidise back up land rent (e.g. part payment to landowners to encourage grazing land to be available to genuine commoners)

The purchase of as much land with in the new forest as possible to offer sensible rents as back up land

To provide more rentable back up land

To secure back up grazing to be shared fairly with max acreages set

Use it to secure communal back up grazing

Verderers grazing scheme sounds great, land is too expensive in this area for individuals

We need more land at a reasonable price also the increasing presence of second homes and high DIY for horse owners of a recreational level has made this awful

Would it be possible for back up land to be bought & rented to commoners? I would be interested in such a scheme.

Housing

Buying old commission cottages no longer used and rent them affordably to YC

Commoners housing

Commoners housing

Commoning person to support people with schemes such as commoners housing scheme I feel I have no support at all I'm sure I'm not the only one

Contribution towards commoners housing scheme

Finance towards commoners housing - especially young families

Housing

Housing for commoners

Housing for commoners

Housing for commoners

If not holdings with houses, yards with building.

Invest in housing

Low cost housing for YC

Maybe buy some of the FC land & properties & rent them to commoners not rangers and office workers from away!

More affordable housing

More affordable housing with holding & land/ buildings.

More provision for housing (affordable) for YC like myself plus back up grazing options probably outside the terms of reference of the HLS scheme but YC need support in housing

Spend on commoning related housing land as this is the single biggest problem. Young people who want to common can't afford to do it independently

Subsidised low cost holdings available to rent with adequate facilities "tied" to commoning

To buy houses for YC and rent them back to them as long as they are commoning

Use it to secure affordable housing

Traffic calming, accident reduction

A much stricter enforcement of speed restrictions

Although every pony is eligible for a collar making sure they have one on.

Although the road deaths have reduced this year - I would welcome the main road (ie. Hilltop Lymington and Cadnam to Fording Bridge) being fenced. The commoners have a responsibility for the safety of their animal or install cats eyes and white lines on the roads
Anything to reduce animal accidents.

As so many ponies are being killed maybe fencing on the worst roads

Buying hand held speed cameras to catch speeders and training people to use them and prosecuting people caught speeding

Control of traffic with in the forest,

Efficient policing of major road accident areas

Fencing and gridding the road between Purlieu and Portmore. One grid on the Beaulieu side at Beufre farm one grid on the Beaulieu side of Leagreen farm

Fencing blackspot areas

Fencing cattle grids & gates, ditching

Fencing off black spot areas in the forest.

Flashing warning signs of animals on roads

Improve the road signage/ gateway to forest signs

Install permanent average speed cameras on high risk roads across the forest and collect a % of the revenue from fines for funding

Lower all speed limits

More pinch points on dangerous roads!

More schemes to reduce speeding on forest roads

Mostly to improve road safety & awareness the new pinch points at Brockenhurst are great, would like to see more of them on the eastern roads

Off road parking areas to keep people from obstructing the forest roads and placing stock in danger

People caught speeding named & shamed in paper.

Publicity making drivers aware of the livestock

Put the money towards making forest roads safer for animals more difficult for drivers to speed them more bendy narrower leave the pot holes!
Real effort to control speeding on unfenced forest roads
Reduce traffic speed, pay for speed checks
Reflecting collars to be compulsory
Road fencing - realise this is an emotive area but have to admit that cars and commuters are here to stay. Safety of the animals is greater than traditional view of open access
Road safety,
Road signs and speed limits on forest roads to warn or trap speeding motorists
Road users awareness
Some technology to stop animal deaths on the roads
Some way of slowing the traffic down to help protect the animals from accidents would be very beneficial. May be accident black spot sign more strategically places?
Speed cameras
Speed cameras would be great
Traffic awareness publicity
Traffic calming
Traffic calming schemes to reduce accidents
Traffic control
Traffic control, more cameras across forest and making roads more unsuitable for using as a rat run
Trying to find ways or the prevention of horses etc. getting killed on the roads
Unable to turn horses out due to road safety - cattle injured or killed
Ways of making the roads safer

Incinerator/ abattoir/ disposal of fallen stock

Cheaper disposal of dead animals
Collection of fallen stock
Community way of disposing of deaths - incinerator/ abattoir
I would like to see an incinerator for disposal of forest stock at a cheaper cost than current costs.
If foxhounds unable to collect flesh a burner for forest fallen stock
Incinerator
Incinerator for fallen stock
Incinerator for fallen stock and rubbish foals e.g. don't fill up the country with cheap foals.
Incinerator local within the forest
Incinerator that benefits all commoners at a subsidised rate
Livestock incinerator
Local abattoir
Local abattoir
Mobile slaughter house for animals cattle & even colt foals due to drop in price & no market for them
Pay for incinerator - stock disposal.
Service for disposing of animals such as incinerator
Some way of disposing of dead stock
Stock disposal incinerator installation.
To purchase a new incinerator site it within the forest run it as a business open to all.
Allowing to charge practising commoners at cost only. Securing fallen stock disposal for the future at a reasonable charge

We need a slaughter house that would be a total asset there is nothing more important than that

Marketing

Co-operative for producing pony/ cow sausages/ burgers/ meat.

Encouragement for those adding value to stock off on the forest.

Good marketing & publicity

Looking for other outlets, other than Beaulieu road sales, to find good homes for progeny

Make the microchip free to forest bred stock, hold chipping days at Beaulieu Rd so that we can sell at home as well as Beaulieu Rd, there by pushing up the price cause there would be less at Beaulieu rd

Market for horse meat in the UK - why an earth can't we eat them they taste good. It is pointless producing something which is not wanted/ required. The good promotional benefits of the PPG seem to have died away with the recession

New Forest price beef market. so we can get a higher price for our cattle

Promote the NF pony as agricultural shows

Promotion of sale of ponies

Put up the minimum bid to 45 gns the show sales are good for Beaulieu Rod and we need to encourage buyers not sightseers/ holiday makers. Sponsorship of forest ponies in riding schools all over the country. Cheaper lessons on a forester than they might buy a forest pony when then want their own

Selling the foals & livestock needs more monitoring to make sure the animals receive decent treatment whilst in transit to the meat man/ abattoir

Support for NF pony publicity to hopefully improve the market for stock.

Take off ALL the non new forest horses and up the Verderers' Stewardship Scheme for native breed. One of the horses on the forest are only fit for the tourists camera make the new forest for the new forest pony

The ponies need to be more valuable but how

To ensure a guaranteed future for the registered pure bred new forest pony

To raise the profile of the stock on the forest

Try to find a market for our produce

Education for residents and visitors

Booklet about commoning and problems faced to be sold in campsites or local shops

Educating people about commoning and animals on the forest

Education & importance to all who live in Forest to encourage sense of responsibility to maintain culture of commoning

Education of "resident Commuter" locals re: road speed etc. Education of large surrounding popular - Southampton/ Poole/ Bournemouth

Education of visitors to area re: special lifestyle etc.

Funding a post to educate the public on the livestock and the associated history of the forest (e.g. seasonal to combat public pressure)

Improving awareness

More money should be spend on educating people on how the forest is run and maintained so people don't abuse it

Notices telling visitors what they can/ cannot do

Outdoor centre on commoning

Perhaps to make those in power NPA local council - more aware of the impact of not supporting/ helping commoning

Put more notices around about not feeding the ponies as there seems to be not enough about, especially in campsites and car parks

Scheme to educate newcomers about the forest by laws, way of life e.g. encroachment, cars parks on forest land etc.

School education locally re. forest commoning (touring display unit).

Signs to say 'do not feed ponies'

To educate young people who show an interest in the forest

To publish the rules of the forest so they are known and understood better by the visitors

Education for commoners

Education for YC and inclusion into future schemes

Education of anyone who makes decision on commoning including taking part in drifts and understanding the problems of taking weaned colts off the forest.

General guidance on how to farm environmentally sensitively

General guidance on how to reduce costs

Help with form filling

Help with form filling and help with training i.e. trailer xxx and fencind hedge maintenance, courses

Help with training i.e. trailer and fencing, hedge maintenance, courses

Invest in the future of YC in training

Invest in the future of YC in training

Trailer training courses for YC and further education on good practice

Training for commoners for instance due to my age at passing my drivers licence I can't afford to pay for the lessons & test

Training to towing licences and 7.5 tonne lorry test

Young commoners

Assistance for YC

Assistance for YC

Assistance for YC

Continue to support "core" commoning families and YC "help" (not necessarily financial) people new to commoning

Continuity and expanding the number of courses available to YC i.e. trailer training

Encouraging more youngsters

Equipment/ training for young commoners - older commoners didn't have to pass trailer towing or lorry licences. Lorries & trailer & towing vehicles are very expensive to buy

Fairer distribution of money among commoners, including YC

Give more money to YC to expand their commoning activity.

Help encourage YC (the future!) carry on as it is we are being penalised for expanding to be big money for the 'management' so let them manage sympathetically case by case if needs be

Help now/ YC with payments for more stock

Help the YC receive the headage payment. Otherwise there is no future commoners

Help the youngsters with sensible plans

Help YC with payments earlier

I think the money should be sorted out fairly between commoners as a lot are being held to the year of the scheme starting this doesn't encourage YC

It must get the balance right between supporting commoning today and projects which will benefit the long term - and anything that encourages/ supports YC would meet these criteria

Maybe some support to YC and NFPPG

Money to YC to help them get established

More funding for the young commoners property with rights

Promote commoning to youngsters & incomers
Should be spent on back-up grazing land and homes for YC to rent an asset for the future
Support for YC as they don't receive any payments
To encourage our children e.g. my 2 sons!
To help YC i.e. grazing land & housing
YC inclusion into future schemes

Beaulieu Road

Beaulieu Rd - for selling our ponies
Beaulieu Rd improvement
Beaulieu Rd project is great,
Beaulieu road improvements
Beaulieu road improvements
Beaulieu road is very important
Beaulieu Road would be good to have a roof and also water and electric
Beaulieu Road.
Bigger viewing area/ sale ring as when busy many buyers do not get to see the animals.
Continue excellent work at Beaulieu Rd
Definite vote for Beaulieu Road improvements i.e.. toilets, etc hopefully this will encourage people outside the area
Finish Beaulieu Rd.
For the time being nothing better than the Beaulieu rd improvements
I agree an improvement at Beaulieu RD and encourage people to attend
I agree with increasing and improving Beaulieu Rd
I think BR could be improved for buyers - Better view of the ring lodges area and viewing screens outside ring. Better seating possibility of being able to bid from outside the ring.
The Beaulieu road project is fantastic
The improvements at Beaulieu Rd are good
The works at Beaulieu Rd are very good idea
Upgrade Beaulieu Rd.

Improvement of breed

Bloodlines & hardiness of stallions.
Continue to improve the stock on the forest.
Ensure commoners are only depasturing animals for which they have back up land.
Encourage quality not quantity this will improve the market value of stock and enable greater incentives for good stock
Funding the expert management of blood lines & protecting the gene based, much as been lost already promotion of the forest stock.
Help with the removal from the system of animals that take very little value
Improved breeding programme
Incentive scheme for breeding better ponies so there is a higher demand on them, There has to be a market for the ponies. Registered and graded mares to be turned out not just any old rubbish
Less breeding of NON new forest ponies. Unregistered foals are not helping the commoners
Mare scheme to improve quality and preserve important blood lines
More research into blood lines/ genetic diversity
Payments in line with better quality stock, so foals will fetch more. Most forest run mares will never breed good foals, stallions are graded, mares should be graded

Quality stallions

Stallion scheme

Subsidise the culling & disposal of at least 50% of the forest bred foals every year

Take off ALL the non new forest horses and up the Verderers' stewardship scheme for native breed. Some of the horses on the forest are only fit for the tourists camera. Make the new forest for the new forest pony

There needs to be funding towards improvement of stallions and for keeping young colts to be turned out.

To encourage people to turn out registered pure bred ponies to maintain bloodlines and the breed. They are an important part of our heritage

To improve breeding stock,

Work on widening the bloodlines & securing the race bloodlines

Cattle

Encourage the cattle on the Forest, it would be good to see small dairy herds return

Incorporate a differential payment to encourage more cattle as these are more important than ponies in eating / grazing heathlands so benefit the ecology more, and produce food so potentially more demand for the product

Lessen cost of pre movement test of forest cattle (TB tests).

Some form of help towards TB pre movement testing

Verderers/agisters

Agisters holding in North of forest

Employ another Agister to get them to ride over the forest (sometimes) rather than always drive

Financial support to Verderers

Leather boots for Agisters best livery to replace those awful rubber ones

Mainly for the input of animal welfare and to provide additional incentive to Agisters and the Verderers for continued progress

Maintenance of Agisters

More drifts as the weather is changing so dramatically and the ponies are struggling in the winter. The Agister is so busy getting poor ponies off he needs help

More training for Agisters

Purchase yard/ buildings/ land for Verderers use.

Supplement agisters' income

Support Agisters.

The provision of a holding area for the Agisters to put animals recovered from the forest i.e. a two acre plot with barns/ stables within the forest boundary, so that the Agisters holdings aren't compromised by the shut down rule or by sick animals

Verderers holding - for impounded animals etc.

Other

Access for people on the fringes. My property and the commons is cut in two by the A36

Although every pony is eligible for a collar making sure they have one on.

Deal firmly with encroachment on to forest in general

Encourage commoning traditions including haunting pigs

I think the money should be spent on other things like subsidising other costs that would benefit everyone rather than just the people who turn out ponies

In view of reduction of funding to Verderers a proportion could be held back to fight future battles that threaten Forest and commoning if this would be a use permitted under HLS rules
Instead of buying new vehicles and trailers for the Agisters put it into the commoners to help with costs

Limit numbers of geldings in any one area,

Look at other people who want to common not just the well known names and help them

More rigorous attention to stock condition especially over winter - I would like to see owners made to support feeding on the open forest during extreme weather conditions.

No other than to keep the spending relevant to commoning activities rather than higher level 'initiatives' that spend funding for the sake of it

Pay this money per head each year, to encourage new entrants to commoning. Do not continue to pay it based on historic 2004 numbers

Purchase the forest from government now its for sale

Spend it on protecting the commoning way of life

The money gives value & recognition to commoning and its uniqueness

The money should be available to commoners that started before the payments were introduced so they can purchase/ breed a few more mares/ fillies and get their subsidies

To pay for deer fencing on our lands to stop the deer destroying our crops they are a huge problem

Water supplies for ponies as we seem to get such long dry spells in the summers

What is really necessary is they will have the power to stand up against the lunatic ideas of the trendy national England brain dead prats and the national park idealists

Why waste good money filling ditches when the forest is a bog. Please tell the national park DREAMERS the need of practical ideas and grass root thinking

Appendix III

Main Questionnaire

Census of New Forest Commoners

Helpful hints for completing this questionnaire

- Please read each question carefully and tick a box to indicate your answer.
- In most cases you will only have to tick one box, but please read the questions carefully as sometimes you will have the option to tick more than one box.
- Answer the next question unless asked otherwise.
- Some questions include an 'other' option. If you would like to include an answer other than one of those listed within the question, please tick the 'other' box and write in your answer in the space provided.
- If you wish to write more in answer to any of the questions, please continue on an additional sheet of paper, but do write the question number next to your response. And do try to keep your answer as short and to the point as possible, so that we can make best use of your views.
- Once you have finished, please take a minute to check you have answered all the questions that you should have answered.
- This questionnaire consists of 4 pages and should take no longer than 15 minutes to complete.
- Thank you in advance for your time.
- Once you have completed the questionnaire please return it in the **FREEPOST** envelope that came with it. **NO STAMP IS NEEDED.**

Section 1: Your common rights

Q1.1 Do you have common rights?

- Yes, on my holding/house..... Go to Q1.3
Yes, on land that I own/rent..... Go to Q1.3
No..... Go to Q1.2

Q1.2 If you do not have common rights in your name, how have you accessed these rights?

- Through a member of my family.....
Through an informal arrangement with friends/neighbours ...
Some other way (please say how below).....
.....

Q1.3 Have you turned out stock in the last 5 years?

- Yes..... Go to next question
No..... Go to Section 3 (page 3)

IF YOU HAVE NOT TURNED OUT IN THE PAST 5 YEARS, PLEASE GO TO SECTION 3.

Q1.4 How long have you personally turned stock out? (even if you've had a break from commoning in this time)

- Under 2 years.....
2 to 5 years.....
6 to 10 years.....
11 to 20 years.....
Longer than 20 years.....
All your life (however long that has been)

Q1.5 Approximately what acreage of back-up land do you use for your commoning activities?

- Owned by you..... acres/ hectares*
Rented by you..... acres/ hectares*
Under an informal arrangement..... acres/ hectares*
* delete as appropriate

Q1.6 In which areas is your back-up land located (village or parish)?

- Owned by you
- Rented by you
- Under an informal arrangement

Q1.7 Is the land you have well located for your commoning purposes?

	<i>Owned</i>	<i>Rented</i>	<i>Used informally</i>
All of it.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some of it.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None of it.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q1.8 If there are problems with the location of your back-up land, where would you prefer to have it?

Q1.9 Do you have sufficient back-up land?

Yes.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Go to Section 2 below
No.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Go to next question

Q1.10 If not, how much more would you ideally like to have?
acres/ hectares (delete as appropriate)

Q1.11 Where would you most like to have this land?

Section 2: Your household: people who share your home

Q2.1: We would like to know something about the people who live with you, so that we can build up a picture of the commoning community.

Please start with yourself:

Name	Gender	Relation to you	Age	Occupation*	Do they turn out?
1	M - F	- Myself	-	-	- Ye - N s o
2	M - F	-	-	-	- Ye - N s o
3	M - F	-	-	-	- Ye - N s o
4	M - F	-	-	-	- Ye - N s o
5	M - F	-	-	-	- Ye - N s o
6	M - F	-	-	-	- Ye - N s o

*If the person is retired, please say what you did before they retired

Q2.7 Are your children and grandchildren keen to keep up commoning?

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Some of them</i>	<i>I don't have any</i>
Children.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grandchildren.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q2.8 Is there anyone in your immediate family who would like to turn out, but cannot?

Yes.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Answer next question
No.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Go to Section 3 on the next page

Q2.9 If you answered 'Yes' to the last question, please explain why they are unable to turn out below

Section 3: The future of commoning: your views

Q3.1 What do you think are the most serious problems that commoning faces today?

.....

Q3.2 What do you think will best encourage you to continue to turn animals onto the Forest?

.....

Q3.3 What are the main reasons that you continue to turn out? Or, if you have stopped, when was that and what has caused you to do so?

.....

Section 4: Recent support for commoners and other farmers

Q4.1 Have you received payments under either of the following schemes:

	<i>This year</i>	<i>In previous years</i>	<i>Never</i>
Verderers' Stewardship Scheme	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Single Farm Payment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q4.2 Generally speaking, how do you think these payments have most benefited your commoning?

.....

Q4.3 How have you used the money received in the past year?

	<i>All of the money received</i>	<i>Most of the money received</i>	<i>Half of the money received</i>	<i>A little of the money received</i>	<i>None of the money received</i>
To buy feedstuffs, bedding, etc	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To buy/rent back-up land	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To cover veterinary fees and other management costs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To invest in machinery and equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To repair buildings and equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To purchase breeding or other stock	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To upgrade or pay for new buildings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To improve the management of your backup land	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To build/repair fences and ditches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To plant hedges/trees on your land	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
For other uses not related to commoning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
For other uses related to commoning (please say what below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q4.4 What other uses *related to your commoning* did you make of the money received?

.....

Q4.5 If you had not received these payments, do you think that you would still be commoning today?

Yes.....
 No.....

Q4.6 Why do you say that?

.....
.....
.....

Q4.7 How reliant do you think your continuation (or expansion) as a commoner will be on some form of payment in the future, or are other forms of support more important to you?

.....
.....
.....

Q4.8 Do you have any ideas for ways of spending the HLS money that would make a contribution to the future of commoning (e.g. works such as the Beaulieu Road improvements)?

.....
.....
.....

If you consider yourself to be a 'young commoner': i.e. actively commoning with your own brand, and under 40 years old (whether you are a member of the Young Commoners' Group or not), please complete the next section of the questionnaire.

If not, please finish here. Thank you for your time.

Please return the completed questionnaire to us in the FREEPOST envelope provided.

Section 5: Young Commoners

Q5.1 Are you intending to increase the number of animals that you presently own?

	<i>Ponies</i>	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Donkeys</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Sheep</i>
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q5.2 If you wish in increase your stock numbers, how many would you like to run on the Forest in total?

	<i>Ponies</i>	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Donkeys</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Sheep</i>
1 or 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 to 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 to 10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More than 10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q5.3 Are you a member of the Young Commoners' Group?

Yes Go to Young Commoners' Questionnaire
No Go to next question

Q5.4 Would you like to know more about the group?

Yes
No

Q5.5 Are you happy for us to get in touch with you to invite you to one of our meetings?

Yes
No

If you are a member of the Young Commoners Group, we would much appreciate your views about the group, and ask you to complete the short Young Commoners questionnaire attached.

If you are not a member of the Young Commoners Group, please finish here. Thank you for completing this questionnaire. Please return it to us in the FREEPOST envelope provided.