

The Planning Inspectorate
Room 4/05 Kite Wing
Temple Quay House, 2 The Square
Temple Quay BRISTOL BS16PN.

9 Birch Road
Burgfield Common
Near Reading
Berkshire

Dear Sirs, I am writing with regard to the proposed fencing and gating of 28ha (CL32) Padworth Common.

I cannot object strongly enough!! I am sure when the land was donated to the 'local' community - not 'West Berkshire Council' by the local vicar all those years ago he did not envisage it being enclosed, segregated, and made accessible only to a few Why should we be dictated to by so-called environmentalists who insist they and not the local people know best.

Padworth Common should remain 'Open Plan', anything else would be an abomination. If fencing were to go ahead and the aim is to leave the various rights of way in place, the sheer amount of fencing and barriers necessary would be excessive and ridiculous on the small spaces involved. It will look apart from the aesthetic ugliness and horror of the mish-mash, like a maze. Padworth Common is beautiful as it is, and the best plan for the conservation of our environment is for the squads of environmentalist.

not to descend on the common - frightening the wildlife away. True nature lovers are quiet people who are sensible enough to ask local people where they can see things.

- Fair enough the odd tree may need felling, but why not leave them in place to rot (with a reason); and we really don't need grazing animals to clear the area - it has already been cleaned enough recently by humans.
- Please apply some common sense, this is not a large area like Greenham Common.
- Please leave Padworth Common with its character and integrity intact: it will be ruined by fencing. Any measures to keep vehicles out will be welcomed, but it should remain open plan.

At the moment lovers of the countryside on countryside, be they horse-riders (who are already sorely treated and forced onto roads) walkers, off road cyclists, dog walkers, hikers (mostly local) all get on very well.... : Even my disabled daughter who does photography from her wheelchair enjoys the woodland. Any large grazing animals as suggested will ruin all this easy access. Enclosing this vital oasis will be horrendous and an eye-sore... apart from an awful waste of

our money in these³ troubled times. The roads
around Padworth for example are a disgrace.

At present, more to the point walkers and
riders ~~etc~~ etc can stroll where they like: fencing
will stop this freedom!

What rights do we have to stop this infringement
of our common land? well I think both morally
and historically we have every right!!

Gates and Fencing, Wire and Posts → NO
we don't want to know. Protect our common land

→ YES!
Ask us what we want, you don't seem to
care!! We are devastated by what you are
planning. Please think again.

I might add that the short notice
given to respond to these proposals and what
is more over the Christmas period is both
unfair and unjust. How is anyone supposed to
know about it all, and have time to respond
adequately?

It has been a shameful truth that over the years Padworth has been the victim of a legally inflicted development of ugliness, from industrial sites, atomic weapons sites, gravel workings, fuel depots, recycling sites, to breakers yards.

The common itself is now a victim of exploitation. An irrational reaction to the balance needed between the need to preserve flora and fauna and 'over-interference' with nature; and the erection of mesh fencing, posts and barbed wire would be the final nail in the coffin of ugliness produced.

As a practising artist seeking inspiration from the natural beauty of Padworth Common, I know what I would rather sit and draw - the common with no obstruction, no barriers and no untidial fencing.

→ MR DOUGLAS LAWRENCE author of 'PADWORTH' A PICTORIAL PEEP INTO THE PAST - gave me permission to photocopy from his book. He is now 90 years old and his father lived in Padworth before him. He does not want to see the common fenced either! ←

Yours sincerely.

A. Cooper. MRS

P.S. I have used the common all my life.