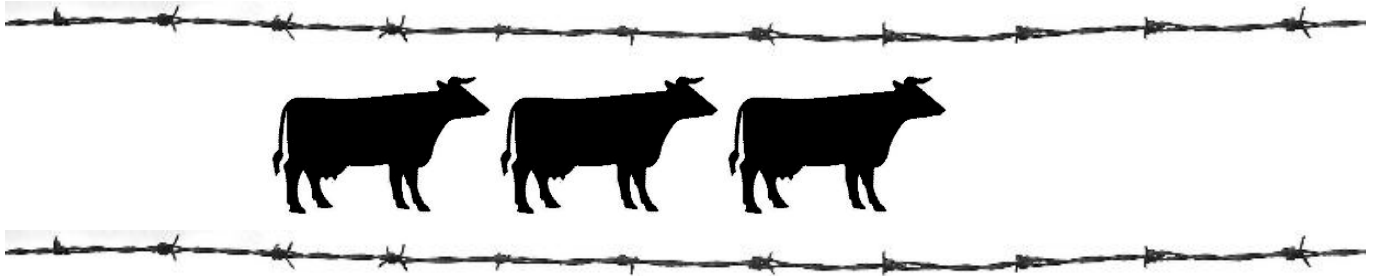


ANNEX 4

Here are some of the comments received
by *Save Penwith Moors* during 2008/2009
(personal names have been replaced by initials)



TEXT ON OUR PROTEST PETITION

MEN-AN-TOL, LANYON QUOIT, CARN GALVA NINE MAIDENS COMMON, CARN KENIDJACK

and other areas of open moorland in West Penwith are under threat from the Natural England HEATH Project that has plans to 'manage' this heathland through erection of fences (wire and electric) and gates to contain herds of grazing cattle.

These areas are, arguably, the most used areas of open unspoilt countryside in the Land's End Peninsula and a favourite with locals and tourists from around the world who ride horses and walk the moors, and who are fascinated by the many prehistoric sites.

Introduction of cattle and associated stock-proofing will seriously affect this valuable public amenity: the open panorama will be ruined; dogs will not be able to run free; cattle pose a potential danger to visitors and likely damage to the 'stones'; and there will be consequent restrictions to land recently designated as open access (right to roam) at the very time when the Government is encouraging everyone to take more exercise.

This proposal must be STOPPED and, if you feel it will be detrimental to the tourist industry and enjoyment of all those who presently use the area for recreation, or will use it in the future, then please **PROTEST**



Fencing near Porthgwarra

LOOK DAD, I'M IN PRISON!

My family and I have spent much of our lives on the moors and cliffs of West Cornwall and still do, however the pleasures we have enjoyed for generations have now been largely ruined by the erection of miles of ugly barbed wire fencing, ridiculous "control" gates and the decimation of miles of footpaths. In areas where these cattle are already roaming I have seen in places erosion of the paths of up to and in some cases over 300mm. This includes potholes and large rocks that have been dislodged by their activities during wet periods and all within a matter of months. It would take decades to cause this much damage by walkers or riders. Large areas of these habitats are now impassable during much of the year. Other areas have become no go zones for many, particularly dog owners or those with small children, who fear passing too close to these formidable looking creatures. I think as so often the words of a child can sum up best; my young daughter recently on a walk from Porthgwarra to Nanjizal stood behind an enormous barbed wire fence that cut the landscape in half and clutching the wire said innocently, "Look dad, I'm in prison!" How sad. (AF, Pendeen 3/4/2009)

"I have come out of the National Trust, and wrote to them to tell them why (to Bristol I think). I got a reply saying they did not know what the concerns were so I sent them various press cuttings and have not heard a word since - what a surprise! As horse riders we don't ride the moor when it is wet (the hunt does, I am afraid) and I dread to think of the damage cows will do when the moor is wet." (SR 6/4/2009)

As a young passionate photographer of both wildlife and landscapes, the opportunities that the land of Cornwall gives me to photograph are simply marvellous. To ruin this natural beauty with barbed wire and grazing animals is a sin. Where are the animals going to be grazed when they've destroyed all the beautiful heather and grassland? Why not send them up to Stonehenge, and ruin that site as well. As a shooter, photographer and conservationist I understand the need for balance between farmers and "hippies", but this is ultimately wrong, and I hope the council make a decision that's feasible and does not involve barbed wire. (MP, Exeter 25/2/2009)

“My company has for the last 12 years sent many hundreds of tourists to take part in hiking tours of the Land’s End peninsula (West Penwith). An integral feature of these tours is the route following the ‘Tinnars Way’ which crosses Nine Maidens Common. Our customers have had a significant impact on the economy of the rural areas of West Penwith. What attracts them is the possibility of walking through one of the few remaining wilderness areas in southern England. The proposed enclosures represent an attempt to destroy this precious wilderness.” HR The Discerning Traveller Limited (Oxford)

“My wife and I with our 2 sons (and with their partners in recent years) have been coming to the Penwith area of Cornwall since we honeymooned their 30 years ago. We always explore the countryside visiting the ancient monuments and fascinating industrial sites, enjoying the wildness and wild-life as we go. We have a special love of the area around the Nine Maidens, Men-an-tol, Ding-Dong, Lanyon and Boskednan - it is our annual pilgrimage (somewhat spiritual) to visit all of these places (as well as other sites in the area, such as Chun and Mulfra along to Merry Maidens etc. further West). Cornwall relies very heavily on its tourism, attracted in the main by the attributes of the Cornish countryside and its unique history. It will be a damaging shot-in-the-foot to risk alienating all those (local people, British and increasingly foreign tourists) who value free unimpeded access to all these places and footpaths. Surely, these proposals go against the government policy of access to the countryside? All my family agree that we must protest strongly against these proposals.” JB (London NW6)

“I’ve been visiting the area for 25 years and hiking over the moors for all that time. I’m extremely concerned at these proposals and already have noted unsightly fencing at Carn Eanes Pendeen, all to contain one pony. Very extreme since horses have previously been kept on a tether, also goats which seem to have disappeared altogether. What’s going on?” PR & family (Bath, Somerset)

“We go to Cornwall each year on holiday for both the scenery and the walks. It would be a shame to start herding us onto ‘new’ paths where we would not be able to see the sites of interest that we have come to see. Just think with the looming recession we should be trying to keep the tourists that are attracted to Cornwall. Not trying to push them away.” SH (Livingston)

“My children and I come to West Penwith every year and love walking in this unspoilt area. Please don’t ruin it with fences. Thank you.” JS (Milton Keynes, Bucks)

“These proposals would be highly detrimental to the area. I have been visiting West Penwith for several years now to enjoy the unspoilt moors, coastline and rich archaeological heritage. The addition of fences and cattle would seriously detract from my enjoyment of the area to the extent that I would choose to take holidays elsewhere as an alternative. I’m sure this could influence many other people in the same way, thus losing out on important revenue from tourism, not to mention spoiling the locals’ cherished landscape and heritage. I have seen fences and insensitive agricultural practices have a negative effect in other parts of the UK and Ireland, and have always felt that Cornwall manages on the whole to avoid these pitfalls and eyesores, however the proposals would in my opinion send out a negative message from this beautiful part of Cornwall to the rest of the world. I sincerely hope these

proposals do not go through - it would be a great shame for the people of West Penwith, and for the many people from all over the world who visit and fall in love with this special place. Please do not make this mistake!" MS (Sudbury, Suffolk)

"As a very frequent visitor to the area concerned (Nine Maidens Common) I feel this proposed change would be extremely detrimental, not merely to my own enjoyment of the unique wonders of this lovely area but to the 'natural' environment, the enjoyment and education of future generations, not least the well being of local communities dependent on the tourist income generated by UNSPOILT landscape." GRSP (Illogan, Cornwall)

"Although I do not live locally, I am an annual tourist to this area of Cornwall, I regularly visit and revisit the archaeological sites in this and other areas of Cornwall (I am) not convinced that tourists like me will benefit and may deter visitors to the area." JW (Orpington, Kent)

"Tourists (like me) come to visit these beautiful moorlands and their wild beauty would be sorely missed." DG (Halifax)

"I have groups from Norway to this place every year". JG (Norway)

"I visited the Men an Tol on 08/07/08 Too often the management of heritage sites and landscapes is little more than a form of sanitisation of environment so that it no longer challenges our spiritual senses visiting the Men an Tol recently and the adjacent ruined tin mine (I) was struck by the openness of the landscape, the history, the amazing flora, particularly by the wildflowers and shrubs which would be grazed out of existence. Grazing would easily destroy much existing plant life, replace it with different plants and thereby change the entire character of the area" KS (Derby)

"I go especially to this area in April and October to paint and walk and paint from Carn Galva and other areas within the proposals. Please do not allow the wonderful land and space to be spoilt. It must not happen." PD (Westbury, Wiltshire)

"There is a much greater need for this to remain an unspoilt natural area (one of very few remaining) than to be fenced off for yet another herd of cattle Returning back to Cornwall to visit family and walk freely on undeveloped natural moors is one of lifes pleasures I have no wish to relinquish. Why do people feel the need to manage a system that really has no need of it?" VC (London)

"We visit this area every year and object to these proposals. I have been visiting this area for nearly forty years." HL (Chester Field)

"I love this area and have been visiting all my life, as have generations of my family. As a wheelchair user it is very difficult to access areas anyway and I often have to enjoy these wonderful views from a distance. Please don't spoil this with fences and any more restrictions." FB (New Malden, Surrey)

"My wife and I recently enjoyed a really good circular walk over this moorland during a weeks break in Cornwall. The walk took in Men-an-Tol, Nine Maidens, and Ding Dong engine house ruins. If this area is to be fenced in order to manage livestock grazing , the moor would no longer be the open space that it is at present and that would be so wrong given

that it is not a large area and should be allowed to remain unspoilt and 'wild'." GW (Wellington, Somerset)

"An unique landscape which not might be disturbed by mankind." BL (Gauting, Germany)

"This is a ridiculous idea." SM (Broughton-in-Furness, Cumbria)

"Please save the moors, that's why we tour here." TT (South Africa)

"Keep things as they are. Don't destroy an attraction." LW (New Zealand)

"Reduce erosion caused by grazing cattle to these sites." CG (Blandford Forum, Dorset)

"We are here as tourists spending lots of money. Doing this sort of thing will result in less money from tourists." BW (Auckland, New Zealand)

"As a frequent visitor to the area I would be horrified to see this unspoilt wild area covered in fences and cattle." CB (London SW11)

"I was brought up in Penwith and come down frequently to wander the open moors. It is crucial that the moors are not fenced in." TC (Powys, Wales)

"(Grazing) is no good for the sites nor the many visitors who wish to visit these sites both touristically and spiritually Also, during the last Foot and Mouth major outbreak, we were prevented for many months from visiting any site that had cattle roaming in the area, and this may well occur again" JM (Penryn, Cornwall)

"'Natural England' have most unnaturally chosen an arbitrary period in our landscape's history and plan to experiment on this beautiful area to attempt to return it to some figment of its own imagination. I say 'LEAVE IT TO NATURE'. It's doing a better job and doesn't cost anything...." MP (Truro, Cornwall)

"A definite NO to any fencing on open access land. Instead of wasting money on barbed wire spend it on the overgrown and neglected public rights of way." KM (Lelant, Cornwall)

"A money making project for something that is not necessary." ER (St.Ives, Cornwall)

"Aged 75 enjoying the wilderness all my life. Not short of grazing land. Its all around that wild area but little used. What will this COST. The wasted money (for 20 cattle) should be used for social housing." PM (Ludgvan, Penzance)

"Another potty idea from Natural England that makes one wonder if they are actually fit for purpose." DP (Gulval, Cornwall)

"Are you mad? This moorland is for everyone and must not be enclosed in any way and no for cattle!! Well what a mess and danger they are." EC (Penzance)

"As a regular horse rider I would NOT ride through a field of longhorn cattle – the destruction of historic sites by cattle will be unforgivable." PM (Newbridge, Cornwall)

"As an artist painting in these areas it has been very important to me that I have been able to roam at will and wherever the spirit takes me – I'm appalled!" BB (Marazion, Penzance)

"Authorities should consider local opinion especially from original farming families." B (Penzance)

“Barb wire fences should never be used. Most cattle do not eat gorse; bracken does not do them much good, only ponies from the moors would cope...” AC (Newlyn, Cornwall)

“Being a keen member of the Cornwall Wildlife Trust I do not wish to see a prime habitat ruined – lichens in particular.” JW (London W13)

“Cattle will wreck archaeological sites. ‘They will be moved in misty weather.’ REALLY?” CM (St Just, Cornwall)

“Disagree with fencing off areas of unspoilt moorland and grazing of previous unworked moorland.” MB (Penzance)

“Disgusted that another pleasure is being denied to the general public.” PC (Heamoor, Cornwall)

“Don’t destroy our ancient monuments (the cattle will rub them).” WP (Penzance)

“Don’t fence me in. What’s the point, leave it natural instead of creating less freedom.” SS (Newbridge, Cornwall)

“Don’t fence us in. What? Charge to roam on open space!! That’ll be next. Fences and hands off our moors.” SO (Penzance)

“Done with a total disregard to local peoples POINTS OF VIEW.” SA (Newbridge, Cornwall)

“Fed up with Cornwall being wrecked.” BU (Penzance)

“Fences would not be in keeping with moorland.” JC (Exeter, Devon)

“Halt this travesty. Keep the moors open and safe for the public.” DS (Pendeen, Cornwall)

“Hands off our moors!” VO (Paul, Penzance)

“Having visited the Nine Maidens this morning (12th August), I cannot see why grazing is needed on this common. I really object to any archaeologically sensitive areas being grazed in this way, surely other areas could be grazed where absolutely necessary.” AL (Penzance, Cornwall)

“How dare you think you can do this to the wilderness and ancient sites. Please think again!” RP (Sancreed, Cornwall)

“I have enjoyed and been inspired by Men-an-Tol, Nine Maidens and other historical sites and the beauty of exploring Penwith for 30 years and am devastated by the proposals.” GF (Sancreed, Cornwall)

“I have seen the photos of trampled mud around the stones, I cannot believe it will not damage the sites. As a farmer’s son I would be nervous of approaching the stones when cattle are there.” AW (London E10)

“I like walking, biking, etc so if there are barbed wire, cattle grids and cattle on the moors it will ruin my freedom to walk, bike etc on the moors. Also cattle make a mess of the ground if its wet, and they will poo everywhere and make the land smell.” MC aged 13 (Botallack, Cornwall)

“I lived in this area for many years before moving to France. It would be a tragedy to enclose this area. It is for the people to enjoy and part of the heritage of Penwith. If it goes ahead it is just one more thing that this incompetent government has got wrong. Is it any wonder the population of UK is leaving in droves!” MP (France)

“I say NO to fencing. Please leave this wonderful landscape fence and cow free!” HD (St.Just, Cornwall)

“I strongly object to any increase in fencing as this contradicts open access legislation; deter use of the moors for leisure, exercise and appreciating the natural beauty and antiquities in the area. Cattle may similarly impede access and also destroy the vegetation.” CK (Redruth, Cornwall)

“I think the National trust has taken leave of its senses – they normally preserve our heritage.” BE (St.Just, Cornwall)

“I’ve been walking with my gran upon the moors for ages and it will be a shame to see it all crushed by cattle and fenced off.” KH aged 13 (Redruth, Cornwall)

“It is absolutely unthinkable to erect fencing, grids and place grazing cattle into our unspoilt wild and ancient moorland. We say NO to any of these unspoilt moors being desecrated, so important to natural wildlife and PEACE.” GC (Botallack, Cornwall)

“It is an appalling idea and will ruin the moors”. JA (Helston, Cornwall)

“Lastly, our objections have been answered on many occasions by the assertion that cattle were kept on the moor (Nine Maidens Common) until the 1990’s. In reply we ask Why did this stop? Why were cattle grids and fences not needed then? Surely there was plenty of traffic in such recent times?” S&LC (Heamoor, Penzance)

“LEAVE WELL ALONE. It belongs to nature and the people.” MC (Bristol)

“Let the people enjoy the moors as they are.” JK (Barnstaple, Devon)

“My wife and I have walked across these moors for many years this is one of the last wild places where it is possible to walk in peace. There is no need to manage or fence it at all or any of the other carns or commons. We would ask you please to leave them well alone.” A&CC (Newlyn, Cornwall)

“On a purely selfish note. Do these people know how people use the moor? All very well saying gates will accommodate walkers & riders but what about people like myself who 'drive' ponies on the moor. If they came most mornings, weather permitting, they'll see me and one of my 4 drivers. I expect I'll be written off as a 'minority'. Bet they wouldn't infringe my rights if my minority status was race or gender. Too PC. Not a happy bunny me!” DD (Newbridge, Cornwall)

“Our moors are fine as they are.” SH (Penzance)

“Penwith moors are unique! This proposal will ruin Penwith for us all, deprive us of one of our greatest pleasures – walking freely and safely over the moors and enjoying the views and openness and peace.” BH (Newbridge, Cornwall)

“Penwith moors’ loneliness is the attraction.” SK (Barnstaple, Devon)

“Please just leave the moors as they are, there is no need to do anything at all.” CC (Newlyn, Cornwall)

“Please protect the truly wild places of Britain. Having travelled extensively in NW Scotland, Hebrides, Orkney and Shetland – Cornwall is a rare example of our wild natural places.” CG (St. Keverne, Cornwall)

“Please, please don’t let us loose the unique beauty and ruggedness of the moors and coastline. Keep it safe as it is.” JS (Hayle, Cornwall)

“Rotational burning would be a cheaper and more sensitive way to manage the moors and would preserve the fragile heritage for future generations to marvel at. Cattle? I think not!” CT (Sancreed, Cornwall)

“The fact that this land is open is a huge draw for walkers – not just local. The feel of it – freedom – in touch with the prehistory. Fence this and you will destroy it.” JH (St.Ives, Cornwall)

“The land needs to be left as our ancestors intended, so people of today can walk freely and enjoy the unique magic of the West Penwith moors....” BT (Nancledra, Penzance)

“The moors are wild open places. Erecting fences will completely change them.” TH (Penzance, Cornwall)

“The plan is indefensible. The enclosures all over again! We desperately need our WILD places in this increasingly corporate and wired country!” FB (Newbridge, Penzance)

“The proposal is corporate vandalism.” DD (Penzance)

“There are other less damaging ways to manage heathland. Cattle will slowly reduce the heath you are trying to protect!!!” CJ (Pendeen, Penzance)

“These are areas of great natural beauty and antiquity. To cordon these off would be no different to Stonehenge; ramblers have a right to walk unhindered and to approach the stones without electric fences in place. Moreover, the risk to the heath becoming boggy is of equally great concern to sanitation and the risks associated with ground water runoff to the area. Who stands to benefit? How long before these sites will only be accessed at a price? Thank you for organizing this petition.” MS (Penzance, Cornwall)

“These are sacred sites, respect our history/ heritage – not just the idea of making money out of it!” EB (St Buryan, Cornwall)

“These proposals, made so far from the heart of Cornwall, are insensitive not only to the spirit of the lovely land but also in the vibrant earth energy voice of its past. Destroy this spirit and they destroy the vital breath of Cornwall.” LE (Perranuthnoe, Cornwall)

“These sites need to be preserved for future generations. Too much of local history has been lost forever. Save the Moors!” SG (Plymouth, Devon)

“This area is one of heart stopping beauty and solitude and wildness The Tinnens Way appears also to be cut across by fencing. This is a track across the moors of huge significance

to those who love and walk the area The proposed fencing will be a real and awful shame if it goes ahead. This is one of the few places left in West Cornwall of such wildness and openness. Please do not allow anything which allows this spectacular beauty to be lessened.” CH (St.Just, Cornwall)

“This beautiful and historically important and fascinating area needs to be protected for us and future generations. How sad if we let it be damaged in our lifetime just for monetary gain!” ES (Penryn, Cornwall)

“This is a huge step backwards ... It is madness.” CH (Oxford)

“This is a special place for lots of people who enjoy the freedom of the moors. Please save it for the people.” SC (Heamoor, Cornwall)

“This is a stupid idea and a classic case of bureaucrats fixing something that ain’t broke.” DC (Newmill, Cornwall)

“This is an area of outstanding natural beauty, a priceless archaeological site (the Nine Maidens Circle) and an irreplaceable site of indigenous religious significance for the past thousands of years.” RC (Madron, Cornwall)

“This looks like a ‘one size fits all’ scheme that has been ill thought out and adopted because of the few financial benefits it brings to a few rather than for good conservation reasons.” IF (University of Manchester)

“This project is unnecessary – the very atmosphere, spirituality and tranquillity will be lost for ever. Leave things to Mother Nature.” TR (St.Ives, Cornwall)

“To save our climate it is necessary to reduce the cows in agriculture and to save the moors.” *Prof Dr TF* (Bayreuth, Germany)

“To walk is beneficial to one’s physical health. To walk on the Nine Maidens Common is also beneficial to one’s mental health. The reason for this is: a lack of modern structures. One can totally relax away from reminders of the stressful modern era. Addition of fences, posts, gates and a herd of cattle would render this ultimate outdoor relaxation impossible. Rare unspoilt ancient areas should be cherished NOT modernised.” JC (Madron, Penzance)

“Very concerned that areas of moorland I’ve loved and walked for years should be affected in the ways suggested in this scheme.” JH (St.Just, Cornwall)

“Very worrying – please do not damage this ancient landscape.” CH (Penzance)

“We also have a fantastic wild life – the birds come from all over the world to this narrow peninsula, you will destroy their habitat. I have seen what cattle can do, when left to graze anywhere – there is nothing left – its flora and fauna gone We do not want a country full of motorways and concrete. Why can you not leave our lovely area as natural as possible. Or is it today only money is important.” BE (St.Just, Cornwall)

“We have been coming down to Cornwall regularly for the past twenty years and often visit Nine Maidens. The idea of the moor being fenced off to use as cattle grazing in an anathema.” SH (Solihull)

“We must be able to walk across our moorland and to visit these heritage sites without restrictions and intimidations.” AS (Madron, Cornwall)

“We regularly walk in the above area and value its open and unspoiled nature – together with its prehistory – fencing such an area is unbelievable.” FJ & M LC (Truro, Cornwall)

“While small scale occasional grazing may be useful, anything on the scale considered is quite unacceptable.” IH (Zennor, Cornwall)

“You and your committee are right we cannot be fenced in, good luck!” SS (St.Just, Cornwall)

NO COMMENT

“While your concern at the fencing of Penwith Moors is understood, as the property concerned does not belong to the Duchy of Cornwall it would be inappropriate for His Royal Highness or for the Duchy to intervene in the project being run by Natural England although we are grateful to you for bringing this matter to our attention.” RFTH, Land Steward, Duchy of Cornwall, Liskeard, in response to a letter sent to The Prince of Wales by MT (Carnyorth)