Creating a Viable Future from Marginal Grazing
What Constitutes Viable Grazing?

- Personal / Societal Outcomes
- Agriculture / Environment / Cultural / Diversification Outputs
- Commercial / Subsistence
- Short / Medium / Long Time Horizon
There are over 3900 Farmers who are Commoners in England

39% of open access land is common land

11% of scheduled monuments are on commons

82% of commons are in national parks & AONBs

21% of all SSSIs are common land
In Partnership since 2012
What will Viability Depend on…….

Motivation  Finances  Land Tenure  Skills  Trade  ELM / Policy  Assets
Co-creating Positive Change

The Commoners Vision for Holne Moor

Holne Moor is an open grazed landscape managed by several Commoners. The grazing is carried out by a mixture of sheep, cattle and ponies of a hardy hill type. There is extensive archaeology with good examples clearly visible. The good condition of the various habitats store carbon, provide clean water and reduce flood risk. The whole common is a dynamic system that supports a large and diverse bird population along with many other species including rare Fritillary butterflies.

- Extensive unique reeve system, parts of which are clearly visible in the landscape.
- Hut circles bracken free and clearly visible.
- Healthy Mires free from bracken encroachment.
- Mine workings. Good whortleberry heath with some heather and some thin bracken.
- Areas of dense bracken cover
- A mosaic of different heights and densities in gorse dominated heath with a good network of paths/firebreaks.
- Areas of good habitat for High Brown, Pearl Bordered and Small Pearl Bordered butterflies.
- Healthy Blanket Bog
- Whole area supports large and diverse bird population
- Areas of dense bracken cover
- Hut circles bracken free and clearly visible.
- Areas of good habitat for High Brown, Pearl Bordered and Small Pearl Bordered butterflies.
- Grazing by cattle, sheep and ponies
- Public and livestock able to freely move across most areas without competing for paths or causing erosion.
- Livestock free from dog worrying
- Habitats
  - Upland Heath, Blanket Bog, Deciduous Woodland, Acid Grassland, Valley Mire
  - A mosaic of different heights and densities in gorse dominated heath.
Demonstrating by Doing
Documenting and Disseminating

Our Common Cause: Our Upland Commons
Enabling a shared future for all
Julia Aglionby

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