

#RealNewForest

Are there commoners in other places?

The use of 'common' land for grazing and other farming practices is widespread across the world. It also used to be widespread in the UK, with many areas of 'manorial waste' used to graze livestock, and collect fallen timber or other natural goods, as part of a peasant and smallholder based economy. The moves to enclose common land across much of lowland Britain started in the eighteenth and accelerated in the nineteenth century, when a series of enclosure acts deprived many small farmers of a large part of their income and forced them into the country's growing industrial towns. Grazing on common land now survives in a number of restricted areas, mostly in the uplands of England, Wales and Scotland. Many of these areas are now designated as national parks and make up some of the country's most precious landscapes.

More information about commoning in the British Isles can be found on the website of the Foundation for Common Land at: <http://www.foundationforcommonland.org.uk/>

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