

# New Management Plan for Ansty Coombe Meadows



Above- Photomap showing the former pasture closes and the footpaths that cross them. These fields were probably enclosed in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century when under the Arundell's of Wardour's ownership.

Right- the former enclosures named.



It has come to our attention that the old pasture closes that slope up to 12 Acre Copse and the Park Pale to the south west, bounded by Kings Lane to the north east and Ansty Coombe Lane to the south east are to be placed under a new management plan which comes into operation this year.

The aim is to restore these grass and wild flower meadows back to their former glory restoring and thus conserving the historical character of these ancient hay meadows by employing very old, tried and tested livestock grazing patterns with careful maintenance to keep bracken and scrub at bay.

These hay meadows on the damper greensand slopes, like the short grass, sheep grazing swards with associated wildflowers on drier chalk slopes have dwindled to almost nothing since the 1940s. There is a concerted effort these days to try and restore some of these areas to increase biodiversity and of course it looks splendid in the summer!

We have to thank the Landowner Mr Fergus Webster for this initiative, along with his Land Agent, Mr Jason Lewis, of Woolley and Wallis and Mr Trevor Marks, the current tenant. It is indeed wonderful news.

You may recall back in the wonderful summer of 2018, after a very wet winter, a massive resurgence of wild flowers and orchids occurred from seeds that had lain dormant for many years. A wild flower regime needs a strict adherence to a pattern of grazing, hay making and we ran an article on this subject back then. Well, here is another chance to catch up on that article from our noticeboard.

**Wildflower meadows in Ansty? (First posted June 2019.)**



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