

Local Cattle to Help Manage Hazeley Heath

Next time you head for Hazeley Heath, look out for some fresh faces. Lynda Bouchier has joined the Hart District Council Countryside Team, taking on the new role of Seasonal Countryside Ranger; she will be joined in May by a small herd of local cattle that will help to manage the heathland habitat.

The cattle are being introduced to two carefully selected grazing trial sites to help control the encroachment of invasive vegetation and encourage a diverse range of heathland flora and fauna. Temporary electric fencing has been erected and then will be removed when the grazing season finishes in September and the cattle return to their farm.

The trial, which will run for five years, aims to determine whether grazing is an appropriate management tool to use at Hazeley Heath, producing a positive effect on the vegetation and species richness. Monitoring and assessment of the heath and public opinion to grazing will take place, during and after the trial.



New grazing trial ranger Lynda Bouchier

Lynda, originally a nurse, decided on a career change in 2008, she undertook training in Countryside Management at Capel Manor in London while being a full time National Trust volunteer, for more than a year at Hatfield Forest, Essex.

Talking about her new job, Lynda could not hide her enthusiasm: “I’m really looking forward to putting my experience of conservation grazing to good use in such a unique environment as Hazeley Heath. It will be great to see if the traditional and sustainable method of managing the heathland habitat, will work as well here as on other sites, producing the habitat and wildlife diversity that we seek to achieve.”

Lynda will be looking for volunteers to help with the trial. The cattle will need to be checked daily to ensure they are in good health and have fresh water. No experience is required and training will be given.

If you are interested in the grazing trial or becoming a volunteer please contact the Countryside Service on countryside@hart.gov.uk or call 01252 623443 for more information.