

by HertsCMS a year ago

Weston Hills Project Update



Weston Hills project 2013-07 001

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PROJECT UPDATES

AUGUST 2014

The sheep have now arrived at Gibbet Hill. This area has steep slopes which we cannot get the cows up to. Sheep are ideal for such areas - indeed they would once have been a common site on these hills and centuries of their grazing led to the development of the fantastic range of wild flowers we see today. The fifty male Border Leicester lambs will be on site until around mid October. To protect them from potential worrying by dogs the area will be closed to public access until then but you can search for them from the fenceline. The rest of the site, including the area where the cows are grazing, is open to public access.



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The sheep leap off the trailer.....



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..... into the site



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...and head off to explore



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JULY 2014

The cows have returned. Six English Longhorn cows will graze the species-rich grassland in the northern part of

the site until mid-October. The grassland's looking great at the moment; full of wild flowers including scabious, knapweed, lady's bedstraw and wild carrot. Sheep will arrive in early August to graze the steeper slopes at Gibbet Hill until the autumn.



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Longhorn cows relax in their new home



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The grassland is full of wild flowers

DECEMBER 2013

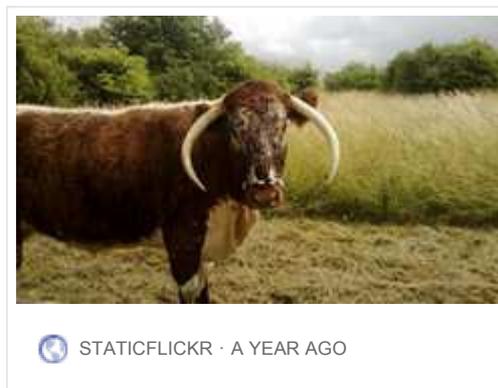


After a successful first season, the cows went back home for the winter last month. Although we didn't get them up to Gibbet Hill this year they did a brilliant job grazing the northern part of the site and we look forward to their return next summer.

Now human volunteers are continuing the work to conserve the grassland. We held the first of several 'scrub clearance' tasks planned for this winter, removing bushes where they have encroached into the flower-rich grassland and pathways. More tasks are scheduled for the new year.

AUGUST 2013

In August, four Longhorn cows arrived on site – they are a traditional English breed, ideal for grazing this kind of herb-rich grassland and docile toward people and dogs. Bronte, Jasmine, Jezebel and Karinna will be on site until late autumn.



Longhorn Cow



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Longhorn Cows

JULY 2013



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Orchids Gibbet Hill



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Brassy Long-horn Moth - rare in Hertfordshire



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Gibbet Hill during Restoration



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Gibbet Hill before Restoration

APRIL 2013



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Fencing works



Slow Worms seen on guided walk around the site

SUMMER 2012

Interpretation has been installed around the site to allow visitors to get the most out of their visit. There are main orientation panels with a map so you will never get lost and then dotted around the site are 4 feature panels giving you more information about the history, habitats and wildlife that can be found at Weston Hills.



MARCH 2012



Weston Hills project 2012-03 001

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New steps