ROLE PROFILE

ROLE TITLE: Cattle Checker

RESPONSIBLE TO: Danemead Reserves Officer

WORK AREA: Danemead Nature Reserve

EXPENSES: Travel expenses between home and Danemead Nature Reserve may be reimbursed if required.

ANTICIPATED TIME CONTRIBUTION: 30 minutes a week plus travel to Danemead

ROLE PURPOSE

To carry out a check once a week of Redpoll cattle grazing the meadow at Danemead Nature Reserve. This can easily be combined with a general visit to the nature reserve.

Grazing is essential to maintaining the rare wildlife of the meadow and welfare of the cattle must be maintained. The meadow is typical of wood pasture and habitat such as this, with open grassland in close proximity to woodland, provides high botanical diversity, particularly for invertebrates such as butterflies, as well as a rich variety of wildflowers.

It is harder to maintain open wood pasture nowadays due to the decline in traditional farming methods. However the Trust work hard to maintain the site using the Red Poll cattle – a gentle, hardy breed of cattle who happily brose on Danemead’s varied grassland.

KEY ELEMENTS

1. Checking that cows are all present
2. Checking that cows are in the correct place
3. Look for signs of possible ill health on the cows

Date prepared: 05.06.2017

Role Profile – Cattle Checker 2017