

Conservation Grazing at St Wulstan's Local Nature Reserve

In the UK livestock grazing has historically played a significant role in creating and maintaining many of the wildlife habitats that exist today. Malvern Hills District Council, who own St Wulstan's LNR, have stipulated that conservation grazing should be implemented on St. Wulstan's Local Nature Reserve and this is included in the management plan.

- ⚙ Three or four cattle will be introduced to the hay meadows after the annual hay cut.
- ⚙ Grazing hay meadows at this time will control coarse grasses and benefit wild flowers.
- ⚙ Once sufficient grazing has been carried out on the hay meadows the cattle will be transferred to the other grassland areas for about 3 months.
- ⚙ Managing grassland with grazing is a long-term sustainable approach to the conservation of St. Wulstan's LNR.

Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Sustainable Development Fund has given a grant to install the fencing and equipment required before putting cattle on to the Reserve.

- ⚙ Short stretches of new fencing will be erected and some fencing removed altogether.
- ⚙ Two new paths will be created to give visitors the option to take a circular walk around the Reserve without having to enter the area being grazed (see map below).
- ⚙ There will not be any additional restrictions for dog walkers.
- ⚙ All of the reserve currently accessible to the public will stay the same all year round and signs will be erected to inform visitors which area the cattle are in.

If you are interested to see how this may work in practice, the Countryside Service will arrange a visit to another Worcestershire County Council countryside site to see conservation grazing on a busy Local Nature Reserve, learn about the many environmental benefits and see how grazing is fully compatible with site visitors.

If you would like to find out more about this trip or grazing at St. Wulstan's please contact Liz Nether, Countryside Sites Officer, Countryside Services, The Countryside Centre, Wildwood Drive, Worcester, WR5 2LG. 01905 766493. e-mail: lnether@worcestershire.gov.uk

