

Field Trip 2: Dunsdon Landscape



- Reserve serves as a hub for wider landscape work.
- Whole farm conservation and land management.
- Diverse range of field-scale wet grassland restoration and recreation operations.
- White Park cattle and other native breeds grazing culm.

Devon Wildlife Trust Flagship Culm Grassland Reserve

What were the top three challenges faced by this project?

1. Working out how to apply 'connectivity' principles on the ground.
2. Co-operation of landowners for some very radical techniques and changes in management.
3. How to devise a project that meets a long term challenge when only short term funding is available.

How were these challenges overcome?

- Multiple layering of information from a wide variety of sources plus new techniques like parish mapping
- Huge investment of time in dialogue with both landowners and funders to broker a workable solution
- Site by site solutions are designed to end up with simple management without long term financial commitment.
- Working in partnership with all other agencies in the area spreads risk of abrupt project cessation

Where did the project get its advice from and how easy was it to obtain?

- Very difficult to find information on wet grassland re-establishment.
- Very little published material.
- Use of local knowledge centres like North Wyke.
- Farmer knowledge.