

Field Trip 1: Affeton Landscape



- **Culm wet grassland habitat restoration projects.**
- **Perspectives from landowners**
- **Visit to livestock herds: Long horn, Devon Red and mixed beef herds.**
- **HLS special projects funding discussed with NE advisors**

Devon Wildlife Trust Working Wetlands Living Landscape Project

What were the main challenges faced by this project?

- **Resource / time restrictions / relations and trust building takes time.**
- **Continuity**
- **Fragmentation and small tenure / multiple ownership / dispersal**
- **Structural change in dairy / beef industry integration**

- Lack of grazing system sustainability
- Scrub threat at low grazing levels
- Competing established farming systems
- Physical constraints magnified by climate change

How were these challenges overcome?

- Flexibility
- Specialist equipment
- Communication
- Continuity of advice / established contacts
- Trust
- Grants / significant level of funding
- Coordinated delivery

Where did the farmer or conservation land manager obtain advice and how easy was it to obtain?

- Devon Wildlife Trust / Butterfly Conservation / Natural England / FC/ EA/ FWAG
- Farmers (in this example)
- Previous generations - documentation
- Datasets
- Contractors (manage with care)

Lessons Learnt

- Care and maintenance – highest priority
- Build relationships
- Understand – converse in farming
- Independent broker / agent
- Look after your good contractors!
- Maintaining viable farming systems balanced with the needs of conservation