

Longhorn cattle at Cheshunt Park



A small herd of English Longhorn cattle have been invited to graze part of Cheshunt Park as part of the grassland and community orchard management programme. The grassland at Cheshunt Park has been identified as being ecologically important and the English Longhorns have become very sought after by nature reserves in recent years on account of their special ability to thrive on a very mixed diet of herbage.

The park has many wildflowers that are no longer common elsewhere, including Lady's Bedstraw, Mouseeared Hawkweed and Pignut. Grazing the grassland for a few weeks twice a year is a natural way to manage this land as the animals nibble at stronger grasses and plants that would smother the wildflowers if left unchecked and the manure will naturally enrich the ground.

The orchard has been re-planted with Heritage Lottery funding and Broxbourne Council is working with the Countryside Management Service to manage the grassland around it. This particular breed of cattle is known to be extremely docile and therefore the four bullocks should pose no threat to ramblers and dog walkers who use the park.

The Longhorn cattle will spend a few weeks at Cheshunt Park two or three times a year and belong to Robert and Frances Williams of Maydencroft Farm, near Hitchin, who have been rearing this particular breed for over 25 years.

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