An Introduction to the
Rare Breeds Survival Trust

Presented by
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Who and what is the RBST

- Registered Charity in its 40th Year
- Patron is HRH Prince of Wales (1987)
- Dedicated to the protection and conservation of Britain’s farm livestock heritage
- Since formation it has halted the extinction of ANY native UK breeds
- National - HQ is at Stoneleigh Park
- Funding - Membership, Legacies, Donations
Between 1923 and 1973 26 British farmed breeds became **EXTINCT** including:

**Cattle**: Alderney, Suffolk Dun, Sheeted Somerset, Castlemartin, Caithness, Irish Dun

**Sheep**: Limestone, St Rona’s Hill, Roscommon, Rhiw

**Pigs**: Ulster White, Small White, Yorkshire Blue & White, Dorset Gold Tip, Lincolnshire Curly Coat, Cumberland.

**Horses**: Manx, Cushendale, Tiree, Long Mynd, Galloway, Goonyhill

In 1973 RBST was founded to conserve UK native farm animal genetic resources.
Belted Galloway
British White
Blue Albion
Dexter
Gloucester
Irish Dun
Irish Moiled
Kerry
Longhorn
Northern Dairy Shorthorn
Red Poll
Shetland
White Park
Welsh Black (Belted)
The park cattle registration programme in Britain was started in 1918 but registrations lapsed during 1946. By then only the Dynevor, Woburn, Whipsnade and Cadzow herds survived as domesticated herds. The ancient herds at Vaynol in Wales and Chillingham herd having become semi-feral.

1973 the Rare Breeds Survival Trust was formed in Britain and the following year the registration programme was revived for the remaining British herds in the “white Park” herd book. Numbers have increased and now exceed 1,000 breeding cows in the UK.
RBST ST Watchlist 2012

Rare Breeds Survival Trust

Annual Assessment

RBST Classification of Rare Breeds
In 1940 one or two pairs of White Park cattle from the Cadzow herd were exported to Canada to preserve a British “national treasure” from the threat of Nazi invasion. They were kept at the Toronto Zoo. The Canadian offspring of those cattle were transferred to the Bronx Zoo but facilities there were inadequate for their long term housing and they were moved to the King Ranch in Texas where they remained for the next 40 years before being purchased by Mr. & Mrs. John Moeckly of Polk City, Iowa.
Contrary to common thought this breed has never appeared on any of the RBST Priority / Watchlists.
Over 20% depletion in breed numbers due to FMD

1974 VULNERABLE  1992 MINORITY  2012 NATIVE > 1500

Survivor - Belted Galloway
Breed Conservation - Special Herds

Chillingham Wild Cattle
Northumberland

CRITICAL
Breed Conservation - Special Herds
Using Native Breeds - Meat

Slower maturing animals - high taste meat

Produced & finished within ‘natural’ environment

Increasingly used by Top Chefs

Difficulties in production and marketing
“White park beef was really excellent: softly chewy, with that strong, distinctive, almost corrupt flavour of proper beef... it was the best steak I’ve had this year”
AA Gill the food critic said in the Sunday Times 2012
"White parks beef reputation was first established in August 1617, when after a days hunt at the medieval castle Hoghton Tower Near Preston, King James 1 sat down to his dinner and declared “finer beef nae man ever put his teeth into…Henceforth, it shall be Sir-Loin”
Conservation Grazing
Thank you for listening to the RBST and White Park talk this evening, on the back of the Watch list are membership application forms.