



An Introduction to the  
**Rare Breeds Survival Trust**





- **Registered Charity in its 40<sup>th</sup> 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**

Who and what is the RBST



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.

Origins of RBST





**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)**

**Status of Cattle Breeds in 1973**





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.

## Park Cattle Registration Programme







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.

**Protecting a National Treasure**





Contrary to common thought  
this breed has never  
appeared on any of the  
RBST Priority / Watchlists

NATIVE

> 1500

Highland Cattle







Over 20% depletion in breed numbers due to FMD



Survivor - Belted Galloway



A photograph of two wild cattle in a snowy field. The cattle have thick, shaggy coats and large, curved horns. One is in the foreground, looking towards the camera, while the other is slightly behind it. The ground is covered in snow with patches of dry grass.

**CRITICAL**

# Chillingham Wild Cattle

Northumberland

Breed Conservation - Special Herds



**CRITICAL**

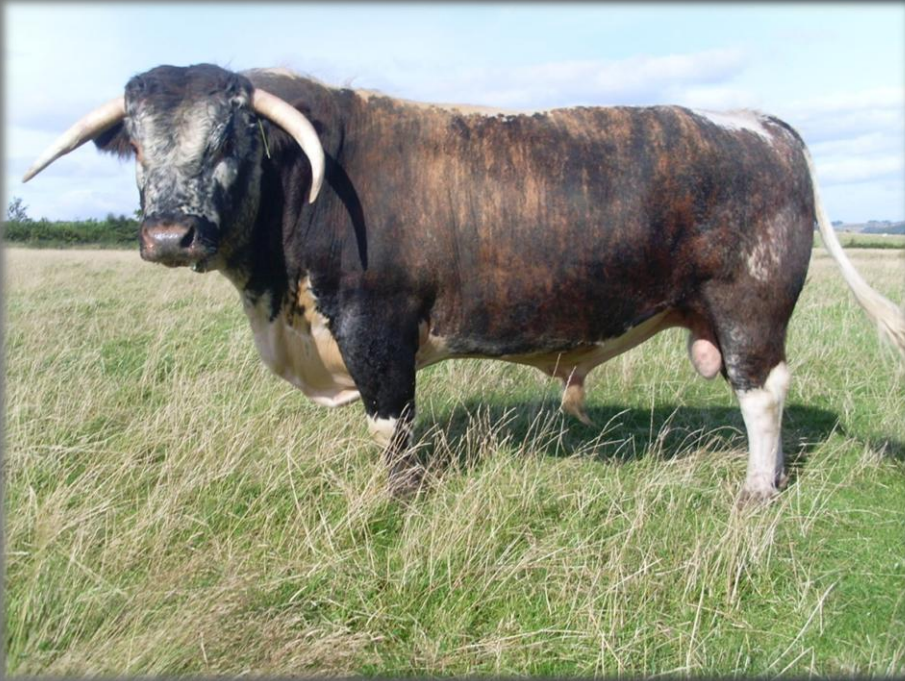


# Vaynol Cattle

Temple Newsham

Breed Conservation - Special Herds





**Slower maturing animals - high taste meat**

**Produced & finished within 'natural' environment**

**Increasingly used by Top Chefs**

**Difficulties in production and marketing**



**Using Native Breeds - Meat**





“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

Using Native Breeds - Meat





**“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”**

**Using Native Breeds - Meat**





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.

