



La Société Guernesiaise
Conservation Herd

Conservation Herd Manager

Date: 7th February 2020

Job Description – Voluntary Role

The Herd Manager is responsible for the management of the Conservation Herd. As the registered keeper of the cattle, this is primarily focussed on the welfare of the animals – ensuring they have enough forage, water, are safe and secure and their husbandry meets local animal welfare legislation. A team of voluntary stock checkers check on the animals each day and will inform the Herd Manager should any issues need resolving. Roughly twice each week the battery will need replacing and the water bowser filling up.

During the grazing season (April – October) the herd require moving frequently; the timing is determined by the Herd Manager and land owner who are jointly responsible for monitoring the state of the grasslands. Deciding when and where the cattle should be moved is dependent on several factors including cattle needs, weather and conservation objectives. The Herd Manager and volunteers undertake the fencing and move the cattle.

Other tasks include arranging contactors to cut and bale hay for winter feed, helping to rear young calves, arranging the slaughter, butcher and sale of beef annually, maintaining accounts, fundraising, applying for charitable grants, and promoting the work of the Herd. The manager is actively supported in these roles by a team of volunteers, La Société Guernesiaise and Environment Guernsey staff.

The charity owns a working vehicle, livestock trailer and all other necessary equipment to manage the small herd of cattle.

The ideal candidate will have experience of working with large animals and a practical attitude. A category BE driving licence is desirable funding may be provided to the successful candidate to obtain this licence if required.

The workload varies throughout the year, but averages roughly 10-12hrs a week. This role would suit someone who works part-time or flexible hours, but would also be suitable as a job share.

About the Conservation Herd

The Herd was established in 2014 as a means of managing some of Guernsey's most important nature reserves and coastal grasslands. It consists of eight Guernsey steers from local dairy farms. During the spring and summer, they move between coastal sites, such as L'Ancrese Common, Port Soif Common and Port Grat. During late summer and autumn, they graze wet meadows and orchid meadows. Each autumn two steers who have reached 3 years of age are sent for beef, the sale of which makes the herd financially sustainable.

For further information or to express an interest in this role, please contact Julia Henney at conservationherd@societe.org.gg before the 28th February 2020.