

Opportunities and Issues in Re-wilding

22nd & 23rd May 2019 – 2-day conference in Sheffield



One of Derek Gow's Heck cattle herd

With major challenges facing nature conservation and the still on-going and even accelerating decline of many wildlife species, new and radical approaches are required. The pace of climate change appears to be quickening, urbanisation is accelerating, and the public purse in the UK at least, is shrinking to almost nothing. With problems of biodiversity loss, of countryside heritage under threat, of extreme weather and major floods on the rise, and around the coastlines, sea level increasing, we need solutions to be bigger, bolder, and more, joined. Furthermore, the new approaches must be practical, pragmatic, economically sustained, and above all, long-term.

For this landmark event, which is organised by SYBRG / UKECONET and Ian Rotherham at Sheffield Hallam University, with Sophie Wynne-Jones and colleagues at the University of Bangor in Wales, and Alastair Driver and colleagues at Rewilding Britain, we will address the issues and the potential contributions of '*Wilder Visions*' and '*Re-wilding*' to solving these challenges.

How can re-wilding help address the core issues and problems, and what issues or problems might arise as a consequence? How can solutions be financed and what adverse impacts might there be with a re-wilding approach? What roles can private landowners and land managers play? What happens to the 'wild' in our increasingly urbanised landscapes and for our evermore urban communities? What voice do 'local' people have in these discussions?

Some key ideas: Issues and opportunities for (re)-wilding: local stakeholders' views / perceptions; 'alien' species / recombinant ecology; species introduction / re-introductions as proxy for re-wilding; non-intervention v. passive / active intervention; costs, risks and benefits of re-wilding projects; upland vs lowland; the urban wild?; to graze or not?

We are calling for offers of papers, posters, displays etc on these themes; and sponsors, partners, and other support. Suggestions of other key themes are also welcomed.

Please contact us on: info@hallamec.plus.com or telephone 0114 2724227; see the website www.ukeconet.org