

Children

Large animals like cattle and horses can seem overwhelmingly big or exciting to small children. **Encourage your children to stay close to you and ask them not to run around** when you are in grazed areas. Running may startle the animals, or even entice the younger playful ones to join in.

Keep your child's pushchair or bicycle close to you. Unusual objects left unattended in the animals' home fields may arouse their curiosity, potentially causing them to surround that object as they try to work out what it is.



Why are the animals here?

In 1999, the National Trust embarked upon a 100 year project, the Wicken Fen Vision, to encourage the development of a landscape-scale nature reserve for the benefit of people and wildlife across 5,300 hectares of land between Wicken Fen and Cambridge.

The grazing animals are an important part of this plan. Managing such a substantial area with machinery is not 'climate friendly' or sustainable.

The animals have been brought in to act as 'furry wardens'. By allowing them to behave as naturally as possible, the cattle and horses will help to manage the extended reserve, benefiting a wide range of plants, insects, animals and birds.

To find out more about the grazing animals, please have a look on our website:- http://www.wicken.org.uk/resman_grazing.htm or contact the Visitor Centre on 01353 720274.



Ambling with Animals

Walking in Grazed Areas



Thank you for your co-operation.

In case of emergency, or if you are concerned about any of the animals, please do contact 07826 894894.

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WALKING WITH CATTLE AND HORSES

The Wicken Fen Vision is home to a number of large grazing animals who roam freely in family groups (all ages and sexes) across parts of the reserve.

As you walk around, you may encounter some of these animals.

This leaflet contains tips and advice to help you, your family and dog to enjoy walking in the areas where the animals live.



Try not to arouse the animals' curiosity by standing close to them and staring at them. **Walk around them calmly and quietly.** Once you are past them, you are welcome to stop and **observe them from a respectful distance.**

If you find the animals on the path, **please leave the path and go around them.** Do not attempt to move them out of your way, as this may excite or upset the animals unnecessarily. Also, think ahead and plan your route — **avoid allowing yourself to be boxed in by groups of animals.**



General Advice

We have carefully chosen and bred these animals for their even temperaments. However, unfamiliar objects, unexpected noises or sudden movements can make them uneasy. When walking in grazed areas, **talk calmly** and **avoid sudden movements or loud excited shouting.** This will alert the animals to your presence without alarming them.

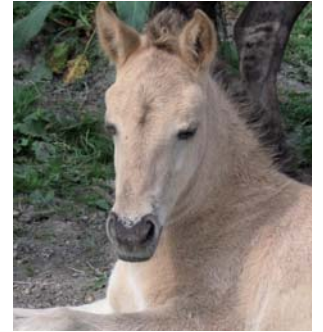


Aren't they cute?

These animals can be very appealing. Please remember, though, that they are not pets. **Do not feed or stroke them.** This can teach them to 'mug' people for food or affection. Giving animals food can also make them ill or stop them from looking for food themselves.

Mothers and Young

Please do not pet or approach young calves and foals, no matter how cuddly they look. Remember you are a stranger to the mother, and she may see you as a potential threat. You may arouse her understandable protective instinct by giving unwanted attention to her young one.



Please do not disturb or handle any young calf found on its own. It is normal for our cows to hide their calves for the first few days after birth. The mother may be some distance away. However, she will return to her calf to feed it, or if she feels it is threatened.

Dogs

Never allow your dog to chase or frighten the animals. Animals may become stressed and upset if you allow your dog to run amongst the herd, particularly if there are very young animals present, **so please keep your dog under close control.**

Animals may find your dog interesting and follow you. Picking your dog up may not lessen their curiosity, and they may still want to get close to it. If this happens, let your dog off its leash so it can run ahead and meet you further on.

