

**Sue Eberle**

**The importance of the pony for managing the common.**

*And are the ponies an important management tool on the moor?*

They're a very important management tool because each animal will have different preferences of the sort of vegetation it likes to eat, so if you get all cows they will tend to eat in a certain manner; sheep will go for something different and ponies yet again, and if you've got a balance of all those three things, then actually between them they tend to eat most of the vegetation, so you get a much more balanced mix of vegetation, if you got one of those animals out, and in particular the pony, then you'll find some sort of vegetation actually growing quite rank, because there isn't an animal that wants to eat it and then it becomes a scrub problem, so ponies are an important element as conservation grazers.