



The South Devon Herd Book Society is extending an invitation to South Devon Breeders throughout the world to visit the United Kingdom for the 2026 World Conference.

With a Pre-tour of England and Scotland and a Post Tour to Southern England in addition to the conference, there will be a showcase of the best of breed and the stunning scenery of the UK to enjoy.

We look forward to extending a warm welcome to all participants

Key Dates:	Pre Tour – 28 May 2026 – 9 June 2026
	South Devon World Conference – 10 to 12 June 2026
	Post Tour – 13 to 23 June 2026

Pre-Tour Programme – Eastern/Northern England & Scotland

Thursday 28 May 2026 – Heathrow Hotel Terminal 4 x 1 night

Arrive London Heathrow Airport and transfer to the hotel, which is a short walk from Terminal 4. Evening at leisure to find own dinner.

Friday 29 May 2026 – Mercure Hotel Norwich – 2 nights

Breakfast in the hotel and check out.

The Sell's are a mixed family farming operation based near Basildon covering around 2,000 acres. Farming South Devon and SD cross suckler cows, sheep and arable as well as an agricultural contracting business. Lunch on the farm. Continue to Norwich to check in. Welcome dinner in the hotel.

Saturday 30 May 2026 – Mercure Hotel Norwich

Breakfast in the hotel.

Depart to the Norfolk Broads for a short cruise on these unique waterways and one of the most visited locations in the UK. Enjoy lunch in a local restaurant. Visit to Woodbastwick Estate. The Hood family have kept South Devons since 1982, summer grazing on low meadows and fed forage and by products from the cereal and root crops grown. Sugar beet, potatoes, malting barley, milling wheat and peas are the mainstay crops.

Sunday 31 May 2026 – Doubletree by Hilton York – 3 nights

Breakfast in the hotel

Depart to the beautifully restored Heckington Mill in Lincolnshire. The charity trust owned facility mills wheat for flour from local farms for sale at the on-site shop. Light snack at the Mill café. Depart to Rossville Farm. J Wharton (Agriculture) Ltd is based on the edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds, farming 6,000 acres. The herd of South Devons have been part of the farm for decades grazing the steep grassland and parkland on the farm. Continue to York to check in to your hotel. Dinner under own arrangements.

Monday 1 June 2026 – Doubletree by Hilton York

Breakfast in the hotel.

Free day at leisure to explore one of the most attractive and historical cities in the country. With its ancient protective walls, access to its Roman and Viking past and the stunning cathedral, the city offers an insight into the history of Britain. Lunch and dinner under own arrangements.

Tuesday 2 June 2026 – Doubletree by Hilton York

Breakfast in the hotel

Visit the Sunderlandwick Estate is home to a closed herd of 70 pure bred South Devon and 70 SD cross Angus suckler cows with all followers retained and either used for breeding or fattened. The Estate also runs a modern arable farming operation, a 125-year-old golf club, a 190-year-old angling club plus a portfolio of lettings. Lunch on the farm. Second farm visit to Oak House Farm, the owner, Mike Powley is a former Beef Farmer of the Year using South Devon genetics and AI. Return to the hotel in York with dinner under own arrangements.

Wednesday 3 June 2026 - Delta Hotel by Marriott, Durham – 2 nights

Breakfast in the hotel and check out

Depart to Matthewson Classic Car Auction site for some free time to explore the stock owned by the popular TV personalities from the series Bangers & Cash. Transfer to the North York Moors railway station for a train ride on a classic steam locomotive to the seaside resort of Whitby. Enjoy a fish and chip classic British lunch before reboarding the coach and continue to your Durham Hotel. Dinner under own arrangements.

Thursday 4 June 2026 - Delta Hotel by Marriott Durham

Breakfast in the hotel

Visit to the Arncliffe herd, consisting of 120 mainly polled cows situated on the edge of the North York Moors. Now moving to a rotational grazing system to maximize grass use. Light lunch will be served on the farm. Continue with a visit to The Fell View herd, established by Richard & Jean Barron in 2002, situated 1000 feet above sea level with store and surplus breeding heifers from their 100-cow herd going away and doing well. Bulls have been sold in England, Scotland and exported to Ireland. Enjoy an early dinner in the local pub before returning to Durham to overnight.

Friday 5 June 2026 – Gretna Green hotel, Gretna – 2 nights

Breakfast and check out

Visit a Roman Fort built around AD 85 as part of the famous Hadrian's Wall, designed to prevent the Scottish Picts raiding over the border into England. Continue to the Livestock Mart in Carlisle to learn more about the UK markets and current prices. Cross the border into Scotland to visit a whisky distillery for a tour and tasting. Check into your Gretna Hotel with dinner in the hotel.

Saturday 6 June 2026 – Gretna Green Hotel

Breakfast in the hotel

Visit to Dumfries House a charitable foundation in partnership with the King's Foundation delivering rural skills and knowledge training to young people helping to get them into farming using farming stock and facilities on the estate. Depart to the farm of David Irving who, alongside employment commitments has been flying the flag in both the Show and Sale rings. His small herd of South Devons is one of the most Northerly anywhere with a focus on quality over quantity since 1993. Return to Gretna with dinner in the hotel.

Sunday 7 June 2026 – Lee Wood Hotel Buxton – 2 nights

Breakfast in the hotel and check out

Visit the Newbould family farm in Southwest Scotland with 90 commercial South Devon suckler cows specialising in bull beef. The heifers calve at 2 years of age to an Aberdeen Angus. Continue south crossing the border back into England. Make a stop at the Tebay Services located on the M6 motorway. Owned by a farming family they supply fresh food and meat to the restaurant from their farm and the success of the operation has led them to opening a second services in the Gloucester area. Lunch at own expense at the services. Continue your journey to Buxton to check in to your hotel. Dinner in the hotel.

Monday 8 June 2026 – Lee Wood Hotel Buxton

Breakfast in the hotel

Visit the Fentem family, who first kept South Devons in the 1980's. They now own the pedigree polled Alsop herd. The farm lies between 700 and 1000 feet above sea level on the edge of the Peak District with breeding and fattening pigs and sheep they are a truly livestock farm. Depart to Chatsworth House one of the premier country estates in the UK, owned by the Duke of Devonshire. Enjoy a tour of the house and gardens with lunch in the restaurant before a tour of the farming estate. Return to Buxton with dinner in the hotel.

Tuesday 9 June 2026 – Bank House Hotel Bransford – 1 night plus Conference

Breakfast in the hotel and check out

Visit the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. Free time to explore site that is dedicated to remembrance with over 400 hundred memorials including those to the military, police, fire and ambulance services. Pack lunch provided. Born on the South Hams, where from a very young age Julian White dreamt of keeping a South Devon cow. Their docile nature, natural fleshing and growth from grass he has now managed to make his dream come true. With wife Sara they also run a glamping business on their Leicestershire farm. Check in to the conference hotel in Bransford. Dinner in the hotel.

South Devon World Conference 2026 Bank House Hotel, Bransford

Wednesday 10 June 2026 – Bank House Hotel

Delegates not part of the pre tour arrive for the conference.

Breakfast in hotel for those on Pre-tour,

Welcome in Elgar Suite with tea/coffee and pastries

Conference activities

Lunch served in the Elgar Suite

Conference activities – *mid afternoon break with tea/coffee and biscuits served*

Evening - Dinner in the hotel

Thursday 11 June 2026 – Bank House Hotel

Leisurely breakfast in hotel

Late morning start - coffee and pastries in the Elgar Suite.

Conference activity including guest speakers from the Agricultural and Horticultural Development Board

Lunch included

World Association Dinner and Auction in the hotel

Friday 12 June 2026 – Bank House Hotel

Breakfast in the hotel

Depart by coach to the Three Counties Show Ground, Malvern, for the Annual Show that includes the South Devon National Show.

Lunch under own arrangements

Coach will return members to the hotel for overnight. Dinner in the hotel

Post Tour Programme – Southern England

Saturday 13 June 2026 – Courtyard by Marriott Hotel Exeter – 3 nights

Breakfast in the hotel and check out (*for those staying at Bank House hotel on 12 June 2026*)

Depart to Sedgemoor Auction House, Bridgwater for some free time to explore this unique multi product marketplace which also offers a wide range of food options. Lunch under own arrangements. Continue to Exeter to check in to your hotel with dinner in the hotel.

Sunday 14 June 2026 – Courtyard by Marriott Hotel Exeter

Breakfast in the hotel

Depart to Forde Abbey. The estate manor house dates back 900 years and offers many historical features and the 30 acre formal gardens offer beauty and inspiration for thousands of visitors each year. Light lunch. Visit the Godworthy farm that currently runs 100 pedigree South Devon cows, commercially run breeding for natural muscling, using only 0 Myostatin genetics. Dinner served as part of the farm visit. Return to the hotel for overnight.

Monday 15 June 2025 - Courtyard by Marriott Hotel Exeter

Breakfast in the hotel

Visit Shearwell Data Ltd, who provide a livestock management system enabling farmers to collect and collate data for informed business decision making. It is farmer owned and is a farming business in its own right. Lunch included. Return to Exeter with dinner in the hotel.

Tuesday 16 June 2026 – Home Stay

Breakfast in the hotel and check out

Enjoy a stadium tour of Sandy Park, the home of Rugby Union Club Exeter Chiefs. After the tour you will be introduced to your home stay member and transfer under private arrangements to their house for a 2 night stay.

Wednesday 17 June 2026 – Home Stay

Visits organised in South Devon that start at Hunts Cider. The Hunt family have been farming and producing cider continually since 1805. As well as a South Devon and Hereford suckler herd, they also have a caravan and camp site and light industrial units. A pastie lunch is included. Depart to the Stretchford herd, the oldest herd of pedigree South Devons anywhere in the world and a herd that has bred a number of champions over

a period of 134 years. Dinner included at the Rattery Village Hall where there will be a presentation on the preparations for the D-Day Landings, celebrating 82 years since the invasion.

Thursday 18 June 2026 – New Continental Hotel Plymouth – 1 night

The group will gather with hosts at West Prawle farm for a farm walk and society BBQ. West Prawle farm is a mixed arable beef family farm whose primary business is a South Devon suckler herd taking all animals to finish. You will see the Providence herd consisting of 400 cattle of all ages against the backdrop of the stunning South Devon coastline. Rejoin the coach and transfer to your hotel in Plymouth with dinner under own arrangements.

Friday 19 June 2026 – Falmouth Hotel Falmouth – 2 nights

Breakfast in the hotel and check out

Depart to Tamar Valley Meats, a traditional butcher shop specialising in home finished beef and lamb. Enjoy a picnic style lunch. Visit Highgate farm, which grows oats for milling and barley to finish the bull beef which are offspring from the South Devon herd established in 1930. Australian and American blood lines provided the foundation of a small Aberdeen Angus herd. Polled Dorset sheep are a recent addition. Depart to Falmouth to check in to your hotel with dinner included.

Saturday 20 June 2026 – Falmouth Hotel Falmouth

Breakfast in the hotel

Depart to Riveria Produce Ltd, who produce a range of vegetables year round thanks to the ideal growing conditions in that part of the country. Visit the Polkinghorne herd of polled South Devons that was established in 1947 by John Laity at Polkinghorne Manor where it is still based today. The Laity family now manage 150 cow herd on a commercial basis alongside a flock of polled Dorset sheep and arable crops on the 750-acre farm in West Cornwall. Depart to the Minack Theatre, an open air venue carved into the granite cliff and with stunning views of the Porthcurno Bay. Return to Falmouth with dinner in the hotel.

Sunday 21 June 2026 – Bedford Hotel Tavistock – 1 night

Breakfast in the hotel and check out

Depart to Newquay as part of the coach tour of this attractive region with a coffee stop en-route. There will be an opportunity of a drive through viewing of the Tregondale herd of Mervyn & Richard Rowe and next door the Trewint herd of Peter and Ashley Rowe. Both herds are commercially run and have enjoyed considerable success in the herd competitions and show and sale rings. Visit to the Tipwell Herd, founded in 2015 by father and son George and Dominic Griffin it comprises of 100 cows and their followers. Producing quality beef is at the forefront of all that the Griffin family do as all beef is put through the family's butchers' shop – Tamar Valley Meats. Lunch included. Depart to Tavistock to check in to your hotel with dinner included.

Monday 22 June 2026 – Courtyard by Marriott Hotel Exeter – 1 night

Breakfast in the hotel and check out

Visit to the farm of Colin and Nick Edwards who take all the stock through to finish to supply a local butcher from their 300 cattle pedigree Colcharton herd which was established in 1966. The 420 acres near Dartmoor also supports 750 ewes, some spring barley but also welcomes visitors to stay at B&B or self-catering. The herd was victorious in the National 2025 South Devon Herd Competition. Lunch included. Depart to Rothamstead Research, a privately owned organisation funded largely from government to improve food production in the UK. The North Wyke operation is broken into 4 separate farms each managed in a different way to compare the efficiency of the different systems. Depart to Exeter to check in to your hotel. Tour farewell dinner at Sandy Park, The Exeter Chiefs Rugby Club.

Tuesday 23 June 2026 – Hilton Heathrow Terminal 4 Hotel, London Heathrow Airport

Breakfast in the hotel and check out

Depart to Cutsey Farm, consisting of a spring calving herd of 55 pedigree South Devons, running 2 South Devon bulls and one Red Angus. The farm practices paddock grazing on high clover leys, in 2022 they won the National Herd Competition and were runners in the National Beef Farmer of the Year. Lunch included. Continue to London Heathrow airport to check in to your airport hotel. Dinner in the hotel.

End of Tour with home journey under own arrangements

For UK residents who do not wish to travel on the pre and post conference tours, details of the pre national show dinner at the Bank House Hotel Bransford, on the evening of Thursday 11 June 2026 and the tour farewell dinner at Exeter Sandy Park Stadium on the evening of Monday 22 June 2026 – details for those and the farm walks will be available in due course.