



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 2007

Rare Breeds on show at the Palace

Blenheim International Horse Trials, one of the world's premier three-day events, is supporting the Rare Breeds Survival Trust (RBST) as its nominated charity at this year's event in September.

The RBST will stage a parade set against the magnificent backdrop of Blenheim Palace, an auction and displays focusing on its work to restore Britain's native livestock breeds, including equines, to their rightful place in the countryside.

Richard Clarke, Chief Executive of RBST, is delighted to be working in partnership with Blenheim International Horse Trials: "This superb event gives us the opportunity to promote our conservation work, with equines and other species, to more than 40,000 visitors. Some of the top event horses can trace their ancestry to native breeds such as the Cleveland Bay and Irish Draught. We hope that people will take a few minutes to learn about the importance of restoring native breeds, and find out how they can get involved too."

There are four native equine breeds listed in the rarest category on the RBST Watchlist. These breeds – the Eriskay pony, Cleveland Bay, Dales and Suffolk Horse - have less than 300 registered adult breeding mares.

More work needs to be done to protect these breeds, and enable people to understand the importance of Britain's treasured livestock. For example, the RBST is working with the Suffolk Horse Society to carry out a breed analysis leading to a selective breeding programme using stallions from rare bloodlines. The work of RBST is funded entirely by membership subscriptions, donations and legacies.

"We are grateful to Ted the Clydesdale's owner Sally Oultram, who appeared at Blenheim last year and introduced us to the organising committee at Blenheim," says Richard Clarke. "This is a key event for the RBST. We look forward to welcoming new and old friends to our stand at Blenheim to raise awareness and funds for our work."

All members of RBST can enjoy a special discount of £3.50 on gate price per ticket on adult admission tickets using a booking code. For more information and the booking code please contact the RBST on 024 7669 8764 and quote your membership number.

For further information on the Blenheim International Horse Trials, and to book advance tickets, at discount prices, visit www.blenheim-horse.co.uk or tel: 01993 813335 or email: info@blenheim-horse.co.uk

Ends

Further information and photographs: Paula Mayfield, Communications Officer, RBST, Stoneleigh Park, Nr Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG. Tel: 024 7669 8764 or e-mail paula@rbst.org.uk.

Notes to Editors

The Rare Breeds Survival Trust (RBST) is a charity established in 1973. It works to conserve more than 70 breeds of native farm livestock. The charity is funded entirely by membership subscriptions, donations and legacies.