

Get wild about Devon at West Lake Farm

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Orchard Keeper's Cottage is situated off the beaten track on West Lake organic farm famous for its award winning West Lake apple juices.

There are 13 acres to explore with two large ponds with sitting areas, an osier willow coppice, wildflower nursery, old orchard and a newly planted orchard and grassland of which nearly half of the total hectare is culm grassland. Culm is a local name, given to rocks that lie beneath the soil and is common locally but rare in Europe. The culm grasslands at West Lake are part of a 'Potential County Wildlife Site' forming an area of significant wildlife interest. West Lake has also gained a 'Gold Award' from the Devon Wildlife Trust for demonstrating that the farm is working for the benefit of Devon's wildlife.

Get wild about Devon

is a wildlife appreciation scheme for tourism businesses in Devon who are serious about proactively improving wildlife as part of their business. The scheme is supported by Devon County Council on behalf of Visit Devon.

www.visitdevon.co.uk



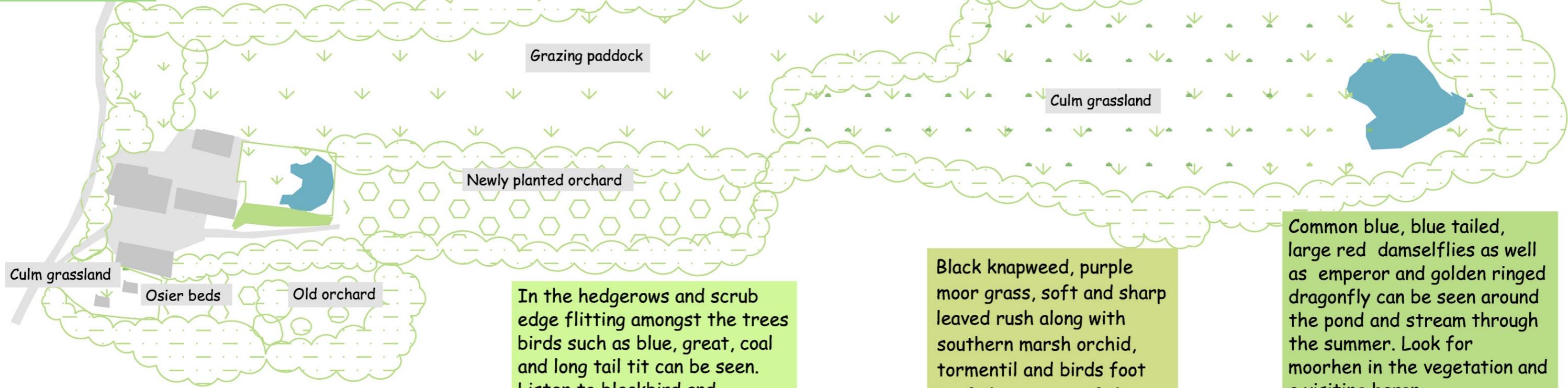
Look out for nuthatch, great tit, blue tit, goldfinch and chaffinch on the bird feeders.

Buzzards soar on the thermals or look for one perched in the trees. Look out for the characteristic 'flap, flap, glide' of the sparrowhawk or listen for tawny owl with their 'kewick, twoowh'

Hedgerow flowers include red campion, herb robert, navelwort, hartstongue fern and foxglove. Look for speckled wood, red admiral and tortoiseshell butterflies.

Listen out for the curt chip of great spotted woodpecker, the yaffle of green woodpecker and the descending call of willow warbler.

In the soft mud by the pond look for both roe and red deer slots. Look out for signs of fox and badger along the hedgerows.



Culm grassland
Osier beds
Old orchard

Grazing paddock

Culm grassland

Newly planted orchard

look at the lichen and mosses growing on the old apple trees, along with the mistletoe. Look out for treecreeper scaling the trunks.

In the hedgerows and scrub edge flitting amongst the trees birds such as blue, great, coal and long tail tit can be seen. Listen to blackbird and songthrush as well as wren and dunnock and through the summer, blackcap, whitethroat and chiffchaff.

Black knapweed, purple moor grass, soft and sharp leaved rush along with southern marsh orchid, tormentil and birds foot trefoil are some of the species found in the culm grassland.

Common blue, blue tailed, large red damselflies as well as emperor and golden ringed dragonfly can be seen around the pond and stream through the summer. Look for moorhen in the vegetation and a visiting heron.

West Lake Farm

Species List

at West Lake Farm

Trees & Shrubs

Ash
Beech
Black Alder
Blackthorn
Buddleia
Elder
Field Maple
Hawthorn
Hazel
Holly
Oak
Rowan
Scots pine
Silver Birch
Sweet chestnut
Wild cherry
Willow

Ferns

Hard fern
Harts tongue fern
Lady fern
Male fern
Scaly male fern

Mammals

Badger
Bank vole
Common shrew
Field mouse
Fox

Hedgehog
Mole
Pipistrelle bat
Red deer
Roe Deer
Rabbit
Stoat
Wood mouse

Plants

Annual meadow grass
Bluebell
Bramble
Burdock
Black knapweed
Black medick
Bird-foot trefoil
Celandines
Cleavers
Cuckoo flower
Cocksfoot
Ground Ivy
Giant hogweed
Common dog violet
Cow parsley
Creeping buttercup
Creeping Thistle
Devil's Bit Scabious
Enchanters nightshade
Fleabane
Greater plantain

Greater sedge
Germander speedwell
Hairy willow herb
Hard rush
Herb robert
Honeysuckle
Herb bennet
Lord and ladies
Marsh marigold
Ox-eye daisy
Nettles
Purple loosestrife
Purple moor grass
Primrose
Ragged robin
Ribwort plantain
Red campion
Southern marsh orchid
Sharp leaved rush
Soft rush
Spearwort
Sneezewort
Sheeps sorrel
Snowdrop
Timothy
Tormentil
Water figwort
Water mint
Yellow flag iris
Yorkshire fog

Reptiles & Amphibians

Common lizard
Frog
Grass snake
Palmate newt
Slow worm
Toad

Birds

Blackbird
Blackcap
Blue tit
Buzzard
Canada goose
Carrion crow
Chaffinch
Chiffchaff
Coot
Coal tit
Dunnock
Fieldfare
Goldcrest
Goldfinch
Great tit
Great spotted woodpecker
Greenfinch
Green woodpecker
Heron
House martin

House sparrow
Jackdaw
Jay
Kestrel
Little egret
Long tail tit
Mallard
Mistle thrush
Moorhen
Nuthatch
Pied wagtail
Raven
Redwing
Robin
Rook
Skylark
Song thrush
Sparrowhawk
Stock dove
Swallow
Swift
Trecreeper
Tawny owl
Whitethroat
Willow warbler
Wren
Yellow hammer

NB This is not a comprehensive list

Wildlife places of interest nearby

Black-a-Tor Copse – OS Map: SX 562 918

A 29 ha reserve situated 380 metres above sea level on Dartmoor and one of the best examples of a high altitude oak wood in Britain. Its trees and rocks are dripping with nationally important varieties of mosses and lichen and provides a rare habitat for some moorland birds including wheatear and stonechat. This is a fairly remote reserve so good weather is important to get the best from this reserve.

For more information telephone 01392 889770.

Halwill Junction – OS Map: SS 443 004

This nature reserve is a disused railway line with a variety of habitats and the National Cycle Network Route 3 runs through it, making it easily accessible. In the wet areas angelica, meadowsweet and ragged robin can be seen along with marsh orchids in July. There are a plethora of birds including green woodpecker many of the tit family and warblers. **For more information telephone 01392 279244.**

Dunsdon – OS Map: SS 295 078 and SS 307 083

Dunsdon National Nature Reserve is one of the best Culm grassland sites in Britain. Ruby red cattle graze it during the summer and these pastures are home to a spectacular display of wildflowers especially orchids. There is a good population of marsh fritillary butterfly as well as many other butterflies – 26 species have been recorded on this site. There is a heronry, which can be seen just beyond the viewing platform. It is open all year round, but early summer is when it is at its best. Snipe and woodcock are the reserve's main winter visitors along with short-eared owl.

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