

# 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](http://www.visitdevon.co.uk)



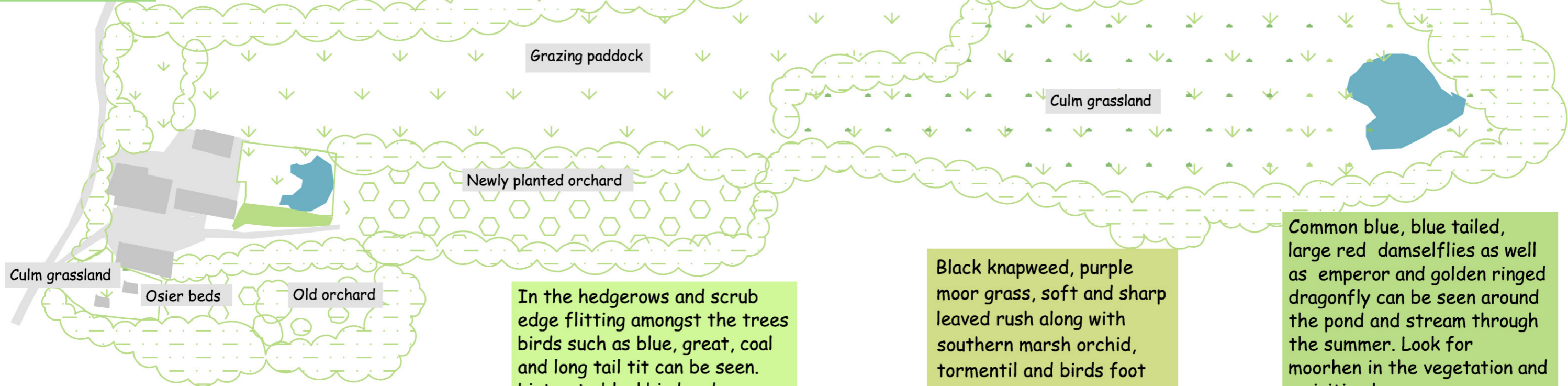
Look out for nuthatch, great tit, blue tit, goldfinch and chaffinch on the bird feeders.

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.



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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