

Get wild about Devon

at Quoit-at-Cross Farm

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Quoit-a-Cross Farm is an organic mixed farm with a 17th Century family farmhouse set in just under 100 acres, mostly down to grassland with about 8 acres of oats.

The fields are lined with predominantly beech hedges but there are a few that are more diverse.

Around the farmhouse and cottages watch the hirundines – swallows and house martins flying around collecting insects. Swallows nest in the open barns. The old barns and farmhouse are also home to bats which roost in the loft space through the day and emerge from small cracks at dusk.

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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





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 a hovering kestrel.



Flocks of redwing and fieldfare can be seen feeding in the fields in winter as well as lapwing. Skylarks and meadow pipits can be heard through the summer.



Flitting amongst the trees birds such as blue, great, coal and long tail tit along with blackcap and chiffchaff can be seen. Listen to blackbird, song thrush and wren singing.

The hedgerows are predominantly beech with hawthorn, blackthorn and field maple. Hedgerow flowers include stitchwort, wood sage, navelwort, primrose, red campion and herb robert.



Look through the hedge at the woodland to see the carpet of bluebells. Other flora includes primroses, wild garlic, dog's mercury and violets with herb bennet, wood pimpernel and crosswort later in the season.



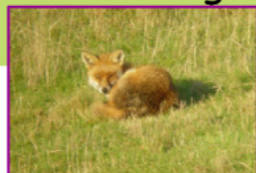
Whitethroat, yellow hammer and dunnock can be heard singing in the hedgerows and butterflies to be seen include speckled wood, orange tip, gatekeeper, comma, red admiral and toroiseshell. Look for flocks of linnets and goldfinches feeding on the grass seeds in the pasture.



Through the summer watch the swallows flying out of the open buildings where they nest.



Look for signs of badgers, there is a big sett in the hedgerow between Pump and Bonfire. Watch out for a fox trotting along the hedgerows or sunning itself too.



Common blue, blue tailed and small red damselflies as well as emperor and golden ringed dragonfly can be seen around the pond and look for frogs, toads and palmate newts.



Quoit-at-Cross Farm



Farm Trail Suggested Route

Species List

at Quoit-at-Cross Farm

Trees & Shrubs

Ash	Daubenton's bat	Early purple orchid	Chiffchaff	Robin
Beech	Fallow deer	Greater plantain	Coal tit	Rook
Black Alder	Field mouse	Greater sedge	Dunnock	Skylark
Blackthorn	Fox	Germander speedwell	Fieldfare	Song thrush
Elder	Greater Horseshoe bat	Field speedwell	Garden warbler	Snipe
Field Maple	Lesser Horseshoe bat	Herb robert	Goldfinch	Sparrowhawk
Hawthorn	Pipistrelle bat –	Honeysuckle	Great tit	Spotted flycatcher
Hazel	Common and Soprano	Herb Bennet	Great spotted wood- pecker	Swallow
Holly	Roe deer	Ivy	Greenfinch	Swift
Oak	Rabbit	Lord and ladies	Green woodpecker	Tawny owl
Rowan	Roe Deer	Meadow vetchling	Grey wagtail	Wren
Scots pine	Stoat	Nettle	House martin	Wheatear
Silver Birch	Wood mouse	Pimpernel	Heron	Whinchat
Sweet chestnut		Primrose	House sparrow	Willow warbler
Wild cherry		Red campion	Jackdaw	Woodcock
Willow		Snowdrop	Jay	Wood pigeon

Plants

Annual meadow grass	Timothy
Bluebell	Water figwort
Birds foot trefoil	Water mint
Bog pimernel	Yellow flag iris
Bramble	Yorkshire fog
Burdock	
Cleavers	
Celandines	
Cocksfoot	
Ground Ivy	
Giant hogweed	
Common dog violet	
Cow parsley	
Creeping buttercup	
Creeping Thistle	
Enchanters nightshade	

Birds

Barn owl	Meadow pipit
Blackbird	Magpie
Blackcap	Mallard
Blue tit	Mistle thrush
Bullfinch	Moorhen
Buzzard	Nuthatch
Carrion crow	Partridge
Chaffinch	Raven
	Redwing

Reptiles & Amphibians

Common lizard
Frog
Grass snake
Palmate newt
Slow worm
Toad

NB This is not a comprehensive list

Wildlife places of interest nearby

Rackenford and Knowstone Moors – Devon Wildlife Trust – OS Map: SS 851 211

Rackenford and Knowstone Moor nature reserve comprises of heathland communities, rush-pasture, bog and flush communities, scattered patches of scrub and bracken and some small areas of fringing woodland. Associated with this diverse and complicated mosaic of vegetation communities is a correspondingly rich fauna, with bird communities and certain species of invertebrate being particularly significant. The enormous expanse of open moor is mostly registered common land. Locally owned cattle and wild deer can be found grazing here. The Culm vegetation communities support a number of rare and uncommon species of plant and animal. This is a unique and threatened habitat with a mixture of wet grassland, heath, bog and scrub.

For more information call 01392 279244.

Meshaw Moor – OS Map: SS 761 182

The Devon Wildlife Trust saved this remarkable culm grassland smallholding from agricultural improvement in 1994. Meshaw supports two grassland types – wet acidic Culm grassland and dryer neutral grassland. In addition scrub and woodland habitats are well represented with substantial overgrown hedgerows and willow scrub scattered throughout the Culm grassland areas. A number of key habitats and species have been identified in the national, regional and county biodiversity action plans. The Culm fields support many typical species including butterflies, whilst the scrub and hedgerows support good breeding bird populations.