

To identify some of the wildlife you might encounter when exploring our 240 acre site, check out the following apps and websites:



Birds of Britain Pro



Flowers of Britain

rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/identify-a-bird/

butterfly-conservation.org/butterflies/identify-a-butterfly

wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife-explorer/wildflowers

gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk/wildlife-explorer

For more information on rewilding, you can also visit:

rewildingbritain.org.uk



Butterflies and Moths

As well as many more bees now populating our meadows, you'll often encounter some of our native butterflies and moths as you walk around the estate...

Butterflies

Common Blue
Meadow Brown
Gate Keeper
Brown Argus
Small Tortoiseshell
Small White
Large White
Small Skipper
Green-veined White
Painted Lady
Small Copper
Peacock

Moths

Cinnabar moth
Udea Luteali
Yellow Shell
Silver Y
Grass Veneer
Lead Belle



Animals

Rewilding encourages woodland animals and mammals to return to the landscape in larger numbers. The following have been spotted throughout our 240 acres here at Calcot...

Brown Hare

Rabbit

Mole

Field Vole

Bank Vole

Field Mouse

Hazel Dormouse

Harvest Mouse

Brown Long-eared Bat

Weasel

Stoat

Fallow Deer

Roe Deer

Common Pipistrelle Bat

Muntjac Deer

Red Fox

European Badger

Grey Squirrel

Pygmy Shrew

Common Shrew

European Hedgehog



Rewilding helps nature to thrive and makes our outside spaces a better place to be!

Rewilding can breathe life into our natural landscapes... we can start to reverse centuries of ecological damage.

We can help nature to recover too. 56% of species in the UK are in decline and 15% are threatened with extinction.

Across Britain, many places where you would expect wildlife to thrive have been reduced to wet deserts. The seabed has been stripped of its living creatures. Deforestation has caused the loss of numerous large mammals and farming adversely affects the habitats of our birds and insects.

This is what we're doing at Calcot to help...



A bit of background

Around 25 years ago, Calcot purchased part of a neighbouring strawberry field. Around that time, the decision was made to create a **wildflower meadow**.

We consulted Charles Flower, a strong advocate of **wildflower planting**. He advised on the necessary steps and seed mixes that should be sown, pointing out that it would take time for the meadow to establish itself.

About 15 years later, Calcot purchased the farm next door, including **240 acres** of intensively-farmed arable land. Our long time gardening and wild life guru Steve convinced us of the huge environmental potential in extending our re-wilding project across the whole acreage, and we set about a project which began with the process of turning the extensive area into fully **organic** grassland.

We have four fields: A **strawberry field** (directly below the hotel), **Linseed** (the largest field), **Calcot Bottom**, which is connected to the fourth field, **Union Gorse**.



The fields were inhabited by **organic sheep** and **organic Aberdeen Angus cows** for a number of years. This method of farming created a lovely patchwork of grasslands.

During the intervening years, we continued to **plant large numbers of native trees** in shelter belts and copses around the land. In 2011, we looked into the idea of creating a new **woodland** as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Woods scheme. **Planting began in Autumn 2012**, with **230 native trees** planted in a large area of open ground in the middle of the woodland.

Three years ago, we began to spot increasing numbers of **rare and endangered farmland birds** such as **Wheat Ears, Corn Buntings, Linnets, Yellowhammers** and **Meadow Pipets**. We also have an increasing population of **Skylarks**, with over 40 young identified in the summer of 2019.

The woodland is left pretty much to itself, with only minimal maintenance. We also leave other areas around the grounds undisturbed, helping to create a **wild, unspoilt habitat** for numerous animals and birds. There are plans to **add more planted areas** (shelter belts and copses) around the site.

We're hoping this important project will create a wonderful wildlife habitat for the future!

Birds

As well the more common British birds, we've also hosted some of the more rare and endangered farmland birds here at Calcot. Here's what we've spotted...

Corn Bunting
Yellowhammer
Linnet
Whitethroat
Stock Dove
Carrion Crow
Blackbird
Starling
Mistle Thrush
Song Thrush
Skylark
Woodpigeon
Magpie
Lesser Black-backed Gull
Buzzard
Blackcap
House Martin
Greenfinch
Woodpigeon
Robin
House Sparrow
Pied Wagtail
Wren

Spotted Flycatcher
Wheat Ear
Meadow Pipet
Blue Tit
Pheasant
Kestrel
Chaffinch
Fieldfare
Long-tailed Tit
Stonechat
Great Spotted Woodpecker
Goldfinch
Sparrow Hawk



Wildflowers

A recent study of the abundant wildflowers spotted on the estate this year includes the following...

Red Campion
Ground Ivy
Pyramid Orchid
Common Spotted Orchid
Bee Orchid
White Clover
Knapweed
Mouse Ear
Eyebright
Red Clover
Yarrow
Birdsfoot Trefoil
Oxeye Daisy
Comfrey
Rosebay Willowherb
Common Eyebright
Colt's Foot
Hedge bedstraw
Common Knapweed
Ragwort
Hedge Woundwort
Convulvulus

Lady's Smock
Cowslip
Margarom
Common Broomrape
White Dead Nettle
Ribwort Plantain
Greater Plantain
Common Sorrel
Yellow Rattle
Roundleaved Cranesbill
Sow Thistle
Black Medick
Dandelion
Hogweed
Wild Carrot
Malva Moschata
St John's Wort
Tufted Vetch
Common Poppy
Great Willowherb
Guelder Rose
Red Bartsia

