

## Woodlands Farm, Long Compton

Woodlands Farm lies to the east of Long Compton between the Whichford Road and Vicarage Lane and runs up to and includes Long Compton Wood towards Whichford. It lies in the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The farm is managed under a Higher Level Environmental Stewardship Agreement administered by Natural England. The scheme encourages landowners to maintain and improve biodiversity and wildlife habitat, in an area being targeted to reverse the decline in farmland birds. The scheme also allows support for the Warwickshire Barbastelle rare bat project.



The boundaries of the farm are outlined in red. The footpaths are marked in purple.

Woodlands Farm provides important nesting habitat and winter and summer feed for farmland birds.

#### **Wild Bird Seed Mix**

These areas of seed-bearing crops in arable fields are managed to provide a sustained source of food during winter months for targeted wild birds such as Yellowhammer, Linnet and Tree Sparrow. Crops include: linseed, kale, quinoa, millet, triticale, barley, gold of pleasure, fodder radish or mustard.

In addition, we are supplementary feeding birds in specific locations across the farm with a mix of grain and seeds – twice a week from December to April.

#### **Pollen and Nectar Mixes**

Margins and field corners are enriched with flowering plants to provide excellent habitats and food sources for butterflies and bumblebees.

#### **Floristically Enhanced Margins**

Field corners and grass margins have been sown with floristically enhanced mixes to provide a variety of flowers and plants to create habitats and summer feed for insects, wild birds and brown hare.

#### **Permanent Pasture**

The grassland fields are managed without the application of fertilizers and with limited application of chemicals.

#### **Arable Farming**

Arable crops in 2022 include winter wheat for biscuit making, peas (mushy peas for human consumption) and beans harvested dry as important protein in animal feed. The crops are established using direct drilling techniques which reduce the release of carbon. Cover crops (typically comprising Buckwheat, Linseed and Phacelia) are sown between commercial crops in the autumn to provide additional soil organic matter. The aim is to retain a healthy soil for worms, natural bacteria and fungus improving soil health and drainage.

Please note that in arable fields crop chemicals may have been recently applied, potentially poisonous to dogs, please do not allow them to stray into the crop.

#### **Hedgerows**

Hedgerows provide excellent habitat for wildlife, and act as “corridors” between habitats such as woodlands, enabling bats, animals and birds to travel safely. We

manage all hedgerows on irregular cutting cycles to maintain the benefit for wildlife. New hedgerows have been established, and other hedgerows have been restored.

#### **Long Compton Woods**

Whilst not part of the Stewardship scheme this woodlands provides important habitat for wildlife, including nesting birds, and a variety of wild animals. There is a biodiverse array of plant life which supports the lifecycle of many animals, birds and insects.

#### **How Can You Help?**

We are very pleased to be able to share such a wonderful part of the country, however for the Stewardship Scheme to be effective everyone who visits the farm needs to help. We request that the temptation to stray off footpaths is resisted. Humans and dogs will undermine the attempt being made at Woodlands Farm to increase biodiversity, bird nesting and feeding and to provide an effective wildlife habitat for a variety of animals, insects and plants.

So please:

- Keep to the footpaths/bridleways
- Keep your dogs under control or on a lead.
- Do not allow your dogs to enter the conservation areas, margins, wild bird feeding areas and nectar mixes. Even running through the arable fields and woodland areas they may disturb ground nesting birds.
- Enjoy the countryside but do not disturb the wildlife.
- Leave only footprints, take only photographs.

#### **Woodlands Business Centre**

Also at Woodlands Farm, with access off Malthouse Lane, there is a thriving business centre with several offices, workshops and warehouse facilities being let to a variety of local business. [www.woodlandsbusinesscentre.co.uk](http://www.woodlandsbusinesscentre.co.uk)

#### **Flood Defence**

We have developed a number of structural solutions to provide flood defence for the village including balancing ponds and sacrificial flood zones. With the support and commendation of the Shipston Area Flood Action Group a number of initiatives have been adopted to hold water upstream in times of heavy rainfall, relieving the stress on the local watercourses feeding the Stour and Avon.