



Beacroft Farms Ltd Conservation Programme

Gary Atkinson – Farm Manager

Greenland Farm



Floristic Margin – Wild Flowers

- ▶ Wildlife
 - ▶ Bees
 - ▶ Insects
 - ▶ Birds



During Lockdown, there was a healthy increase in ramblers/Dog Walkers on the farm however, a significant number of these took to Floristic Margins leading to a reduction of around 50% of the normal wild birds we would see, in these areas



Grass Margin - Headlands

- ▶ Popular for Ground nesting Birds
 - ▶ 4 Coveys of English Partridge spotted last year – 1st time in 20-25 years that this quantity has been seen after strong encouragement during this time
 - ▶ Variety of other birds seen including: Skylarks, Gold Finch, Blue Tits and Barn Owls, in the Autumn
 - ▶ Hedge nesting birds also in good numbers – plenty of hedgerows on the farm, of which 70-80% have been planted by John, with very little outside funding
- ▶ Try to keep on top of certain wild plants/trees as they can become invasive
 - ▶ Ragwort
 - ▶ Ivy
 - ▶ Elder
 - ▶ Thistles



Wild Bird Feed

- ▶ Seeds planted
 - ▶ Millet
 - ▶ Mustard
 - ▶ Sorghum



Base seeds for stewardship, though these also include the 'Wild Bird Mix' of wild flowers – that can be seen on the headlands/roadsides

- ▶ Wild Birds
 - ▶ Kites –First seen at Greenland Farm in ~2000. Numbers have significantly increased since then. 'Bully' of Greenlands sky. Will have prey off Buzzards, etc
 - ▶ Pheasants
 - ▶ White Throat
 - ▶ Hawfinch – seen this year for the 1st time in ~10 years



Other Wildlife

- ▶ Deer – Roe/Muntjack
- ▶ Hares
- ▶ Badgers





Changing Times

- ▶ Greenlands used to be a Pig Farm and there have been noticeable changes since those days
- ▶ House Martin Numbers are down
 - ▶ Pig muck no longer available for them to use in building their nests
 - ▶ Climate change also having an impact
- ▶ Swallows returned this year after having none in 2021

Future Programmes

- ▶ Conservation areas are constantly under review
- ▶ Government schemes created to help encourage these conservation areas

However it doesn't take much for birds/animals etc, to be scared off

- ▶ Rogue Dogs
- ▶ Walkers 'Off Piste'
- ▶ Parked Vehicles

