

# Farming with Nature Report

Broom House Farm, County Durham

Summer 2024



**Durham**  
Wildlife Trust  
From Tees to Tyne



**Wear  
Rivers  
Trust**



Broom House  
FARM

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Example

## Report Summary

During summer 2024, Durham Wildlife Trust undertook a 'Farming with Nature' survey of 43 land parcels under the stewardship of Broom House Durham Limited (referred to as Broom House Farm thereafter).

This report provides a summary of this survey alongside an overview of the landholding and important habitats and species. There are three main objectives of this report:

1. To present and summarise the findings of a survey of habitats at Broom House Farm.
2. To discuss the characterisation and condition of different habitats present at Broom House Farm.
3. To provide recommendations on habitat management and further opportunities to benefit nature conservation and the farm business.

Full results from this survey are contained within this report and its appendices with additional supporting information provided digitally.

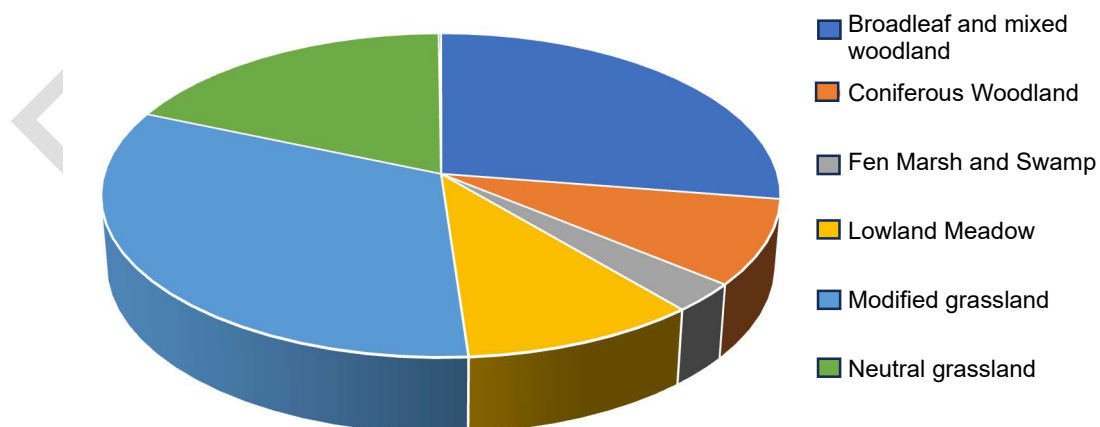
Main habitat types identified	9
Species recorded	219
Area surveyed*	260 ha
Percentage of farm surveyed	48.1%

*\*540ha in survey area – land at Burnhope excluded*

## Nature Numbers

<b>Grassland habitat</b>	
Modified grassland	84.7 ha
Neutral grassland	47.9 ha
Lowland meadow	25.9 ha
<b>Woodland and forest habitat</b>	
Broadleaf and mixed woodland	71.4 ha
Coniferous woodland	22.1 ha
<b>Other Habitats</b>	
Fen Marsh and Swamp	7.6 ha
Standing Open Water	0.3 ha
Rivers and streams	5.7km
Rivers and stream bordering landholding	3.4km
<b>Wildlife</b>	
Bird species	31
Mammal species	1
Amphibian species	1
Invertebrate species	21
Flora species	165

\* Habitats stated as of UKHab version 2



## Six Key Actions for Farm Wildlife

Farm Wildlife Partnership have brought together best practice advice from a broad range of wildlife organisations to identify the six most important actions for restoring wildlife on farms. Aiming to manage land in a wildlife-friendly way whilst maintaining productivity. These actions are:

1. Enhance existing wildlife habitats.
2. Maximise the wildlife value of field boundaries.
3. Create, restore, and manage wet features.
4. Create, restore, and manage flower-rich habitats.
5. Create seed-rich habitats.
6. Sympathetic management of the farmed area.

## Six Key Actions Assessment:

### Broom House Farm

Action/ Standards	Target	Score*	Comment
Percentage of farm managed as wildlife habitat in good	10%	40%	105ha of survey area could be classed as priority habitat. This is in mixed condition and early successional stages (rivers and streams are not included).
Wildlife-rich field boundaries and margins	(minimum of 1%)	72%	Out of the 43 parcels surveyed, 31 had native hedgerows as field boundaries. Field margins and stone walls are present also
Wet features	(1 per 100 ha, with an average size of 25 m2)	1 per 130 ha	Limited open water habitat however 8ha of wetland habitat also identified. ( <b>note</b> high concentration of wet features in survey area compared to rest of landholdings)
Flower-rich habitats	(minimum of 4%)	10%	Lowland meadow priority habitat
Seed-rich habitats	(minimum of 2%, unless farm has less than 10% cropped land)	>2%	Hedgerows, meadows, field margins and successional birch in woodland offer seed-rich habitats.
Other in-field habitats	(no minimum)		See recommendations.

\* Scores are approximate and based on survey area not entire landholding

## Summary of Recommendations

Based on the findings of the field survey, the following recommendations have been made based in accordance with the six key actions above. Further detail on these recommendations can be found in the main body of this report and through the Farm Wildlife Partnership.

### 1. Enhance Existing Wildlife Habitats

Maintain and establish broadleaf woodland in clear felled areas. Manage invasive non-native species present in woodland and water habitats.

### 2. Maximise the Wildlife Value of Field Boundaries

Significant hedgerow resource on farm could be enhanced by increasing species and age diversity. This might include laying hedgerows and additional tree planting in gaps and areas affected by ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*).

### 3. Create, Restore and Manage Wet Features

Manage fen, marsh and swamp and open water habitats considering opportunities to expand on less productive land through permanent and temporary ponds and scrapes. Potential for river restoration measures on tributaries and River Browney.

### 4. Create, Restore and Manage Flower-rich Habitats

Continue to manage and enhance lowland meadow habitat. Consider species rich grassland restoration on less productive land. Enhance field margins species richness.

### 5. Create Seed-rich Habitats

Maintain current practices and habitats. Hedgerows, meadows, field margins and successional birch in woodland offers seed resource. Additional potential for overwinter seed mixes on modified grassland and cropped land.

### 6. Sympathetic Management of the Farmed Area

Increase connectivity and establish wildlife corridors between wildlife rich areas with new habitats on less productive land. Potential to enhance modified grasslands and add trees into productive grassland.