

Our Wildlife at Turvelaws Farm

Survey by John Lynes – Spring/Summer 2025

In June and July 2025, wildlife observer John Lynes carried out a survey of our arable farmland at Turvelaws Farm. Using binoculars, he recorded species over a two-week period at the peak of the breeding season.

Although much of the land is made up of large arable fields, they are bordered by hawthorn hedges and native trees, with a one-metre verge of wildflowers surrounding each field. Intersecting water channels, reed beds and the River Till provide an abundance of habitats. These features create an environment that sustains not only crops, but also a rich and thriving ecosystem.

John noted a wide diversity of birds, insects and mammals, highlighting the farm's role in supporting biodiversity alongside food production. Particularly encouraging was the presence of juvenile birds feeding with adults, a clear sign of successful breeding. Birds of prey were also seen hunting, including a rare sighting of ospreys fishing on the River Till.

Species Observed

Crows & Corvids: Crow, Jackdaw

Insectivores: Pied Wagtail (with juveniles), Swallow, Stonechat, Chiffchaff, Grasshopper Warbler, Willow Warbler

Granivores: Wood Pigeon, Linnet, Reed Bunting, Goldfinch, Yellowhammer, Chaffinch, Dunnock, Red-legged Partridge, Pheasant, Mallard

Birds of Prey: Buzzard, Kestrel, Barn Owl, Osprey

Butterflies: Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Large White, Small White, Comma, Meadow Brown

Moths: Various species noted

Mammals: Hare, Rabbit, Roe Deer, Otter (spraints recorded)

Conclusions

The survey found that Turvelaws Farm supports a thriving variety of wildlife, thanks to the wildflower margins, hedgerows, watercourses and woodland edges around our arable fields. These habitats provide food, shelter and nesting sites for many species.

As John concluded:

“The evidence suggests that this working arable farm can coexist with wildlife.”