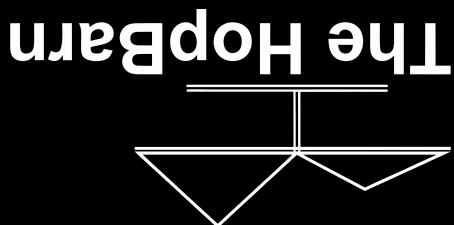


A centre for contemporary culture in rural East Nottinghamshire, explore our programme to discover arts, music and nature.

www.thehopbarn.org.uk



Stephen Hunt, woodworker

In all of these places, fallen leaves and branches are attractive to ferns, fungi, birds, insects, spiders and other life. Badgers, foxes and wood mice live well from foraging among the organic debris for fruit, seeds, worms, beetles, roots and fungi.

On both river banks, unusually large examples of Ash, Willow, Sycamore and Hawthorn are present, benefiting from being close to water. They have grown large and being left undisturbed for many years and not having their roots disturbed. Hawthorns are often trimmed and cut as hedges so rarely grow tall. But here, they are large. Heavy Willow and Ash branches can break in the wind and lean across the water. Their roots remain undamaged however, and if you look carefully, new shoots grow. In older trees near the water, dark hollows may be left by woodpeckers, or dead branches breaking off often caused by storms, lightning and years of frost.

At Hopyard Farm, Hawthorn, Field maple, Oak, Ash, Elderberry, Blackthorn and other trees grow in the hedgerows. Untended hedgerows contain more species, home to mature trees providing support for climbing plants, even more important for wildlife.

On both river banks, unusually large examples of Ash, Willow, Sycamore and Hawthorn are present, benefiting from being close to water. They have grown large and being left undisturbed for many years and not having their roots disturbed. Hawthorns are often trimmed and cut as hedges so rarely grow tall. But here, they are large. Heavy Willow and Ash branches can break in the wind and lean across the water. Their roots remain undamaged however, and if you look carefully, new shoots grow. In older trees near the water, dark hollows may be left by woodpeckers, or dead branches breaking off often caused by storms, lightning and years of frost.



My family moved to this land in 1956 having been tenant farmers in Calverton near Nottingham. From my grandfather, Henry Poole, the farm passed down to my father Stuart, and his brother, my uncle Ken. Whilst they enjoyed doing all the land work on their big farming machines, I was often left behind cleaning out pig pens and doing the mucky jobs... it was certainly not glamorous work so I took off as soon as I could for what I thought would be something more so.

I left for a career in dance not knowing where it would lead. I trained, managed to find work and had a successful career until when in 2013/14 when my father turned what was a dilapidated old farm building into a beautiful rehearsal and performance space.

By 2014/15 some big decisions needed to be made. Both the birth of my daughter and my father's request for needing more help to run both the farm and The HopBarn gave cause for us all to return back to my roots.

The HopBarn offers something unique. It allows those working in the arts to reconnect to the land and gain a valuable understanding of how our lives or intertwined with nature. For the farm, it provides a dialogue, allowing visitors to understand the farmers commitment to maintaining our natural landscape whilst farming sustainably. A commitment we need to ensure continues into the future.



Jonathan Poole, The HopBarn



I first became involved with the Hopyard Farm Project in 2009 when I took part as a volunteer in the RSPB Farmer and Volunteer Alliance Scheme. The object of this national scheme was for volunteers to record the birds present on participating farms over three visits during the spring season when breeding was in full swing. The birds were recorded onto a map of the farm and surrounding fields with symbols attached to each record showing the type of breeding activity of the bird. Although not definitive, these maps and lists provided a good indication of the range of species present during the breeding season and thus enabled the RSPB to advise Farmers on actions that could be taken to help stem the decline of many 'farmland' birds.

Walking quietly around the farm, and experiencing the sights and sounds it has to offer, from the explosive song of the Wren hidden in the hedgerow or the urgent chatter of the Sedge Warblers in the reed bed to the singing of Skylarks overhead, combined with sightings of various butterfly species, and Badger, Fox, and Brown Hare (and the occasional farm cat) I can say that I have thoroughly enjoyed my visits to Hopyard Farm during the years of my survey work.



Keith Stedman

Keith Stedman, ornithologist



Ancient Hedgerow comprising of Elm, Ash and Hawthorn, an excellent example of Coppicing.

Deer leap remains

Hockerton Dumble and The Wink feed into the Car Dyke

Birds with UK conservation status **RED** sighted since 2009

Starling



Lapwing



Grey wagtail



Grey partridge



House sparrow



Skylark



Herring Gull



Whinchat



Fieldfare



Grasshopper Warbler



Linnet



Mistle Thrush



Willow Tit



Yellow wagtail



Yellowhammer



Song thrush



Along the banks of the Car Dyke are very old Willow, Ash, Alder and Hazel trees along with Hawthorn and Blackthorn. Some of these trees are very old and due to water erosion, their roots are revealed into beautiful intertwining formation.

### Nature Trail

Follow 1-9, at 8 double back to 7 and turn left to 9 before making your way back to the carpark.



The Hop Barn



Bridge



Bird Hide



Eco Pond



Owl Box



Seatings



Badger Setts



Toilets



Car Park

As part of the Countryside Higher Level Stewardship scheme, extensive work has been undertaken since 2011 to attract a diverse population of bird species. Since 2009, 71 species of birds have been sighted and recorded of which 16 are Red Conservation status.

Start of the Nature trail

1

2

3

4

5

Wild bird seeds planted

7

9

8

Nectar seeds planted

Nectar seeds planted

Willow & Ash

Field Maple

Hopyard Farm

Hockerwood Lane