

MANDER HIDE WILDLIFE GARDEN

COMMUNITY LIVING

The Wildlife Garden hosts a variety of aquatic and terrestrial habitats and is designed to attract a rich array of species. The colourful display of spring and summer time flowers, including common knapweed and common spotted orchid, provide important nectar sources to a myriad of pollinating insects including many bees and butterflies. These insects in turn provide a valuable food source to foraging birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. In the spring and summer, the surrounding hedgerows provide necessary shelter to many nesting birds such as the blue tit, whitethroats and the dunnock. Whilst in the autumn and winter, heavy with berries, the hedgerows provide vital forage to over-wintering migrants such as the fieldfare and redwing.



Above: The gatekeeper butterfly feeding on common knapweed (left) and the robin (right).



Above from left to right: Common blue butterfly nectaring on birds foot trefoil, blue tit, common spotted orchid and a singing dunnock.

LENDING A HAND TO NATURE

This luscious habitat is managed using traditional hay cutting and scrub control techniques, so that a variety of vegetation heights are maintained. This enables a diverse range of species to continue exploiting the many types of habitat found here. The hide itself has been modified to create multiple nesting sites for a range of small garden birds such as the chaffinch and the familiar robin. These birds, along with many others, also benefit from winter feeders, which provide a valuable source of food during these lean months.



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