

Wildlife at Walborough

The mix of different habitats on site attracts different species of wildlife that you can try and spot throughout the year at Walborough. Below is a rough guide to just some of the different species you might be able to enjoy as you explore!

Birds

When visiting Walborough you can enjoy seeing different bird species at different times of the year. In the spring and summer, chiff chaffs sing their name out from the tops of the hedgerows '*chiff chaff chiff chaff*' and swallows and swifts soar over the wildflowers catching insects as they go. Whitethroats sing their scratchy songs from the scrub and charms of goldfinch chatter whilst feeding on flower seeds. The summer sky over Walborough is filled with the magic melody of the skylark (more information about skylarks on page 10)

In the winter as you walk around the saltmarsh and the along the banks of the River Axe, keep an eye out for birds such as the bright white little egret with its amusing yellow feet. You might also get to spot mallards or teal ducks sat on the water. Many birds are drawn to feast on the berry banquet within the winter hedgerow such as redwings and blackbirds.

Redwing



Butterflies

The wildflowers on Walborough hill in the summer provide a fantastic habitat and food source for lots of beautiful butterflies. Red admirals, peacocks, commas and meadow browns are likely to be spotted and also some more unusual species such as the chalkhill blue, small heath and grizzled skipper!

For more information on citizen science and how to help survey wildlife at Walborough see page 18



Comma

Why not take part in some citizen science as you explore the site by taking part in Butterfly Conservation's Big Butterfly Count by recording the butterflies you see on your summer walk?

Plants

The fields at Walborough are a great place to walk in the summer, a wash of beautiful colours as the wildflowers bloom. Meadows like this are now a nationally scarce habitat and we have lost over 97% of wildflower meadows. Cowslips are abundant on the hill and also some much rarer plants such as the Somerset hair-grass and honewort. Splashes of purple might catch your eye in spring as orchids sprout from the hill including green-winged and early purple.