



MARKSHALL
ESTATE

**Fun Facts and
Information about
the Summer
Visitors Trail's
Animals**



Orca

Orca's are extremely fast swimmers and have been recorded at speeds of up to 54kph. A wild orca pod can cover over 160 kilometres a day, foraging and socialising. The dorsal fin of a male orca can be 2 metres high.



Basking Shark

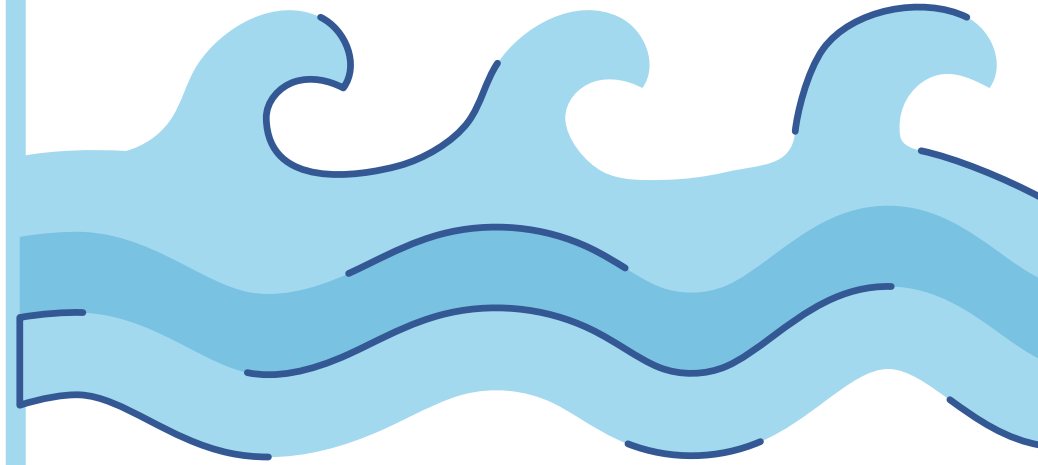
The basking shark is the second largest fish in the world, they are huge but harmless. Basking sharks spend most of their time near the surface, swimming with their extraordinarily large mouths open to filter their food, tiny plankton, from the water. Basking sharks travel huge distances - one has been tracked from the U.K. to Canada 9589km away. They can be seen off the Cornish coast in the Summer.



MARKSHALL
ESTATE

Name three animals you can spot around the lakes at Markshall Estate

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Great Crested Newt

This is the UK's largest newt, a kind of amphibian related to salamanders. During winter their metabolism slows down due to the cold, and they spend most of their time at the bottom of ponds. Make sure to capture its spectacular fiery belly in your drawings!





14 Spot Ladybird

The 14 spot ladybird is one of three yellow ladybird species found in the UK. They live in a wide variety of habitats, particularly grassland, woodland edges, towns and gardens, they feed on aphids, making them a friend to the gardener. The 14 spot ladybird has a long hibernation period, emerging as late as May to breed.



Elephant Hawk Moth

While the stereotype may be that moths are small, brown and a bit dull, this beautiful animal proves that completely false! Bright pink and green, and with a wingspan up to 7cm, these nocturnal moths are a treat for anyone who sees them. Through the winter hawk moths hide in piles of leaves as they make their transformation from caterpillars to moths. They emerge as beautiful moths between May and July.



7 Spot Ladybird

Coccinella septempunctata, the seven-spot ladybird, is the most common ladybird in Europe. They hibernate through the winter, sheltering in hollow plant stems, sometimes clustering together in a large group.



MARKSHALL
ESTATE



Butterflies



Peacock Butterfly

Peacock butterflies spend winter in the U.K. hibernating in dark crevices, sheds and tree holes. They lay their eggs on stinging nettles and their caterpillars feed on the nettles. See if you can spot any this summer but don't get stung! The caterpillars are black, covered with short spines and speckled with white spots.

The Silver Washed Fritillary

The Silver washed fritillary is named for the silver streaks on the undersides of its wings, Silver-washed fritillaries hibernate in their larval form. They hatch in late summer and find themselves a sheltered spot on the tree trunk their egg was laid on. The caterpillars wrap themselves in silk and will not emerge until the following spring.



Swallowtail Butterfly

The swallowtail is the UK's largest, but sadly also rarest native breeding butterfly. It is restricted to the Norfolk Broads so keep an eye out if you ever visit between April and July. Did you find the bird it is named after in our trail?



MARKSHALL
ESTATE

Mini Beast Scavenger Hunt

When you're next in your garden, walking down a local park or exploring the grounds at Markshall Estate. Take some time to see how many of these important mini beasts you can spot.



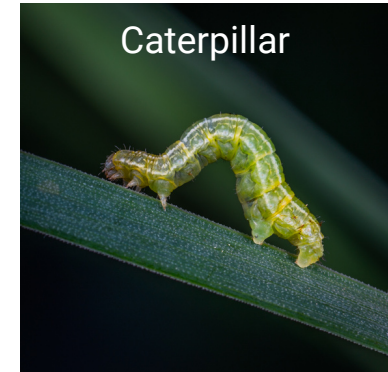
Bee



Ladybird



Worm



Caterpillar



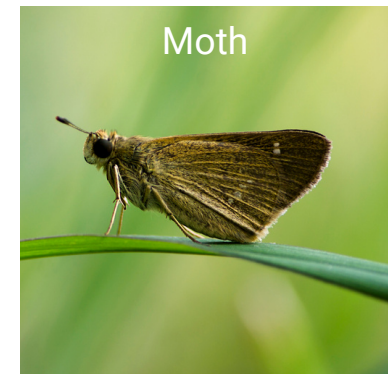
Spider



Dragonfly



Cricket



Moth



MARKSHALL
ESTATE

Our friends at Eco Attractions
have some top Project Pollinate
tips to create a buzz this summer.

Bee sure to take a look!
www.ecoattractions.com



eco
attractions

Brown Long-Eared Bat

The brown long-eared bat hibernates in the winter and Markshall Estate is now the best hibernation site for these creatures in the British Isles. Have you seen the WW2 air raid shelters around the Arboretum? These are where our brown long-eared bats roost and hibernate through the winter.



Here at Markshall Estate we are very proud of our Bat Conservation project. Bat populations have increased over the last 30 years due to our positive approach to woodland management. Old WW2 air raid shelters have become home to bats during the hibernating period. There are several species of bats that are found here, two being: Barbastelle bats and Brown long-eared bats.



MARKSHALL
ESTATE

Hedgehog

Surely one of our cutest and most familiar native mammals, hedgehogs are always a joy to see. Hedgehogs are one of three U.K. mammals which can hibernate through the winter months, they choose a dry safe place such as under a hedge or in a pile of logs, they go into a deep sleep-like state, slowing down their heartbeat and so using as little of their fat reserves as possible. You can buy hedgehog houses for your garden to help these little animals keep safe through the winter.



Dormice

Dormice rival hedgehogs for cuteness, they are nocturnal and arboreal which means they are awake at night and spend most of their time in trees. They hibernate from about October to April. Dormice eat the flowers from oak, hawthorn, sycamore, willow, honeysuckle and bramble. In summer they eat caterpillars, aphids and wasp galls, in autumn they fatten up on berries and hazelnuts.



Which is your favourite?

1. Nightjar

A cryptic and enigmatic summer migrant from Africa, as the name suggests nightjars are nocturnal birds, and feed almost exclusively on moths. Their floating, acrobatic flight on falcon-like wings led to them being given the name 'dew-hawk' by 18th century British poets. Listen out for their low, eerie 'bubbling' call if you pass by a forest or heathland at dusk.

2. Turtle Dove

The inclusion of Turtle doves in the famous Christmas carol ('two turtle doves') is a bit misleading, as turtle doves are only summer migrants to the UK. They travel here from their wintering grounds in sub-Saharan Africa, some flying more than 5000km to get here! Sadly, they face threats during their migration including hunting by people, and this combined with land-use changes in Britain since WWII have led to UK populations of turtle doves going into steep decline.

3. Barn Swallow

Barn swallows arrive in the U.K. in April or May after spending the winter in Africa. Look up and you may see them swooping above you, catching insects on the wing.

4. Cuckoo

The European cuckoo is a brood parasite, which means that adult cuckoos lay their eggs in the nests of other birds (often dunnocks and reed warblers). Juvenile cuckoos, like the one pictured, are reared by these other birds and often grow much bigger than the bird feeding them.

5. Hobby

In summer, nearly 3,000 hobby pairs travel from Africa to breed in the U.K. Hobbies are aerial hunters, chasing down large insects, birds and sometimes bats, they eat their prey 'on the wing' which means they eat while they are flying.



MARKSHALL
ESTATE

Top Tips for Looking After Birds at Home

1. Plant trees and shrubs which bear fruit and berries.
2. Feed all year round. Make sure to regularly clean feeders.
3. Provide clean water for drinking and bathing.
4. Put up nesting boxes.





Adder

The UK's only venomous snake, the adder is the most northerly distributed member of the viper family. They are generally shy creatures, most likely to be encountered sunbathing in the early morning to warm up their internal body temperature. They gather together to hibernate through the winter months in frost free areas called hibernacula.



Pool Frog

One of only two frogs native to the UK, pool frogs are extremely rare and were thought to be extinct in the UK in 1995. However, successful reintroductions from Swedish populations into nature reserves in Norfolk means that the future for the species in this country is looking brighter.



Sand Lizards

Sand lizards are among the rarest of the UK's 6 native reptile species, they emerge from hibernation in spring and the males quickly turn a beautiful bright green colour. They only live in a few areas of sandy heathland along the south coast of Britain.



MARKSHALL
ESTATE

Summer Visitors Wordsearch



B	U	T	T	E	R	F	L	Y	D
H	A	N	J	C	B	D	A	C	O
E	Y	T	I	U	A	D	D	E	R
D	P	Z	H	C	T	S	Y	O	M
G	B	C	G	K	W	B	B	U	O
E	I	F	R	O	G	V	I	L	U
H	J	D	M	O	T	H	R	M	S
O	E	H	E	Q	A	F	D	G	E
G	K	R	X	F	S	H	A	R	K

Can you find all ten?

1. Butterfly
2. Ladybird
3. Adder
4. Shark
5. Bat
6. Frog
7. Cuckoo
8. Dormouse
9. Hedgehog
10. Moth



MARKSHALL
ESTATE