

# Wool - Spinning a Yarn



## Rare and Endangered Species in Somerset

*We have an incredible ecological variety of habitats across Somerset: the native woodlands and acid grasslands of the Blackdown Hills; the upland moorland of Exmoor and fringing Atlantic rainforest woodlands; the seasonally inundated grasslands and mixed wetland habitats of the Somerset Levels & Moors; the calcareous grasslands of the Poldens and Mendips; the heathlands of the Quantock Hills' and the coastal belt dominated by the estuary of Bridgwater Bay, and mixed rocky and sandy shores to name just a few. These habitats support a hugely diverse range of species - but many of these are highly specialised, occupying their own, and very particular niche within landscapes that have been, and still are, managed through a whole history of human intervention.*

*Climate change is beginning to affect the timing of emergence of insects, the movements of migratory birds, the point at which buds burst, leaves unfurl, or tree blossom blooms. There is more chance and chaos in a system which has become highly unpredictable - and this hits these more specialist species hard. This new flux in a formerly relatively stable system also brings huge challenges to those farming the land, managing, conserving, and maintaining the county's special habitats.*

*The Spinning a Yarn project raises awareness of these specialist and threatened forms of life using wool - a product of the land that has shaped not only the county's landscapes, but the cultural and economic history of this small but beautiful corner of the earth.*

Damon Bridge RSPB Senior Project Manager and Somerset Art Works Trustee

The Somerset State of Nature report provides an important benchmark of how wildlife is faring across our county. You can read it [here](#).

Follow this link to Plant Life if you're interested in learning more about habitats, plants, lichens and mosses.

Spinning  
a Yarn

Below you can find links to a wealth of information about some of the most endangered species that can be found in Somerset, from dormice to the European Eel.

Species	Latin Name	Link to more information
Great Silver Water Beetle	Hydrophilus piceus	Great Silver Water Beetle iNaturalist United Kingdom
Large Marsh Grasshopper	Stethophyma grossum	Large Marsh Grasshoppers Wild Ken Hill
Large Blue	Maculinea arion	Large blue Somerset Wildlife Trust
Marsh Fritillary	Euphydryas aurinia	Marsh Fritillary Butterfly Conservation
Brown Hairstreak	Thecla betulae	Brown Hairstreak Butterfly Conservation
Pearl-bordered Fritillary	Boloria euphrosyne	Pearl-bordered Fritillary Butterfly Conservation
Shrill Carder Bee	Bombus sylvarum	Shrill Carder Bee Bumblebee Conservation Trust
Hazel Dormouse	Muscardinus avellanarius	Hazel dormice range and distribution in the UK   ptes
Water Vole	Arvicola amphibious	Water vole Somerset Wildlife Trust
Otter	Lutra lutra	Otter somersetottergroup.org.uk
European Eel	Anguilla anguilla	European Eel The Somerset Eel Recovery Project

Species	Latin Name	Link to more information
Curlew	Numenius arquata	Eurasian curlew   WWT
Snipe	Gallinago gallinago	Snipe   BTO - British Trust for Ornithology
Spotted Crake	Porzana porzana	Spotted Crake   BTO - British Trust for Ornithology
Common Crane	Grus grus	The Great Crane Project rspb.org.uk
Bittern	Botaurus stellaris	Bittern   BTO - British Trust for Ornithology
Black Redstart	Phoenicurus Ochruros	Black Redstart   RSPB
Common Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus	Common Cuckoo   RSPB

## Spinning a Yarn

Take Part Resources created by Lydia Needle and Nina Gronw-Lewis

If you would like your work to be part of an exhibition at the Somerset Rural Life Museum in September, as part of Somerset Art Weeks Festival, please send your completed pieces to: ACEarts, Market Place, Somerton, Somerset TA11 7NB by 31 August 2024.  
Max dimensions 20 x 20 cm

DISCLAIMER: Due to the nature of this project, we are unable to return any work after the event. Please note we may not be able to accommodate all the works submitted.

Spinning a Yarn: Telling the Story of Wool in Somerset,

**spinning-a-yarn.org** #wildforwool #countyofwool