

Brynmawr Farm, Newcastle, Shropshire - an invitation for groups to visit and explore an organic farm and see how organic farming works to ensure both healthy food and a natural wildlife-friendly environment.

Brynmawr is an organic hill farm situated in the Clun Valley in south-west Shropshire near the Welsh border. It also lies within the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



Farming The farm is managed non-intensively, meaning that the natural environment is cared for as well as producing safe food.



Livestock

The farm produces traditional Highland and Hereford cattle and Hebridean sheep. The animals also extensively graze the adjacent Rhos Fiddle Nature Reserve, managed by the Shropshire Wildlife Trust.



Organic crops

A range of crops are grown including barley and oats (for feeding and littering the animals) as well as potatoes, carrots, leeks and swedes. The lack of pesticides means that there is an abundance of wild weeds - an important food source for invertebrates and birds. A range of produce is available for purchase direct from the farm or from a number of farmers markets that are held regularly in the area.



Wildlife

By exploring the farm you will find many important habitats such as unimproved hay meadows, mires, a wooded stream and wildlife ponds, which support a number of interesting species including mountain pansy, great crested newt, tree sparrows and curlew. The farmhouse also supports a large bat roost. We want to encourage visitors to enjoy the biodiversity of this particular area of Shropshire and recognise the importance of maintaining these habitats for the wildlife and to retain the local landscape.



The farm also grazes the Shropshire Wildlife Trust's Rhos Fiddle Reserve, a beautiful large expanse of upland moorland,

designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Buckshead Eco-cottage

Visitors can take a look at the eco-friendly traditional stone cottage, which has been carefully renovated to fully accommodate modern eco-friendly design principles including a 3.5 kW wind turbine that provides all the electricity needed, solar hot water panels and a high-efficiency wood burning stove.

When to go and how to get there

In the first instance please telephone the farm (Sue or Trevor on 01588 640298) or send us an email brynmawr@farmersweekly.net Visits are free but you will need to organise and pay for transport. We will send a confirmation letter/email if required once a date has been agreed. Visits are usually in the form of a guided tour of the farm (approximately 2 hours). However, visitors are also welcome to continue exploring the farm at their own leisure. **Groups should include a minimum of 6 people.**

When leaving Clun take the B4368 to Newcastle and Newtown. In Newcastle, go past the Crown Inn (on your right). After about 50 yards go straight over the crossroads onto a minor road signposted Two Crosses/Mainstone. After 2.5 miles turn left at the T-junction. Brynmawr is 0.5 miles up the hill on the left hand side (NGR SO 218849).

Educational access is provided as part of Natural England's Higher Level Stewardship scheme

