Butser Ancient Farm is home to a range of Rare-breed animals and ancient crops. Our ancient buildings and rural landscape, in the heart of the South Downs National Park, provide a haven for a wide variety of wildlife.

**PREHISTORIC CROPS**
We grow and monitor the yields of a variety of ancient crops including early wheats such as einkorn and emmer, Celtic beans, flax and barley. We harvest and process these ancient varieties for use in further experiments and ancient skills demonstrations.

**SPECIES RECOVERY TRUST**
We provide a safe environment for the cultivation of endangered plant varieties such as upright goosefoot and darnel, working in conjunction with The Species Recovery Trust. We are proud to say that in 2019 Butser Ancient Farm had the largest crop of darnel in the UK mainland for many centuries.

**RARE BREED ANIMALS**
We provide a home and contribute to the breeding programme for rare-breed animals including Manx Loaghtan Sheep, English Goats and Gloucestershire Old Spot Pigs, illustrating different varieties of livestock from prehistory. Manx Loaghtan Sheep are a traditional Iron Age breed of Sheep originating in the Isle of Man, categorised as ‘at risk’ by the Rare Breeds Survival Trust. They are a hardy breed who shed their wool naturally, which we use for spinning, felting and weaving on the farm. Both rams and ewes can have up to 6 horns. Each spring we welcome new lambs to the farm.

**WILDLIFE**
We provide a habitat for a range of British wildlife. We regularly have sightings of owls, buzzards, kestrels, hares, deer, foxes, badgers and much more.
We are also pleased to have been home to the rare striped lychnus moth (*Sharagacucullia lychnitis*) which only feeds on the flowers of dark mullein (*Verbasum nigrum*). A nationally scarce species, they are on the UK BAP (Biodiversity Action Plan) priority list with declining populations, mainly due to loss of habitat. They can only be found in West Sussex, Hampshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, where dark mullein grows on disturbed, low-nutrient ground and we have worked with the charity Butterfly Conservation to provide a much needed habitat.