

Barcroft Hall chosen to be a RSPCA wildlife release site

Barcroft Hall, South Petherton has been chosen by the RSPCA at West Hatch, Somerset to be a release site for waterfowl.

Owners Brian and Denise Herrick have created wonderful wildlife habitats on their 90 acre farm estate since they purchased it almost a decade ago. With almost a thousand trees personally planted their green contribution is impressive.



Over 250 waterfowl have been brought to this release site that were under threat and rescued by the RSPCA. Here they have been nurtured and grown up to be healthy, integrating back into the environment.

Rupert Griffiths, Manager of the wildlife section with the RSPCA explained:

'We are delighted with the facility provided at Barcroft Hall, all credit must go to Brian and Denise who have created at their own expense this perfect natural situation.

Without this we would have struggled to provide an adequately protected environment not only for the ducks but also for the mother swan and four cygnets who were rescued in Exeter city centre this year'

The Barcroft wildlife area has been created from what was a sterile, muddy and flooded area with the adjacent footpath, part of the Parrett Trail having now been renewed and opened for disabled access privately by the owners.

Brian Herrick commented, 'It is incredibly rewarding having put so much effort into a project to be able to see the benefits not only to wildlife but also to ramblers and local folk with mobility difficulties who have positively engaged with this development. Denise and I are very appreciative of their support and typically kind comments.

We are so proud that the swans have now been raised and have flown to find other pastures, but fortunately they return frequently to visit us. Kingfishers and many other wildlife favourites are now nesting permanently with the deer and badger populations expanding nicely and with recent otter sightings it's a natural paradise!