



Shapwick Heath Newsletter - Number 4

August - October 2011

Welcome to the fourth edition of our newsletter. As usual, we are sending this newsletter out to everyone who has requested to be on our circulation list. We are grateful to those of you who are forwarding this onto friends and family, but if you know of anyone who would like to receive a copy directly, please ask them to email us at somerset@naturalengland.org.uk and we will add their names to our list.

Looking out of the window at the rain, the summer months now seem a long time ago. This edition covers the summer months and early Autumn 2011. These months are our busiest period for visitors and events, and for much of our wildlife. After a series of very severe winters it is good to be able to report that many of our rarest species have been recorded in good numbers this year.

Reserve News

This was another amazingly busy period for the reserve team. On top of the regular maintenance jobs at Shapwick, Ebbor Gorge, Bridgwater Bay and our other Somerset Reserves, there have been a whole host of additional site works at Shapwick. These included improvements to the radar gates and Meare Heath bridge for wheelchair users, new gates across the site, repairs to several hundred metres of fencing, water vole population monitoring (Shapwick Heath is a key national site for this species) and, throughout August and September, regular monitoring and control to keep the water level in the wader 'scrape' low. The reserve team also played host to a number of visits, including the whole of Natural England's South West National Nature Reserve team, Natural England's Access and Engagement Director Liz Newton, as well as a group of nature conservation professionals from the beautiful Barycz valley and Beata Orłowska wetlands in Poland. The visit was part of the EuCAN European Nature conservation exchange network programme and gave a fantastic opportunity to exchange ideas and discuss management techniques.

Early September and the end of the bird breeding season saw us begin our autumn/winter scrub cutting and reed bed management programme for the year, with a variety of habitat work already taking place across Canada Farm, Meare Heath, Seventy Acres and within the Fen area near the Sweet Track (see Volunteer News). As users of Decoy and Canada Lake hide will have noticed, the chipped arisings from scrub work have already allowed us to complete over 250 metres of essential winter footpath resurfacing works.

Farming on the Reserve

Summer is also a very busy time on the farming side of the reserve. Many of you will have seen the reserve team out on the reserve and in the fields maintaining access droves and also topping thistle and nettles to stop their spread into our more important wildflower meadows. There is always a fine balance here as we strive to reduce the spread of these very invasive species whilst at the same time being aware that there is a need to keep some due to their environmental benefits, for example thistle as a seed source for birds such as Goldfinch, and nettles as the food plant for many insects including Red Admiral and Tortoiseshell butterfly larvae.

The dry summer also meant that our tenant farmer Rob Whitcombe was able to get the traditional hay cut done well on time. In recent years wet weather has often meant that our hay cuts have not been possible until well into the autumn (if at all). This is due to the fact that at all times we have to protect the land from being dug up or over compacted when too wet. All the hay cut on site is stored at the reserve wintering yard and used to feed the cattle over the winter months. In addition, Shapwick Heath was also used as a source of 'green hay' for our conservation partners the Hawk and Owl Trust. As part of their Higher Level Stewardship Scheme on the Shapwick Moor Reserve, the Hawk and Owl Trust are recreating wildflower rich hay meadows and the use of green hay is one well known

technique of getting wildflower seeds to germinate. As it slowly rots down the hay suppresses the growth of dominant grasses whilst allowing wildflower seeds within it to germinate. A specialised forage harvester machine came in and cut the seed rich material on the NNR before it was placed into a traditional muck spreader and spread across the fields on Shapwick Moor. It will be exciting to see the results of this technique on Shapwick Moor over the next few years.

Farming Infrastructure

September saw the completion of a new covered feeding area and manure store at our wintering yard facility on the Shapwick road. This will greatly improve feeding conditions during the winter months for our hardy adult Red Devon cattle that spend the whole year out on the reserve, whilst at the same time ensuring that any manure can be kept dry and stored safely on site.



Users of Canada farm will have also noticed strange lengths of blue pipe lying across some of the fields. This is actually part of important water supply extension works taking place on the reserve. Unfortunately in very dry years many of the ditches on Canada Farm can dry up for periods during the summer (as has been the case over the last two summers). This is due mainly to the fact that Canada Farm and the wider Shapwick Reserve are isolated from the surrounding drains and rivers and therefore the reserve is rain fed. This can lead to obvious problems when trying to provide water for livestock using the reserve (an average cow can drink up to 60 litres of water a day). By extending the water supply it means that we can still undertake important grazing of our fields throughout dry years.

Volunteer News

An outstanding achievement by the Thursday volunteer team over much of September and October has been extensive and essential habitat conservation work in an area of Fen adjacent to the Sweet Track. Over the last 15-20 years a large amount of willow and birch coppice had grown up along the old ditches that run through the fen. Large parts of the field had unfortunately been shaded out and the old ditches within and around the field had filled with leaves and sediment. The first stage of the team's work was to clear and remove large amounts (about 50% in total) of this scrub. This involved first cutting the scrub down to ground level before removing it from site to be chipped. The cutting down was fairly easy however removal proved extremely difficult when water levels in the Fen suddenly rose. In addition to this the team, along with students from Millfield School, managed to clear almost 100 metres of ditch of sediment which will have huge benefits to both the fen and neighbouring wet woodland. Many species will benefit from this work including rare insects such as the Hairy Dragonfly, Lesser Silver Diving Beetle and Fen Spider, plants such as Yellow flag Iris, Purple Loosestrife, Marsh Fern and Marsh Thistle as well as our resident Water Voles. The coppiced scrub will be allowed to recover and is being placed into a rotational cutting plan with further clearance work planned for next autumn.

A number of other volunteer groups and individuals have also been involved in conservation work on the reserve over the last few months. Special thanks must go to John Burrell and James Riall for their continued monitoring of Butterfly and Bee populations on the reserve, and Paul Sheriff from BTCV who, along with a team of engineers and managers from British Sky Broadcasting, spent a day doing habitat management work for butterflies on Canada farm. Also, Charlton Mackrell Sea Scouts have done a huge amount of work on the reserve this year including scrub work to benefit rare moths and improve the views for visitors to the reserve by clearing scrub on some of the Islands on Noah's Lake.



The Sweet Track Fen



Charlton Mackrell Sea Scouts take to the water



Diversity Volunteers

Over the past few months our volunteers have been busy on the reserve and in the wildlife garden. Tasks have included clearing invasive vegetation from footpaths at Shapwick Heath and Ebbor Gorge, improving footpath surfaces by spreading wood chippings and removing grass from the boardwalk at Shapwick Heath. At the Avalon Marshes Centre, the volunteers have renovated the reed bed, removed trees from the pond edge, grown and harvested vegetables, and helped to maintain the footpath and trim the willow hedge. All this hard work and commitment is greatly appreciated by Natural England and was celebrated at the Volunteers BBQ, attended by Gill Norton and her team from the South Somerset Natural Minds project, Martin Peck from Bridgwater College, and Tony Ainsworth and his team from the Orchard Vale Trust. It was a great opportunity for our diversity volunteers to share their achievements and socialise within the much wider volunteer community at the Avalon Marshes.

The achievements and benefits of volunteering to participants over the past few months have been many and varied. Sandy Catton from Natural Minds 'likes the satisfaction of working on a task and seeing it completed'. Julie Chedzoy from the same team is very interested in the bird life and has been particularly excited by sightings of bittern, osprey, spotted crane, a heron catching a fish, and a close encounter with a water rail. Matt Charnaud from Orchard Vale Trust (OVT) says 'I like to do conservation work because it helps to get more animals here'. Phillip Ling (OVT) said that he enjoys learning about the wildlife on the reserve and has bought his own binoculars. He follows this interest up at home, where he uses the internet to find out more information, and is planning to make a wildlife journal. Paul Kidd (OVT) said that he has liked meeting other people and Mike Davis (OVT) has loved the opportunity to use tools and see the reserves team using various machines. Colin Vincent from Natural Minds, who had a stroke a few years ago, has greatly improved his level of physical fitness. Such a condition can be very socially isolating and Colin has enjoyed the social aspect of volunteering. His wicked sense of humour has become well known and brightens up the day. Robin Richards, Dan Williams and Lewis Vincent from Rethink, Bridgwater have so enjoyed coming out to Shapwick that when their usual transport arrangements to the site ceased, they have researched how to get to Shapwick independently by bus from Bridgwater. Robin says 'I like to get out in the fresh air and do something practical to help wildlife' and 'I want to get a job eventually and this experience of learning new skills will help me'. There have been a few changes in the volunteer team. John Cayley from the Natural Minds project has recently moved to Scotland. He transported the volunteers in his car and supported them in their work. He showed a high level of commitment and care and will be sorely missed. We are pleased to welcome a new group of adult students from Bridgwater College, who are on a Community Volunteering course, led by Jerry Pope and supported by Sue Corfield. The students have been researching and making plans for a bird hide, which they will build at the Avalon Marshes Centre. As part of their research, they have visited bird hides on the Shapwick Heath and Ham Wall nature reserves. The students have also assisted with footpath maintenance, working with volunteers from Orchard Vale Trust. Having the chance to meet other people in this way provides valuable opportunities for increased social interaction and inclusion within the wider community.

Patrick Drew joined us in the Summer. He found out about us through the Go Wild, Stay Well Project funded by Ecominds and led by Dave Topham from Taunton and West Somerset MIND. Patrick has been a great asset to the team, and has particularly enjoyed working with Orchard Vale Trust.

The high level of commitment and enthusiasm which the volunteers bring with them is truly inspiring.



Our volunteers receive big thank you

Over 150 of our volunteers attended a barbeque in September to celebrate their efforts towards nature conservation on the Avalon Marshes. The event was hosted by Natural England, RSPB, Somerset Wildlife Trust, and the Hawk and Owl Trust. The event was run as a thank you to the many individuals and groups that make a huge voluntary contribution to the running of this important network of Nature Reserves. It was also an opportunity to showcase local food and drink with burgers for the event coming from the Reserve's own herd of organic Red Devon Cattle, along with cider from the Mendips and beer from the Polden Hills. Phil Holms, Senior Reserve Manager for Somerset, said "It is no exaggeration to say that each year volunteers contribute tens of thousands of valuable hours to the running of the Nature Reserves across the Avalon Marshes, whether it be leading walks and talks, helping at events and education days, undertaking monitoring work, or undertaking a huge range of practical tasks. The BBQ is a very small way for us to say a big thank you".



Log book sightings/highlights: 1st August – 31st October 2011

The late summer of 2011 has been a busy time for our myriad of wildlife at Shapwick. The traditional A3 log books we had in our hides seem to regularly suffer from water damage and quite a lot of records unfortunately have been lost over the past few months. Therefore, we have replaced these with small books which we hope will be more weather proof. Thank you to all those of who have contributed to these records – our database is growing by the day!

Otters continue to be recorded from all hides with Decoy Pool still being the best place to see them. Dragonfly sightings included Emperor, Southern and Brown Hawkflies in August, and Migrant Hawkflies in September/October. An Adder was seen on 16th Aug near Decoy Hide and Grass Snakes were seen frequently across the reserve in September and October.

Marsh Harriers were seen on every day throughout the period, with a male and female being seen often in October. Bitterns were also continually sighted – see the article later in this newsletter for more information on numbers booming and nesting at Shapwick Heath. The best place to see Barn Owl is still the Peat Cutter's Shed from Noah's Hide, with regular sightings in September. In addition, sightings of Bearded Tits (or Reedlings) appear to be on the increase. Ospreys were continually on the reserve from 19th Aug – 3rd Sep with two seen on 28th Aug. Another arrived on 17th Sep, departing on the 30th. A Ferruginous Duck was present at Decoy on 20th Aug. There was a Spotted Crake at Meare Heath on 23rd Aug; although elusive, it was still present on 5th Sep, attracting a lot of interest from birdwatchers. Meare Hide also gave excellent sightings of a wide range of rarer waders with Wood and Green Sandpiper, Ruff and Spotted Redshank all seen on 23rd Aug.



Female Marsh Harrier at Shapwick taken by John Crispin

Black Terns were present at Noah's on nine separate days during September and October, with seven on 4th Sep. Of the summer migrants, the last Sand Martin of the year was seen on 4th Sep, Swift on 6th Sep, and Hobby on 4th Oct, all from Decoy. Although the last House Martin was seen on 26th Sep, Swallows were still passing through in mid – October. A Grey Phalarope was recorded at Noah's on 13th Oct. Egrets continue to be a speciality at Shapwick with Great White and Little Egret being recorded almost every day. Cattle Egret sightings weren't so frequent during this period with just one spotted from Noah's on 14th

STOP PRESS..... Two Yellow-browed Warblers 'discovered' along the Discovery Trail boardwalk on 1st Nov.

Events/Outreach to Schools

The events run at Shapwick for schools and the public continue to be busy with various activities filling our calendar.

Our 'Wild Days Out' have again increased in popularity and the one in late September was well-attended with more than 150 children attending on the day. After a rather damp start, the weather improved greatly and many families spent several hours at the centre. The 'Deadly Scene Investigation' activity linked with the BBC Live & Deadly programme proved popular with the majority of our visitors finally determining it was the Stoat that did the deed!

In late September we welcomed a further 14 classes of children from local schools to our Avalon Marshes School Days. In 2011 we have been able to organize 5 of these days and nearly 1000 local school children have been able to experience the wonders of the Avalon Marshes at first hand. These days involve all the partner organisations, with for instance, the RSPB providing learning opportunities through environmental games about migrating waders. The Hawk & Owl Trust's owl pellet investigations proved as popular as ever – our thanks go to the Shapwick Heath Barn Owls for providing nearly 400 pellets this year! This Autumn, Butterfly Conservation were able to provide an interesting activity based around the pollination of flowers – our thanks to Alan Hold for his valued input. Natural England staff and volunteers were prominent on all these days, leading groups of children through the reserves to our storyteller and providing many of the other activities. A huge thank you to the huge number of volunteers who support these days; without this support it would be impossible to arrange these unique experiences for our local schools.

Avalon Marshes Wildlife Group

The Avalon Marshes Wildlife Group also goes from strength to strength, with two meetings held in recent months. On a very wet Sunday morning, a few brave families ventured out into some of the more remote areas of the reserve to look for signs of our secretive small mammals. Martin Prothero (Somerset Wildlife Trust) was able to show the children and their parents how to recognise deer tracks and to observe evidence that our badgers are very active at Canada Farm. Anna had set a line of Longworth Small Mammal traps the previous night and possibly due to the cold evening, most of these had successfully caught either a Wood Mouse or a Vole – everybody enjoy the opportunity of observing these creatures at close-hand before releasing them back into the reserve.

Cosy Round the campfire 26th Oct

Over thirty children enjoyed wildlife-themed activities with us during the half-term holidays. Activities included making winter homes for lacewings, looking for wild animal tracks, and toasting marshmallows around a campfire. The event was held at the Avalon Marshes Centre, and run jointly by Natural England, Somerset Wildlife Trust and the RSPB. Simon Beard commented that "It was great to see so many children and their families outside in the autumn sunshine getting stuck in to the activities and treats". Regular wildlife events are held for children aged between 5 and 12 years at the centre. If you would like to know more please call Simon on 01458 860736 or email anna.graham@rspb.org.uk.



Local schools

The Avalon Marshes field teaching scheme for visiting schools has had a busy start autumn with the largest group ever visiting the reserve in a single day. As part of their 'Celebrate Somerset Week', Hugh Sexey's Middle school brought their entire year 6 out on Monday 5th September. The huge logistical nightmare that this produced was ably dealt with by Mary Scott – the lead field teacher and pupils, school staff, RSPB field teachers and several of our volunteers had a very successful day.

The field teaching scheme has recently gone through a very rigorous examination of its systems and has been awarded the 'Learning Outside The Classroom' (LOTC) Quality Badge. This is a national award that is only given after an external assessor visits the schemes and it ensures that the quality of provision we give to schools is of the highest order. Congratulations go out to Mary and her team for their continued efforts to develop this existing facility for local schools.

Schools & local clubs continue to call on us to visit them and let them know about the wonders of the Avalon Marshes. Memorable amongst recent outreach activities has been the links with Badgeworth Cubs & Scout groups. Andrew Wilkinson, one of our longstanding volunteers has been a member of this group for many years and he arranged for the older members to join in on a night ramble across the reserve: in spite of a rather cloudy night, this proved popular. The younger members of the cub pack spent an interesting evening examining the contents of owl pellets collected on the reserve.

Once again this Autumn we are receiving regular visits from Millfield School on Wednesdays and Shapwick School on Mondays. The pupils are busily carrying out work on the site. Those of you who attended our last Wild Day Out at the Centre will have seen the huge improvement to the path around the pond that the efforts of Shapwick pupils has produced – currently they are working on clearing out the pond of excess vegetation.



Forthcoming events/dates for your diary

We are already planning events for 2012, but we still have a few events planned for the last few months of this year. For those of you with families, we are having the last of our Wild Days on Sunday November 27th Out for 2011. The event starts at 10.15am, and runs through until 3pm. New to this event, we are including a walk at 10.30am over the reserve to look at a line of small mammal traps set the previous night. The rest of the day is filled with the usual tractor rides over the reserve and activities to engage children with the environment and wonders of our precious reserves. There is no need to book for this event, just turn up!

The youth group has several meetings during the winter. On Sunday December 18th an afternoon of activities about our starlings followed by a walk over the reserve to look at the murmurations as they arrive. Also during the Spring Half term the group will be making bird feeders. For further information about these events or to book childrens' places, please email anna.graham@rspb.org.uk

For the astronomers amongst you, we have organised a repeat of last year's Stargazing evening on Sat Jan 28th. Hopefully we will have better weather for star-watching than in 2011, but if the clouds do appear again, we have a 'fallback' evening the following night on Sunday Jan 29th. The evening starts at **7pm**. To book a place on this please telephone 01458 860120.

Also an early heads-up for an event we are planning to run in the two weeks (18 May – 3 June 2012) leading up to next year's Avalon 24..... a BIOBLITZ!! This will involve as many people and specialist groups as possible to record all the species found on the Avalon Marshes. The event is being coordinated by Bill Urwin; if you would more information on taking part, please contact him on In the meantime, look out for posters around the reserve as we lead up to this exciting event.

Somerset Crafts

With Christmas looming, the number of visitors to the Craft Centre is increasing rapidly. They have a number of events coming up when visitors can meet some of the artists:

Sat 19th November 6 - 8:30pm: Christmas at the Craft Centre – Late night opening with mulled wine. Your chance to find and buy unique locally made gifts.

Sun 20th November: Demonstration Day – A chance to meet and watch our artists and craftsmen at work.

Email: www.somersetcrafts.co.uk Tel: 01458 860426

Greater Water Parsnip at Shapwick Heath NNR

The Greater Water Parsnip (GWP) is one of Somerset rarest plants, this tall white flowered umbellifer was described in 1912 as "Sub-dominant and abundant on the Levels". However since that time the plants have declined and been lost from many of its old locations. At Shapwick Heath it was last seen along part of the Sweet Track in the early 1990s. The reasons for the decline are complex. The plant easily damaged by the mechanical cleaning of water-courses. Cattle also seem to be strongly attracted to the plant and will seek out the GWP as a tasty treat! In 2002 work started on conserving GWP in its main sites on the Somerset levels. Seed was collected from Southlake Moor site near Burrowbridge. This was then taken to Bristol Zoo. At first there were problems in germinating the seed, but the horticultural staff at the zoo soon cracked these initial problems and over two hundred healthy plants were delivered to Shapwick Heath in late 2008.



On the 1st Dec 08, staff and volunteers from Shapwick Heath, Bristol Zoo and Somerset Rare Plants group took part in the planting out of the first batch of this rare species back in to a range of locations on the NNR. This was followed in the spring by a second planting within the reserve along the Discovery Trail. A third planting on the Hawk and Owl Trust Shapwick Moor was carried out by volunteers in late spring 2009. The Somerset Rare Plants Group have for the past three years been monitoring the progress of the reintroduced plants. Of the 200 plants that were delivered in 2008 only 30 or so plants are still alive, the high mortality of the plants is probably due to a range of factors such as cold winters or damage by deer and other grazing animals. One colony was lost when fire swept through the reed beds in March 2009. One of the plants at Shapwick Moor flowered in summer of 2009. However the majority of the surviving plants did not flower until the summer of 2011.

Not only is the Greater Water Parsnip a rare and attractive wild plant, recent research suggests it is a very important nectar source for a wide range of hoverflies, bumble bees and other wildlife. A second phase of the project to protect this rare species was started in 2011. Work started on seed gathering to return the plant to Somerset Wildlife Trust reserve at Catcott. Next time you're out and about on Shapwick keep your eye open for one of the rarest plants in Somerset!

Steve Parker (Natural England Lead Adviser North Somerset and Somerset Levels)

Bittern Boom in 2011

Some of our staff and volunteers have been closely involved in monitoring the return of bitterns to the Avalon Marshes. This involves noting numbers of booming males, and watching for regular feeding flights by females. Their data have been incorporated into the joint RSPB/Natural England report which summarises the 2011 breeding season. Nationally, the key results were as follows:



A bittern family heads off into the reeds
(photo: Dave Rogers, RSPB)

- An increase in the number of booming male Bitterns, up from 87 in 2010 to 100 in 2011.
- A large increase in the number of confirmed nests, up from 41 in 2010 to 60 in 2011.
- An increase in the number of sites occupied by booming Bitterns, with 51 sites being used.
- Further substantial increases in booming males and nesting attempts in the Avalon Marshes.
- Confirmed nesting for the first time in over 40 years at Stodmarsh, Kent.

Records for the Avalon Marshes featured prominently in these results. For instance, the earliest reports of booming in the UK were again from here, with the first record on 6th February, at Westhay Moor. Our area also had the largest increase in overall booming activity, with 25 boomers confirmed from seven sites, including nine at Shapwick Heath, compared to 14 at four sites in 2010. In terms of nesting attempts, there were at least 19 on six sites, including eight at Shapwick, compared to 14 on three sites last year. Although due to the secretive nature of bitterns it is impossible to confirm how many chicks were raised, it looks like everyone can be pleased with the remarkable progress this species is making on the Avalon Marshes. If you would like to get involved in the 2012 survey please get in touch with Simon Clarke.

Snippets.....

Our congratulations go out Dr Tom Hill, of Bath Spa University for securing a new position at the Natural History Museum in London. Tom will be familiar to many of you through his input into the Avalon 24 showing the public the wonders of peat cores. He was also instrumental in the establishing of our (now annual) Landscape Detectives Day at Shapwick. His new post involves **the promotion of micropalaeontology to the wider community**, hopefully this will mean we will not have seen the last of Tom at Shapwick.

We would like to welcome Kevin Anderson who has joined us for the next six months on a volunteer placement. He joins us after a career in the RAF and has already been a great help with our communications, and hopefully many of you will have already seen the greatly improved quality of our posters on the reserve.

Those of you who have visited Somerset Crafts recently will already have seen the new partnership information display that the artist Mike Langman has produced for us. This partnership funded display has given new visitors a real feel for the Avalon Marshes and hopefully shows the way all the organisations work together so successfully here.

Many friends and family recently travelled to Gloucestershire to help Nick Thompson celebrate his 70th birthday. Nick a valued member of the Shapwick Heath Volunteer Team brings a fantastic amount of experience with him. Having worked in many careers from a Chocolate Salesman to School Teacher Nick hasn't put his feet up since retiring. Instead he can be found leading overseas expeditions for a wide range of organisations including British Schools Exploring Society, Trekforce and Raleigh International. On top of that he still finds time to run working holidays for the National Trust and when he isn't away to volunteer for Natural England. Congratulations Nick.



The Starling murmurations have recommenced and already many people are enjoying this annual spectacle. Again, talks about the roost start about an hour before dusk on site. We welcome back Chris Griffin to this role, and this year he is joined by Jen Clark, a new face to the Avalon Marshes. The Starling Hotline No is **07866 554142**. Also an automated email service has been set-up at starlings@rspb.org.uk. If you send a BLANK email to this address, full information about the roost will be provided. Please note this service is automated, hence no responses will be given to any questions asked in any emails!

Calling all photographers!

Do you have any good quality photographs of animals or plants taken at Shapwick? We are always pleased to receive digital images of wildlife seen on the reserve that we can use in our newsletters or for posters etc. If you have any that you would be willing to share with us (all credits will be acknowledged). Please email simon.beard@naturalengland.org.uk. We are particularly short of pictures of interesting plants and lesser known invertebrates.

Contacts – Natural England

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or Phil Holms 01458 860120 (phil.holms@naturalengland.org.uk)

Schools & Public Events Simon Beard 01458 860736 (simon.beard@naturalengland.org.uk)

Diversity volunteers – Sue Habgood 01458 860120 (sue.habgood@somersetwildlife.org)

Avalon Marshes Partnership Organisation Contacts

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Somerset Wildlife Trust Catcott Lows/ Westhay Moor Mark Blake 01823 652430 mark.blake@somersetwildlife.org

Hawk & Owl Trust – Shapwick Moor – Chris Sperring 0779 9413918 chris.sperring@btinternet.com

Avalon Marshes Landscape Partnership - Alex Sherman 01458 860556 alex.sherman@somersetwildlife.org

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