

2020 / 2021

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust



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Langford Lakes



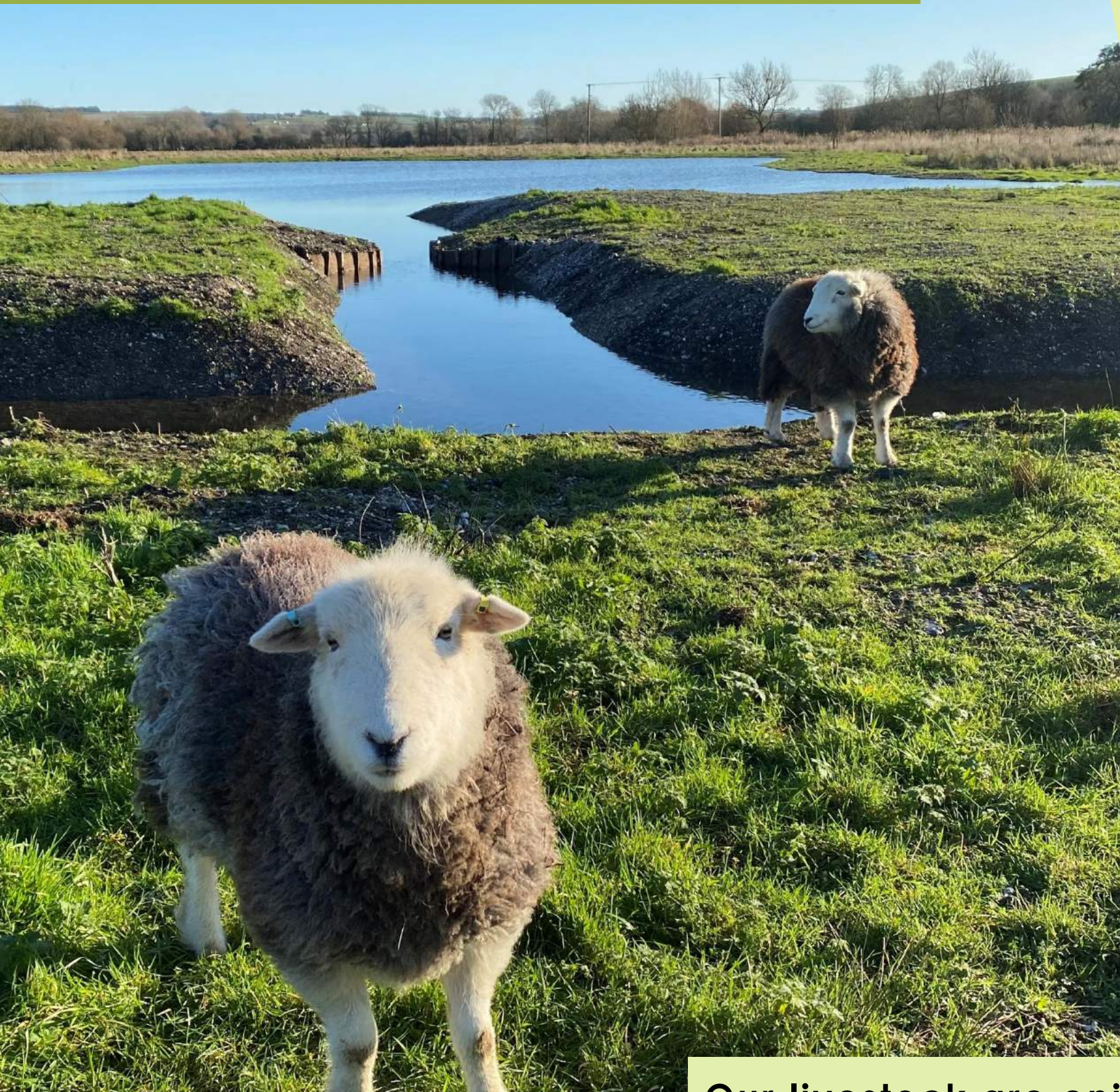
The wetland features at Langford Lakes have been enormously successful and we continue to enhance them for wildlife.



Keeping the islands clear of vegetation continues to encourage waders and since we've completed this task we have had a huge range of bird species (including over 120 lapwing!), recorded here.

Langford Lakes

Staff and volunteers pollard willow to maintain habitat diversity. The willow is used to create screens which are very successful in obscuring visitors and allowing a view without causing disturbance. It is also used for shelter for small mammals, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates.



Our livestock are enjoying their job maintaining the new wetland and scrape features!

Coombe Bissett Down



In total 24 wildflower species were recorded this summer on the reversion field, in addition to the field providing a refuge to nesting skylarks.

Coombe Bissett Down is an excellent example of our Reserves and Farm staff working together to achieve incredible results. The arable reversion at this reserve has been a true team effort, combining our in-house ecological knowledge with practical experience and expertise.

We have been using a combination of sheep grazing, hay cutting and topping to control invasive vegetation and reduce nutrients in the soils.

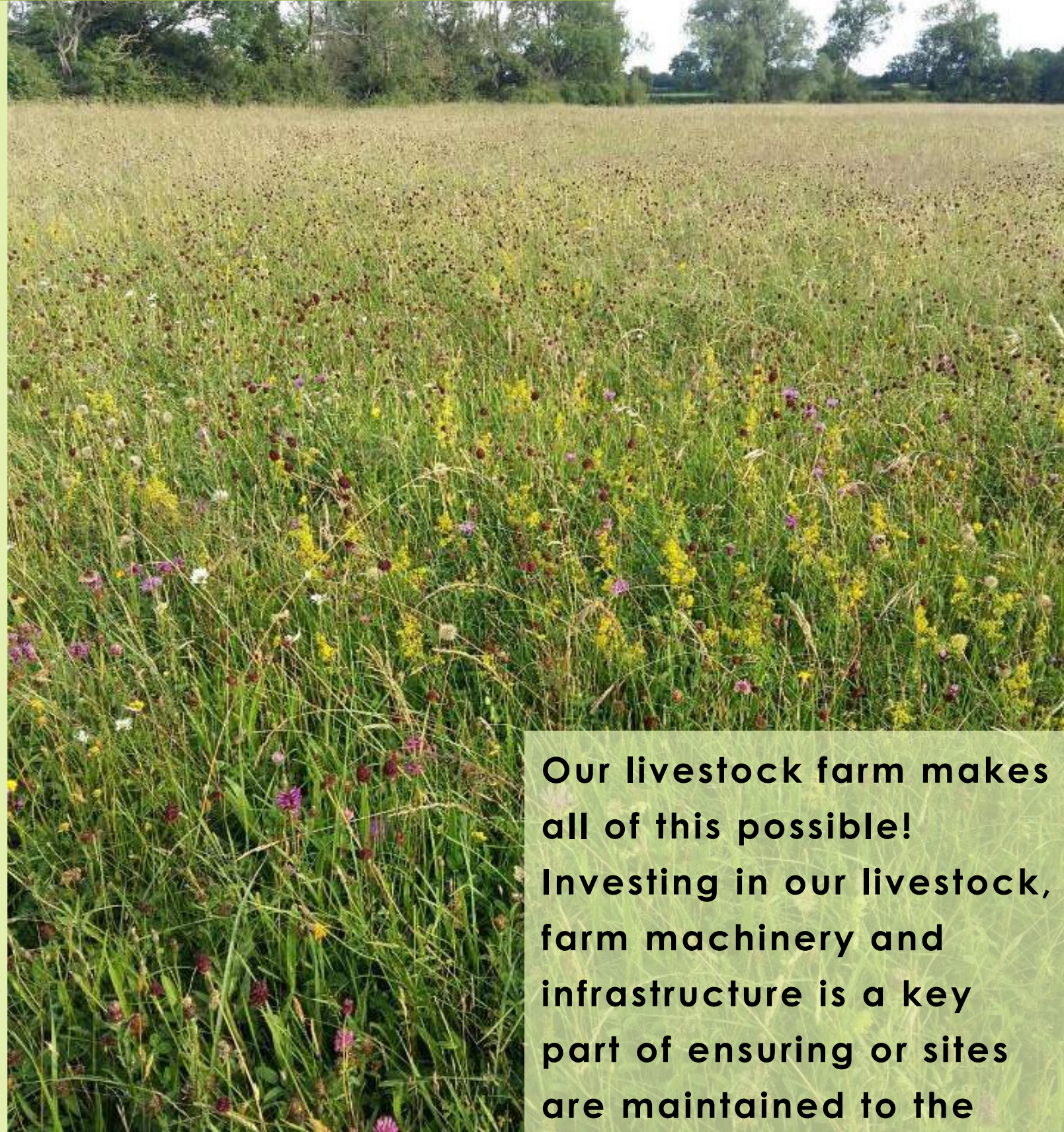


Coombe Bissett Down

Orchids have simply exploded over the reserve this year! We have seen similar displays at other sites, such as Jones's Mill.



The Farm



Our livestock farm makes all of this possible! Investing in our livestock, farm machinery and infrastructure is a key part of ensuring our sites are maintained to the highest possible standard for wildlife.



North Wilts Grasslands



Curlew watch at Blakehill. Nests were identified and birds ringed this year.

Woodland Management

Our coppicing programme has continued to go from strength to strength - it is an incredibly popular activity for volunteer, education and corporate groups!

Coppicing at Blackmoor Copse and Ravensroost Wood are super examples of how important this work is, allowing light in to the woodland floor and allowing understory vegetation such as hazel to establish and grow and provide food and habitat for a variety of species.

During a recent survey 17 dormice were recorded at Blackmoor Copse!



Volunteers



Our Warden of 20 years recording his first shrew caught in a live monitoring trap!

Volunteers deliver an incredible amount of work, from conservation work, surveying and infrastructure maintenance.

In return, our nature reserves have provided a lifeline for many of our volunteers during the last 12 months. The ability to work outside safety socially distanced has provided people with crucial social contact, a sense of purpose and improved wellbeing

Continual enhancement

Following a detailed Reserves Review, we are continually seeking to improve our reserves for wildlife and the environment. For example, our Water Team have worked with our Reserves Team to design additional river restoration and wetland creation works. This image shows design work in progress at Smallbrook Meadows.



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