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The Natural History of Ten Acres

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Yatton and Congresbury Wildlife Action Group (YACWAG) evolved over a period of several years as the interests of a group of local wildlife enthusiasts developed and crystallised. Many of YACWAG's committee members were originally part of a local group of the Avon Wildlife Trust, or involved with the Yeo Valley Watch Group, but in the spirit of Local Agenda 21, began to think and act more locally. Under the previous banner of 'Friends of Biddle Street SSSI', the group had, since 1995, been managing a 2.3 km section of the disused railway, the Cheddar Valley Railway Local Nature Reserve, on behalf of North Somerset Council with help from English Nature, but in 1999 new legislation obliged charity registration. To reflect a wider interest a name change was required, and so YACWAG was born, with Tony Moulin as Chairperson.

We felt that the freedom to experiment with nature conservation methods, and the continuity of our actions, could only be achieved by ownership of land. This opportunity arose almost immediately when a number of fields on Congresbury Moor came onto the market. Mark Britten, a local farmer with a great interest in wildlife, bought some of them that were adjacent to his own land, and told us that a particular field might suit our purposes. The field was just over ten acres in size (4.089 hectares) and immediately became known, with little originality, as 'Ten Acres'. It became our ambition to purchase it and turn it into a nature reserve.

The new experience of raising large sums of money was both exhilarating and anxiety-provoking, with many twists and turns. As the field is within the Biddle Street SSSI and is floodplain grazing marsh, a habitat covered by a national Biodiversity Action Plan as well as a local one, we approached the Heritage Lottery Fund. To our delight they were able to provide almost £20,000 which was 75% of the project costs. Other contributions came from Yanley and North Somerset Environmental Company (YANSEC) from the landfill tax rebate scheme, and by Wessex Water, who gave us £2,500 as their very first 'Gold Award' project.

A brief history

Ten Acres appears on the 1840 tithe map as two enclosures separated by a ditch. This ditch is clearly visible on the RAF aerial photograph of 1946 but more recently it had disappeared, although it retained some hawthorns on the eastern bank. This ditch was now home to old beds, domestic and farm machinery, dead animals, copious amounts of black plastic and manure. One of our first tasks was to remove this and have the ditch reinstated. We added a berm on one side for added wildlife value, and the spoil from this operation created a north-south bund providing other opportunities for wildlife.

In one corner of the field we had noticed a stone platform. A survey by a field archaeologist revealed that a bridge on this spot had formed an access to

the Great, or North, Moor of Congresbury. This bridge is shown on a 1736 survey of lands in Congresbury belonging to Queen Elizabeth's Hospital of Bristol. The moor in the eighteenth century appeared as an open common bounded to the south by the Congresbury Yeo, to the east by lands known as Cow Leaze and the Hurst, to the north by the irregular Hurst Pool Rhyne and to the west by an ancient trackway called Waterlands Way and an early enclosure known as New Croft. (Broomhead, 1999). New Croft is now also owned by YACWAG.

A moor is often thought of as an upland area with heather growing on it. The true definition does not require it to be a high place, and the moors of North Somerset are inland areas, while the term 'levels' generally refers to coastal areas underlain by alluvial clay. In the past, moors were regarded as 'waste ground' of little value, yet this land had been productive for centuries, providing local people with fish, eels, wildfowl and summer grazing, as well as reed for thatch and rushes for floor covering and lights (Storer 1972). Although some drainage took place before the Enclosure Acts the land must always have been wet in winter. There were no houses here and few tracks across it. The routes from Yatton to Congresbury or from Yatton to Hewish lay on higher ground to the east, or were protected from flood by the ancient sea defence known as Gang Wall (Campbell 1997). The earliest documentation is medieval with references to the driving of cattle onto the moor. A survey of 1567 mentions the 'North More' of Congresbury (Broomhead 1999).

Big Changes

The North or Great Moor was enclosed by an Act of Parliament in about 1813 and became known as the 'New Moor' on the Enclosure maps. Why was it known as the 'New Moor' if it had 'always' been a common area for the use of Congresbury villagers? Local areas acquired with the enclosures new names – Kenn Moor, Nailsea Moor, Tickenham Moor and … Congresbury Moor (Beisly 1996). It is to be supposed that with the extensive improvements to flood defences and drainage, this area now useful to the new agricultural system was in that sense a 'new' moor.

There were very great changes to the landscape at the time of the Enclosure Acts and Congresbury Moor suffered the same agricultural improvements as the rest of the country. A large pond or lake disappeared from the maps and a new drain was put in. John Rennie, later Sir John Rennie, the Victorian engineer of renown, engineered the local drainage system, which was finished in 1827. His complicated solution to the problem of how to prevent the tidal water of the Congresbury Yeo from inundating the Moor involved a rhyne being culverted underneath the river to join another new rhyne (Hildich 2001). The work was extremely successful and the system remains effective today. Another great Victorian engineer, Isambard Kingdom Brunel, was responsible for further changes in the landscape when the Cheddar Valley Railway, a Broad Gauge branch of the Great Western Railway, sliced through the north east corner of the moor on an embankment in 1867-9.

New Cut

When the area that includes Ten Acres was divided up into fields by the excavation of rhynes forming 'wet fences', Rennie's New Cut was dug on the southern boundary of the field. It must have been a huge upheaval for wildlife at

this time with the destruction of marsh habitat in favour of creating land suitable for cattle grazing. Ten Acres was probably not ploughed and re-seeded but the improved drainage affected the flora and, within decades, confined the wetland species to the edges of the rhynes and ditches.

The New Cut is now managed by the West Mendip Internal Drainage Board (IDB), being a very important part of the flood defences for homes in Congresbury. It is dredged and keeched (weed cleared) frequently and the vegetation cut from the banks twice a year. There are few niches for wildlife with this kind of management, and most of the wetland flora has disappeared to be replaced by nettles. Shortly after YACWAG bought Ten Acres we were delighted to see a large quantity of Small Tortoiseshell (A*glais urticae*) caterpillars feeding on nettles at the top of the bank to the New Cut. Within a week or so these were totally destroyed when the bank was cut by the IDB. Traditionally the IDBs have had almost absolute powers to maintain drainage in any way their Board sees fit. After much lobbying of Parliament some modernisation is now in place and it is recognised that the IDBs have an important role in conserving biodiversity. As landowners we are required to pay an annual rate to the IDB for their work, and we were now able to request them to reduce the cutting of the banks of New Cut in accordance with their own best practice guide and their duty to nature conservation imposed by central government under the Land Drainage Act 1994.

There is a potentially happy ending as a partnership project was undertaken early in 2003 to improve New Cut. This pilot project will reduce the need for intensive maintenance and prevent the banks of Rennie's rhyne from slumping. Most landowners are reluctant to lose any of their land for IDB improvements, but YACWAG has allowed the edge of the field to be taken because of the gains for nature conservation. The plan is to re-profile 150 metres with berms and varied bank gradients to provide a diversity of niches for emergent plants. It is hoped that this will suit the Water Vole (*Arvicola terrestris*), which is one of only eleven priority species of terrestrial mammals to be identified in the Biodiversity Steering Group Report in 1995 as needing conservation action. A Species Action Plan was published in 1997. YACWAG's bank should not 'need' cutting frequently because of the increased capacity of the rhyne, and we envisage cutting in strips every other year as recommended in the Water Vole Conservation Handbook (Strachan 1998).

A watching brief

YACWAG's priority was to see what happened with minimum intervention. By the time we acquired Ten Acres it had been receiving annual applications of fertiliser "to beef up the grass". We favoured a low-intensive approach and decided simply to let the grass grow! First of all it was important to establish what was already on the site. Amateur enthusiasts were soon grappling with keys and accompanying those with more knowledge into the field. We never refused an opportunity to walk down to the field with professional ecologists and learn from them. Thus we were able to identify many grasses and sedges, and were rewarded by a good diversity to practise on. The fertiliser had not done as much damage as might have been feared, and the invertebrates seemed surprisingly numerous too.

In our first summer we stood on the Cheddar Valley Railway path and enjoyed a sense of pride in seeing a Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) hovering over

our field. It was the middle of July and Ten Acres was the only field on the moor with long grass. The grass was full of Field Voles (*Microtus agrestis*). It set the scene for YACWAG's future management actions on Congresbury Moor. We would try to provide habitat which, because of current agricultural practice, no longer existed.

Just add water

English Nature had designated Biddle Street SSSI in 1994 because of the aquatic species present in the rhynes and ditches. An agreement was reached to put the field under the Wildlife Enhancement Scheme (WES), and English Nature enthusiastically encouraged us to accommodate more water.

One of our first actions was to create more wetland features. As well as restoring the straight ditch previously mentioned, including the creation of a semi-circular shallow pool half way along it, we also opened up some field gutters, smashing clay drainage pipes in the process and creating small (half a metre wide) ditches that hold water in the winter. These field gutters are known in Somerset as "grips" (pronounced *gripes*) and produce an undulating appearance in fields. This additional water storage area also helps to maintain the dampness of the field. In the second year Ragged Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*) was flanking some of these field gutters. We also decided to create a new ditch that would divide the remaining area in half, creating three equal sized compartments within the field. These could then be treated differently and provide comparisons for management techniques or regimes. This new linear pond can truly be called the glory of Ten Acres.

The Wiggly Ditch

The Wiggly Ditch, as it has become known, was constructed with the help of Andy Pearce of Pearce Waterscapes and the encouragement of Stephen Parker of English Nature, and was funded by WES capital payments. Incorporating some bends in the design provided areas with different aspects to catch the sun or provide shelter from the wind. It also gave corners for shy creatures to hide in. Beside our new super-ditch the huge bunds of extracted clay have provided a useful niche for small mammals when the ground is wet, as well as a range of colonising plants. From the field gate it is impossible to see the larger creatures using the waterside, but the many slots of Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) show that it is a regular track for them. A stroll along the edge of the Wiggly Ditch will often flush out Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*), Mallard (*Anas platrhynchos*) or Green sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*). On 8th November 2002 Trevor Riddle, a trustee of YACWAG who monitors the birds on our patch, flushed a record 21 Snipe from the ditch edge.

The ditch has a deep central channel designed to provide deep water at all times and resist colonisation by emergent plants. A berm was constructed on both sides to provide shallow water habitats where birds and mammals can drink and where the water is warmer for invertebrates. The banks slope gently and thus provide optimum wildlife habitat. While local rhynes and ditches do provide some good habitat, the narrow strip at the side of a ditch is often too restricted to be useful to wildlife. In an intensively grazed field the traditional steep sided drainage rhynes provide little cover from predators and a very restricted range of opportunities for both plants and animals. Our Wiggly Ditch provides a variety of food, cover and shelter.

A plug of clay was inserted at the open end of the ditch close to the Hurst Pool Rhyne. This reduces the severe fluctuations in water levels which occur elsewhere on the moor. Footprints show that this is also a handy crossing point for the local foxes and deer.

Colonisation

In the first year the plants that appeared in the open water of the Wiggly Ditch were alarmingly unattractive algae but the edges soon also greened up with abundant creeping Brooklime (V*eronica beccabunga*), Common Spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris*) and the dainty annual Toad Rush (J*uncus bufonius*). There were also some ominously large, green, grass-like leaves. These had stationed themselves at the corners of the wiggly bits of the ditch and gave rise to astonishment from many people that they had not been deliberately planted as they were so well spaced and so aesthetically pleasing in their symmetry.

After a few months several thuggish plants could be identified: Greater Reed-mace (Bulrush) (*Typha latifolia*), Branched Bur-reed (*Sparganium erectum*) and one stand of Common Reed (P*hragmites australis*). Sweet Reed-grass (*Glyceria maxima*) also began to take over a small ditch at right angles to the Wiggly Ditch. In the second year other 'problem' plants emerged. Along with the interesting records of Spiked Water Milfoil (M*yriophyllum spicatum*) and Hair-like Pondweed (*Potamogeton trichoides*) was the unwelcome Canadian Pondweed (*Elodea canadensis*) which grows so fast that it out-competes native water weeds, and the algal Blanket weed (S*pirogyra spp*). Looking like green cotton wool, although this is grazed by minute creatures and provides a refuge for slightly larger ones, it also threatens to use up the water's oxygen supply and exclude sunlight from plants growing beneath.

On the muddy bank further new finds emerged: Marsh Speedwell (V*eronica scutellata*), a rare plant previously unrecorded in this area, and a stunning array of low fleshy plants like Sharp-flowered Rush (*Juncus acutiflorus*) and False Fox-sedge (C*arex otrubae*). In one place a patch of Creeping Jenny (L*ysimachia nummularia*) appeared.

In the third summer the lush green growth of the Bulrushes began to worry us. Excessive growth of algae in the water is probably the result of nutrients leaching from the surrounding soil, which we know was enriched by chemical fertilisers in recent years. Bulrushes are one of those plants so useful in colonising and helping the natural process of succession, whereby one plant community gives way to another successively until the climax vegetation (usually woodland) appears when conditions are favourable. They are useful in poor soils because they, like Alder, have the ability to fix nitrogen from the air. In the case of Bulrushes they then release it into the water. During summer 2002 the Bulrushes seemed to be dominating certain areas of the ditch, yet a closer inspection found a new floral record: the Pink Water-speedwell (*Veronica catenata*) which encouraged us not to panic about the Bulrushes just yet! There were plenty of Bulrush Wainscot moths (*Nonagria typhae*) too!

Dragonflies

Vicky Hale, a young Environmental Science graduate with an interest in dragonflies, had been surveying various sites nearby for her final year project, and included the Ten Acre ditches in her survey. We were excited to discover the rare Hairy Dragonfly (*Brachyton pratense*), the Emperor (*Anax imperator*),

the Emerald Damselfly (*Lestes sponsa*) and the Black-tailed Skimmer (O*rthetrum cancelatum*) all enjoying the new stretches of water.

Further studies developed in 2002 when Tony Smith generously gave his time and expertise to assist YACWAG's Trustee, Ken Blake, in undertaking a survey of aquatic invertebrates in both ditches. This established the presence in their larval stages of Ruddy Darter (*Sympetrum sanguineum*), Variable Damselfly (C*oenagrion pulchellum*) and Black Darter (S*ympetrum danae*) providing further excitement as Ken had not seen the adult form in this area. Dragonfly books seem to indicate that the Black Darter frequents acid peaty pools for breeding (Randalph 1992, Powell 1999) but as with many observations made in the field we can only conclude that the dragonflies have not read the books!

Ten species of aquatic snail were recorded and fourteen species of water beetle, including *Hydaticus transversalis* and *Helochares punctatus*, both of which are notable species. Ken confessed that his favourite find was the Mighty Atom (P*lea leachi*), simply for the interest of its English name.

So our water features were good value, but what about the much bigger spaces in between?

To graze or not to graze

That was the question. We found that people were horrified by the long grass in our fields. Local farmers indignantly said we were "ruining" the field. I wondered what happened to the concept of leaving land fallow for a year? How could leaving it alone do any harm?

We knew, however, that grassland must have some kind of management or the processes of nature would turn it into scrub and eventually woodland. Our entire landscape is man-made, and this is especially noticeable in the North Somerset Levels, where most of the landscape was converted to permanent pasture by the Enclosure Acts. Traditionally grassland management was much different from today. Animals were not so large and heavy – and not so "fussy", being of a stronger constitution to cope with a harder life. It is not only for their aesthetic appeal that rare breeds are favoured for conservation grazing. We found that the main difference today, though, is in the stocking density (The Wet Grassland Guide 1995).

Vole City

From the start we had taken advice from Chris Sperring, MBE, of the Hawk and Owl Trust. His experiments in grassland management at Portbury had resulted in extraordinary numbers of Short-tailed Field Voles which are the preferred food of Barn Owls (*Tyto alba*) and Kestrels, and also part of the diet for many other species, including Buzzard (B*uteo buteo*), Crow (C*orvus corone*), Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*), Weasel (Mustela nivalis), Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), Heron (A*rdea cinerea*), Grass Snake (*Natrix natrix*), Badger (M*eles meles*) and Otter (*lutra lutra*). The Vole population had exploded in our field, and a pair of Kestrels could be seen constantly hovering over it. With the support and advice of Chris Sperring we decided to try to maintain the vole population. The margins of the nearby Cheddar Valley Railway Local Nature Reserve have been managed as rough grassland 'Barn Owl corridors' for five years. We put up a Barn Owl nesting box on a pole in Ten Acres and to our delight a Barn Owl appeared just 10 weeks later. We therefore hastily erected a second box, as Barn Owls do not

live together to raise young, and we had been advised that the male would need somewhere to roost nearby. Sadly we have not yet hosted a pair and the single female Barn Owl moved on. This coincided with a spell of the wettest weather on record and we thought the Voles might be drowning. Wetland can be too wet! The sight of a Barn Owl quartering the field on a cold, misty evening is not one that will be quickly forgotten.

We were also very pleased with the gift she left us in the form of a carrier bag full of pellets. On dissection these have revealed the bones of all three species of shrew: Common (*Sorex araneus*), Water (N*eomys fodiens*) and Pygmy (*Sorex minutus*). There are also Field Voles galore and Wood Mice (A*podemus sylvaticus*).

The boxes were not wasted as a pair of Kestrels took up residence in one of them in the spring of 2002. The three young that were successfully reared in Ten Acres were ringed by Chris Sperring in June and flew a few days later. Their healthy weights demonstrated that they had access to plenty of food.

How dense were our voles?

When Chris Sperring told us that a Bristol University PhD student from the Mammals Unit was looking for a site to use for her research into small mammal trapping, we were enthusiastic. We are always pleased to welcome knowledgeable people into our nature reserve and enjoy learning from their observations. Suzy Wilkinson set 40 Longworth live-capture traps per 100 metre transect, as well as numerous hair tubes and footprint tubes (which give proof of the passing of Voles from fur stuck on tape or from their footprints left in poster paint) in Ten Acres and other nearby sites in order to determine the most reliable method for estimating Vole density in a field. Suzy's research was of great interest to us, as it provided useful base-line data, but even more rewarding was her discovery of a Harvest Mouse (*Micromys minutus*), another new record for the SSSI.

Permanent pasture

Our main aim on Congresbury Moor is to provide as diverse a range of habitats as possible in order to encourage and maintain species biodiversity. We can do what farmers trying to make a living cannot do. It is early days yet and we will continue to experiment with the best way to manage the grass. We have tried some cutting and some grazing, leaving good margins for a reservoir of Voles. There is a constant balance between the needs of the various species. Advice on management for harvest mouse is broadly speaking reflected in the way we have been managing the field for voles: they need undisturbed long grass.

In New Croft, next to Ten Acres, two years of haycutting have restored to the moor at least 25 plants of Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), as well as quantities of Tufted Vetch (V*icia cracca*) and Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*). Knapweed was presumably a more common sight before agricultural intensiveness progressed to today's level. Most of the fields in the area are either cut for silage several times or grazed permanently; the grass never gets long enough to flower and wild flowers are suppressed and restricted to those that can cope with such intensive management, like Docks and Dandelions. We leave wide margins on all four sides to ensure that some long grass remains for overwintering invertebrates and, of course, the Voles.

It is only a few years since the recent local converts to organic farming stopped using artificial fertilisers. It is to be assumed that regular cutting and grazing the year round without inputs of fertiliser will eventually deplete the soil's nutrients sufficiently to encourage a more interesting flora. It seems to be working for us in New Croft, but in neighbouring fields you would not know if knapweed was present, because the cattle would eat it away. This is not the traditional meaning of "permanent pasture". Its original meaning was the permanent use of the land as pasture, as opposed to, for example, hay meadow. What we see nowadays are fields that are indeed permanently pasture. They do not get a break from being grazed, even when they are very wet. This inflicted far less damage to the flora when herds were small and could not be fed through the winter. The moor may have provided grazing for all those eligible from the village and still only had thirty cows roaming on it in the summer! Now thirty cattle are penned in one field summer and winter until its grass is 1cm high, and then they are moved on to do the same in the next one, creating a uniform sward that is of little benefit to wildlife.

In a very interesting experiment in Wales to restore high-input/high-output rye grass pasture to natural damp pasture, the Shared Earth Trust adopted a five-point plan. They reduced stocking rates to traditional levels (one third of a livestock unit per acre per annum). They used mainly cattle to encourage patchy growth and kept livestock out of the fields from April to mid-July. They allowed some winter grazing to permit a little poaching to create mini seedbeds, and they stopped mowing for hay or silage. Within six years this regime had developed patchy growth with tussocks of coarse grasses and rushes. A rich variety of plants had returned purely as a result of grazing in this low-intensive way (Shared Earth Trust Conservation Booklet 6).

The Shared Earth Trust found from their invertebrate monitoring that there were about ten times as many butterfly and moth caterpillars and four times as many adult beetles in the grazed areas as in those cut for hay. There were three times as many ground invertebrates. No small mammals survived in their hay enclosures in winter, but in the rough pasture they found an average of 90 small mammals per acre. In July there was little difference – 240 per acre, but once the hay was cut the site became of no value to small mammals (Shared Earth Trust Conservation Booklet 7). We await Suzy Wilkinson's results from our field with interest.

Mowing, like overstocking, produces an inevitable uniformity and we would like to create as much diversity as possible. Inappropriate stocking densities are a common factor, however, in reducing the conservation value of wet grassland, and we have observed this elsewhere on the moor. The effect of 30 cattle grazing a wet field for one day is not the same as that of one cow grazing for 30 days. We have been greatly indebted to farmer Mark Britten for his invaluable help in cutting, grazing and many other tasks (like help in erecting our pole boxes), which without the use of his tractor would probably be impossible. His cattle, however, are a herd and they like to be together (as they have been for 20 years). They are creatures of habit and it has not been possible yet for us to experiment with the low stocking densities tried at Denmark Farm. We are doing the best we can with the tools (and animals) available to us.

Grassland Butterflies

We noticed in 2001 that good numbers of Meadow Brown butterflies (*Maniola jurtina*) had bred in the field. Hundreds could be counted within a small area. Large Skippers (*Ochlodes venata*) had also been seen. Large Skippers, like Meadow Browns, feed on long grass in the caterpillar stage. In 2002 we counted the Large Skippers along one side of the Wiggly Ditch. A 150 metre length of the bund next to the ditch yielded a massive count of over 65 individual Large Skipper adults. In 1999 when we bought the field there were no Large Skippers. This is truly making biodiversity happen!

In 2002 we noticed that Small Skippers (T*hymelicus sylvestris*) were also colonising the field. They are often found in association with Field Voles because their foodplant, Yorkshire Fog (H*olcus lanatus*), is one of the tastiest grasses high in starch that is appreciated by voles. Management recommended for them is very light grazing or no cutting for 2-4 years (The Wet Grassland Guide 1995). In one corner a Wall Brown (L*asiommata megera*) has been seen and in July we saw two Marbled Whites (M*elanargia galathea*) flying in the field. These butterflies cannot be found in nearby fields. Their needs are very specific. The caterpillars feed on different grasses at different stages of their growth. They cannot stand too much disturbance, and of course if the grass is cut for hay or silage the caterpillars are lost along with the foodplants.

Conclusion

Only three years have passed and Ten Acres has taken on a completely different appearance. The grass sward is no longer uniform. There are wide marshy margins and tussocks of Tufted Hair-grass (D*eschampsia cespitosa*) and Hard Rush (J*uncus effusus*) are appearing.

One can stand at the gate at twilight and through half-closed eyes imagine the moor as it used to look long ago. The birds seem to think so too. We have noticed that the assemblage of birds attracted to Ten Acres has changed with the management. Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*) have become regular winter visitors. Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) visit during the summer and autumn. Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata*) and Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*) can be seen perching on dried dock stems as they hunt for insects. Jack Snipe (*Lymnocryptes minimus*) and Snipe take refuge and feed in the ditches. For a few weeks in the late spring of 2002 two or three Cuckoos were regularly spotted sitting on our “raptor perching posts” or chasing each other round the field. Later in the summer large flocks of Swallows, Swifts and House Martins swooped over the field gathering up flying insects.

A Buzzard is calling overhead. Two Kestrels are within view, each hovering silently over some hapless small mammal. A Heron is standing in the ditch. It is rough and damp. It looks like a moor!

(Possible paragraph on future plans:

YACWAG will continue to experiment with management regimes that increase species biodiversity. Our four fields on Congresbury Moor are helping to provide a greater variety of habitats and add to the neighbouring land now being farmed in a more wildlife-friendly way. We are also gaining a foothold on Kenn Moor SSSI, in Yatton parish, in the form of a small, wet woodland, which, thanks to

YANSEC, the Countryside Agency and Transco, should become ours in January 2003. Variety is the spice of life!)

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