

# Lower Moor Farm complex



## Location

Postcode SN16 9TW Grid ref SU007939

**Access to LMF**- Wheelchair access to one bird hide and across boardwalk to Mallard Lake. From this point footpath can be muddy. Dogs on leads welcome. Toilets, including disabled, available for events.

## Directions to LMF

**If driving** - From Oaksey go in direction of Somerford Keynes for about one mile, crossing the railway line and round an S-bend. About 75 metres after S-bend the entrance is on right. From Cricklade drive northwards on A419, then turn left onto B4696 towards Somerford Keynes. Continue straight over crossroads and then for a further 2.5 miles until you see entrance on left. There is parking at visitor centre.

**If using bus** - The 93 Malmesbury-Cirencester-(via Crudwell, Chelworth and Oaksey) stops in Somerford Keynes. Head south down length of Somerford Keynes, towards Neigh Bridge. After bridge turn right onto Somerford Keynes Road. Head along Somerford Keynes Road for about one mile, and reserve entrance and car park will be on left. This is a 20 minute walk. The bus runs Monday - Saturday, approximately every hour in the morning, and every two hours in the afternoon. Visit [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/parkingtransportandstreets](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/parkingtransportandstreets)

**If cycling** - Leave National Cycle Route 48 at Oaksey and follow Somerford Keynes road to reserve entrance. Visit [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)

**If walking** - Walking from either Oaksey or Somerford Keynes to LMF will take approximately 25 minutes.

**Access to Sandpool** - Park at LMF and walk from there. Path not suitable for wheelchairs.

## About Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

Our vision is to create a county rich in wildlife and help people live sustainable lifestyles that protect the environment for the benefit of everyone.

We have about 18,500 members, look after almost 40 nature reserves, are supported by hundreds of volunteers, and work with local communities, schools, businesses and public bodies to achieve our aims. To do all this we rely on the support of our members.

If you would like to join us, or to find out about how you can help the environment, please visit [www.wiltshirewildlife.org](http://www.wiltshirewildlife.org)

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## Lower Moor Farm

Cricklade Total complex 126.18 hectares

Lower Moor Farm 38.35 hectares

Lower Moor Farm (LMF) opened in 2007 and is the gateway to Clattinger Farm, Oaksey Moor Farm Meadow and Sandpool nature reserves. From LMF you can walk into the other reserves and explore a landscape of fascinating contrasts.

The reserve is a mosaic of three lakes, two brooks, ponds and wetland scrapes linked together by boardwalks, ancient hedges, woodland and meadows.

The lakes were created by gravel extraction in the 1970s. Mallard Lake is a **Site of Special Scientific Interest** due to its distinctive aquatic plants, which include rare stoneworts.

The visitor centre is a resource for education groups and volunteers and a replica **Iron Age hut** is a focus for our educational activities.

Large populations of wildfowl swim in the lakes - great crested grebe, teal, shoveler duck and goosander to name a few.

You can enjoy the birdlife from hides at Swallow Pool and Cottage Lake - the latter is accessible for wheelchairs and pushchairs. Water voles and otters use the Flagham Brook.

On sunny days see if you can spot the emperor, southern hawk and downy emerald dragonflies.

When it rains heavily we move our livestock off Clattinger's incredibly valuable but wet wildflower meadows to drier pastures at LMF and Sandpool where they can be housed.

## Clattinger Farm

60.33 hectares

This is the UK's finest remaining example of enclosed lowland grassland. It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest for its fabulous wildflowers and is part of a Special Area of Conservation.

It lies on the Thames floodplain and its hay meadows drain into the Swill Brook.

It is rich in wildlife because previous owners farmed the land traditionally without artificial fertilisers. We bought it in 1996.

Come in late April to see thousands of delicately patterned **snakeshead fritillaries**.

Walk through the meadows in June to see wildflowers - meadow saffron, tubular water-dropwort, orchids and downy-fruited sedge - a Red Data Book plant.

In winter wading birds such as teal, **lapwing** and snipe forage on the wet meadows.

## Sandpool

19.85 hectares

You can walk from Lower Moor Farm to Sandpool or follow a path alongside the Flagham Brook into Clattinger Farm.

Sandpool has seen many transformations, from hay meadow to gravel quarry and inert landfill site. Since 2009 we have been restoring it.

The reserve is part of our farming enterprise - the roundhouse shelters cattle in winter. As at LMF, we move our **belted Galloway** cattle here from Clattinger in wet weather. Most of the reserve is lush grass for grazing.



## Oaksey Moor Farm Meadow

7.65 hectares

A grassy path leads into wet woodland full of bees and birds such as willow warbler and **chiffchaff**. Come at dusk and you may spot barn owl and bats.

Watch from the bird hide the **herons** raising their chicks in twiggy nests between January and June.

This is another link in this chain of incredibly special grasslands. In the summer you can see devil's-bit scabious, **green-winged orchid**, pignut and pepper saxifrage.

Look for ruddy darter and **four-spotted chaser** dragonflies hovering above the pond.

Lapwing, Darin Smith. Iron Age hut, Dianne Gale WWT. Green-winged orchid, Rob Large WWT. Belted Galloway, David Hall WWT. Chiffchaff, Amy Lewis. Snakeshead fritillaries, John Gearson. Four-spotted chaser dragonfly, Amy Lewis

