A WILDER HEREFORDSHIRE

LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES
LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES - THE TEAM

• Sam Price – Nature Recovery Network Officer

• Holly Thompson – Wildlife Survey Trainee

• Toby Fountain – Wildlife Survey Trainee

https://www.herefordshirewt.org/wilderherefordshire/wilder-herefordshire-meet-team
OUR ROLE WITHIN THE PROJECT

- Identify and re-survey Herefordshire’s existing Local Wildlife Sites as well as investigating new potential sites.
- Offer management advice so that they can be improved for wildlife and better protected for the future.
- Project partners Herefordshire Meadows are surveying and supporting new grassland sites across the county.
- Working with Herefordshire Council, Natural England & Herefordshire Biological Records Centre to re-establish the Local Wildlife Sites Panel & Partnership
- Trial and integrate new technology in to the surveying methodology

https://www.herefordshirewt.org/wilderherefordshire
WHAT IS A LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE?

https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/local-wildlife-sites
**How many Local Wildlife Sites are there?**

43,992 Sites, totalling 611,000 hectares.
That's the same as...

- 5% of the area of England
- 4 Times the size of Greater London
- 340,000 Football Pitches

**What state are they in?**

For 85% of the 43,992 Local Wildlife Sites, their status is not known.

- 15% Status Known
- 85% Status Unknown

Of the 6,815 Sites we know were monitored, 12% were reported lost or damaged
TYPES OF LWS IN HEREFORDSHIRE

- Woodland & Scrub
- Hedgerows
- Traditional Orchards
- Woodland Pasture & Parkland
- Lowland Heathland
- Lowland Fen
- Mosaic Sites
- Upland

- Semi-Natural Grassland & Marsh
- Standing Open Water & Wetlands
- Canals & Watercourses
- Quarries & Post-Industrial
- Roadside Verge
- Biodiversity Enhancement Sites
- Species Sites
- Geological Sites
WHERE ARE THEY?

- Approximately 750 LWS in Herefordshire
- Spread throughout the county
- Private & publicly owned land

https://www.herefordshirewt.org/localwildlifesites
• Consists of ecologists from Herefordshire Council, Herefordshire Biological Records Centre, Natural England & Herefordshire Wildlife Trust.

• The role of the Panel is to act on behalf of the Herefordshire Local Wildlife Sites Partnership to:
  • Advise on, and sign off, the development of LWS criteria and thresholds;
  • Evaluate existing LWS against established criteria and thresholds;
  • Recommend new potential LWSs for assessment;
  • Make decisions on selection and de-selection of sites, including boundary changes;
  • Advise on survey methodologies and monitoring requirements;
  • Advise on national guidance.
HOW THE SYSTEM WORKS – LWS PARTNERSHIP

• Consists of the panel members as well as representatives from other conservation organizations (GOs & NGOs) and independent ecologists.

• The role of the Partnership is to:
  • Act as a conduit of information between the Partnership and their parent organizations;
  • Support evidence gathering for the reporting on potential or existing LWSs;
  • Identify land ownership, promote positive management and offer advice;
  • Maintain a list of candidate sites;
  • Promote the role and importance of LWSs at the strategic level;
  • Disseminate information to the wider community;
  • Identify and secure funding opportunities to ensure continuity and resourcing of the LWS work.
WHAT DO LWSs MEAN FOR LANDOWNERS?

https://www.herefordshirewt.org/localwildlifesites
WHAT THE PROJECT HAS ENTAILED

- Project Set-up
- Develop survey methodology and data management
- Surveying
- Re-establishing the Local Wildlife Sites system
- Management plans
- Register LWS sites on the UK Habitats Index
- ArcGIS
- Engagement
- Trainee development
ANY QUESTIONS?