

A WILDER HEREFORDSHIRE

LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES

Green Recovery Challenge Fund



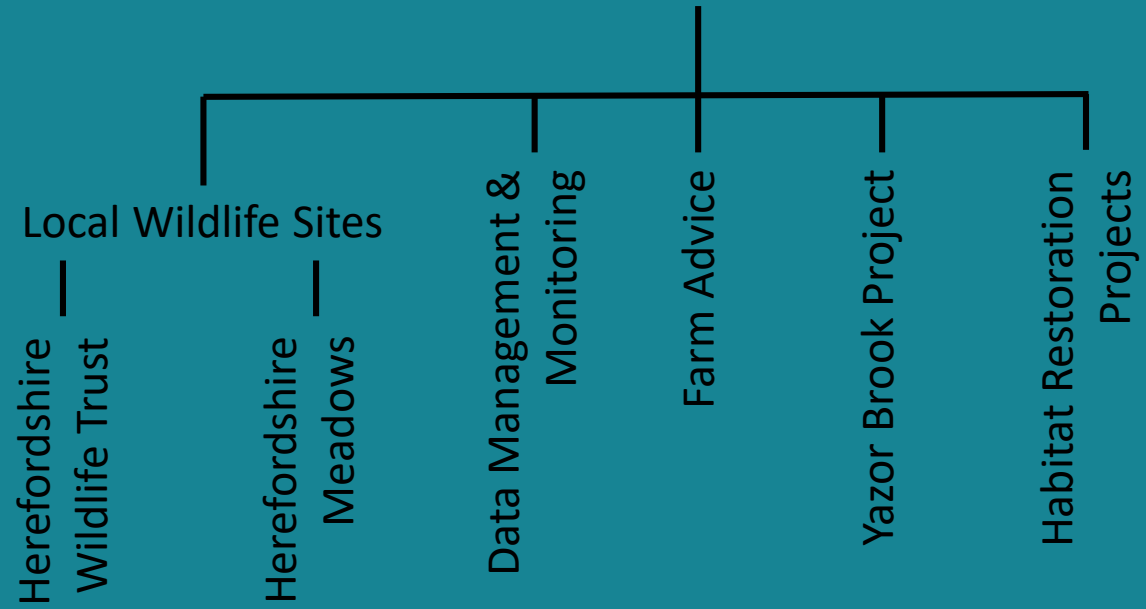
The National Lottery Heritage Fund



Herefordshire
Wildlife Trust

A WILDER HEREFORDSHIRE PROJECT

A Wilder Herefordshire Project



LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES - THE TEAM

- **Sam Price – Nature Recovery Network Officer**
- **Holly Thompson – Wildlife Survey Trainee**
- **Toby Fountain – Wildlife Survey Trainee**





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?





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



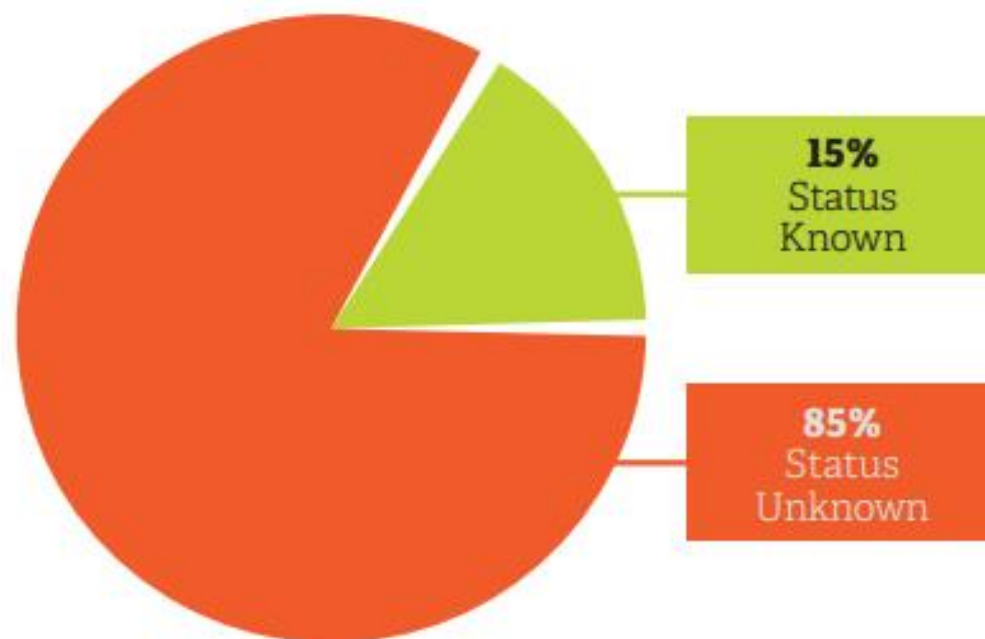
4 Times the
size of Greater
London



340,000
Football Pitches

What state are they in?

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



**Of the 6,815 Sites we know were monitored,
12% were reported lost or damaged**



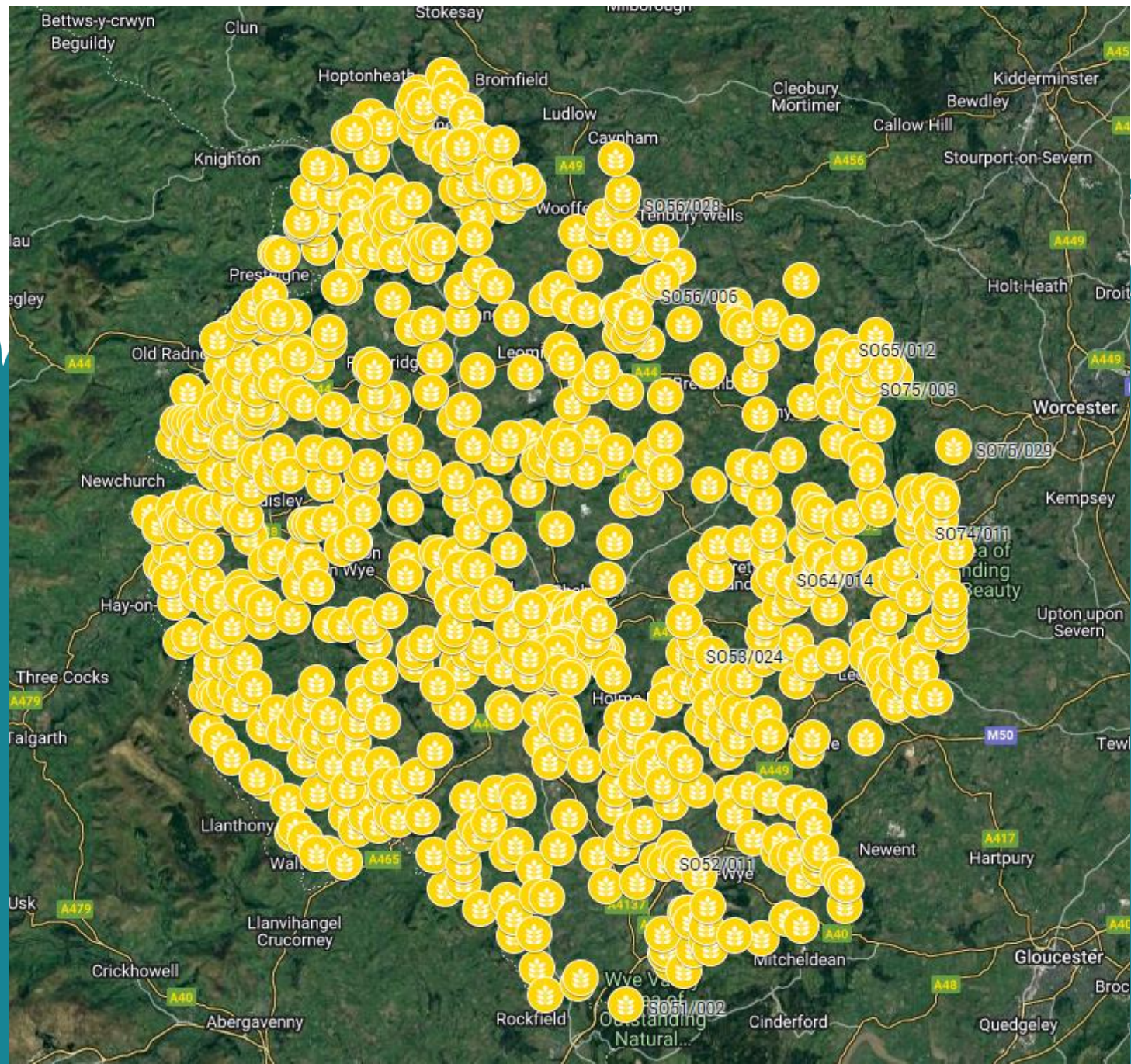
TYPES OF LWS IN HEREFORDSHIRE

- 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>





HOW THE SYSTEM WORKS – LWS PANEL

- 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>



Why Local Wildlife Sites are important

Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) reflect Herefordshire's local character and distinctiveness and since 1990 have played an important role in maintaining and enhancing wildlife in the county by supporting a rich diversity of habitats and providing networks and corridors across our landscape.

LWS are found on public and private land and include a vast range of semi-natural habitats from species-rich grasslands, ancient woodlands, fens and orchards to rivers and stream corridors. They complement the existing statutorily protected sites and form the core of a resilient ecological network.

How Local Wildlife Sites benefit landowners

- * They are an indication of the great value of the biodiversity of the land and acknowledge the landowner's excellent management over the years.
- * Botanical survey data will be given with habitat management plans and options, as well as signposting to grants and other support.
- * Survey information can be used as a baseline for future agri-environment schemes such as ELMS.
- * Evidence of sward diversity can be used to gauge likely carbon sequestration and as potential soil health status.
- * Selection can provide a route to the Priority Habitats Inventory which in turn gives access to higher agri-environment scheme payments.
- * Provides an element of protection (a general presumption against development).
- * Selection does not grant any rights of access.
- * They are non-statutory sites - does not impose any legal obligations or restrictions and does not lead to SSSI designation (an entirely separate process).
- * They are local, and reflect what is important, valuable, and distinctive in Herefordshire.

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?



Green Recovery Challenge Fund

