

FEEDBACK ON AONB PARTNERSHIP STUDY TOUR

Purpose

To feedback on the success of the AONB Partnership Annual Study Tour.

FOR INFORMATION

Key Issues

- A total of 29 people attended the annual AONB Partnership Tour on 21st September.
- There was a good spread of representation from throughout the AONB even though the Tour was focused predominantly on the northern part of the AONB in Herefordshire.
- The tour visited a wide variety of land uses and land management types across the area.
- Feedback from attendees of the Tour has been extremely positive.

Reasons

The AONB Partnership Tour continues to be popular and is a key tool in the transfer of information to the wider partners and interested parties in the AONB particularly to local Ward members, key officers and the Town, Parish and Community Councils. The Tour has always traditionally been held on one of the last Fridays in September.

Implications

Of the 29 attendees on the Wye Valley AONB Partnership Tour, 13 came from Herefordshire, 7 from Gloucestershire and 4 from Monmouthshire. 7 were JAC members, 3 were local authority officers, 14 were from Town/Parish/Community Councils and 2 others, plus 4 AONB staff.

The 2018 Tour looked at a selection of projects and issues in the Herefordshire part of the AONB north of Ross-on-Wye. The day started with a visit to Hurstans Coronation Meadow, Sollers Hope and an introduction to the Herefordshire Meadows Group. Next stop was a viewing and refreshments at the Canwood Gallery & Sculpture Park, Checkley. After some shenanigans in the lanes, Forestry Commission staff led a walk into Haugh Wood to see some of the SSSI woodland management. Lunch was at The Moon Inn, Mordiford. Afterwards there was a quick visit to Ballingham Court Farm, AONB Farming Award winners in 2008, 2012 & 2018, to view their on-farm anaerobic digester. Next stop was the riverside Tresseck Campsite, Hoarwityh. The final visit was a tour around Harewood Park Estate looking at the restoration work on the Duchy of Cornwall estate parkland and live/work units.

Background

The 2017 Tour looked at a selection of projects and issues between Ross and Lydbrook. The 2016 Tour visited sites in and around Tintern in Monmouthshire.