

## **PARTNER AND NATIONAL LANDSCAPE TEAM PROGRESS REPORTS AND UPDATES**

### ***Purpose***

To advise members of activity of the Wye Valley National Landscape Team and other partners.

FOR INFORMATION

Below are update reports on the following National Landscape Team & partner initiatives: -

- a. Wye Bridge update
- b. Management Plan Review - Winter seminar, 19<sup>th</sup> March
- c. National Grid Landscape Enhancement Initiative (LEI) projects/awards
- d. Lower Wye Tracks & Trails Strategy & Steering Group
- e. Wye Valley Walk – Route Guide launch, Ross-on-Wye, 2<sup>nd</sup> April
- f. Wye Adapt to Climate Change project
  - i. Farm visits
  - ii. CAN
- g. Marches Real Food & Farming Convergence, Monmouthshire 3rd-4th October
- h. Review of Natural Flood Management in Wales: Final Report

### **a. Wye Bridge update**

Monmouthshire County Council intend to start work on the Wye Bridge on 22 April 2025, with a 10-week work schedule to resurface A466 over the Wye Bridge at Monmouth. The initial schedule of works and anticipated disruption has now been significantly reduced from that previously proposed in 2023. It is planned that the bridge will remain open to traffic during the day, with the resurfacing work taking place overnight from 8pm to 6am. Pedestrian Access will always be maintained, even when the bridge is closed to traffic at night. Workdays will be from Sunday night to Thursday night, with no work over weekends. Emergency Services access will be maintained at all time. MCC Highways Team will be hosting a drop in session at Wyesham Community Hall on Thursday March 13th to answer any questions and address any concerns. For further details see <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/wye-bridge-resurfacing/>

**b. Management Plan Review - Winter Seminar, 19th March**

The Wye Valley National Landscape Partnership Spring Seminar will focus on the statutory 5 year Review of the Management Plan for the Wye Valley National Landscape, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). This is an all day in-person seminar and marks the start of the AONB Management Plan Review process. There will be opportunities later in the year to feed into the Public Consultation on the new draft Management Plan (when it is produced). But this is an early chance to influence the shape of that draft document. If you would like to attend &/or want to recommend a friend or colleague, please let Juliana Foster, National Landscape Business Support Assistant know [office@wyevalleyaonb.org.uk](mailto:office@wyevalleyaonb.org.uk) .

**c. National Grid Landscape Enhancement Initiative (LEI) projects/awards**

Three applications have been submitted to the National Grid Landscape Enhancement Initiative (LEI), following developmental work with Herefordshire Meadows and landowners within a 3km buffer of the National Grid high voltage powerlines between Walford and Marstow. The first project has been approved and has just commenced, entitled 'Wye Valley Magnificent Meadows, Tremendous Trees and Wonderful Wetlands'. It is a six year project that will deliver pond restoration and management; natural flood management work; small woodland planting; standard and orchard tree planting and species rich grassland creation. Two further 6 year projects, focusing on hedgerow and boundary enhancements, are awaiting sign off by Herefordshire Council, as treasurers to the National Landscape Team.

The National Landscape partnership can have three schemes running at any one time, up to a value of £300,000 funding in each, with the aim of enhancing landscape quality, mitigating the visual impact of the high voltage electricity infrastructure and provide habitat enhancement.

**d. Lower Wye Tracks & Trails Strategy & Steering Group**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Tracks and Trails Steering Group meeting was held, discussing project progress, public engagement, surveys, monitoring, signage and next steps. The main outcomes were

- An audit tender has been confirmed with Earth Science Partnership (ESP) to survey 11km of unsealed unclassified roads around Tintern and Whitebrook
- Investigations continue to implementation of new signage for trails, pending route audit, design approval and installation logistics
- Welsh Government are working on a new all-Wales digital mapping system for Rights of Way, which could significantly improve public access to trail information
- There is a recognised need to create a clear information resource to guide the public on understanding legal trail usage and how and when to report illegal use and issues.

Notes of the meeting, and subsequent further updates, will be publish here:

<https://www.wyevalley-nl.org.uk/caring-for-wye-valley-aonb/our-projects/lowerwyetracksandtrails/>

**e. Wye Valley Walk – Route Guide launch, Ross-on-Wye, 2nd April**

2025 is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the Wye Valley Walk, which started as short sections between Chepstow, Monmouth and Ross in 1975 and gradually extended to become the 138 mile classic long distance route which attracts walkers from across the UK and round the world. The new official route guide, published by Cicerone in collaboration with the Wye Valley Walk Partnership is being launched on Wednesday 2nd April, 7.00pm in St Mary's Church, Ross-on-Wye. The new guidebook follows the Wye from source to sea, whereas previous versions went upstream. Ruth Waycott, National Landscape Information Officer, will give a presentation having walked the entire route for writing the new guide.

**f. Wye Adapt to Climate Change? Project.**

Holly Williams, the Wye Adapt to Climate Change? Programme Officer has been undertaking numerous farm visits and assisting landowners and land managers with nature based solutions to mitigate the impacts of climate change and help tackle climate change and biodiversity loss in and around the National Landscape. This has included advice on wetland creation, tree and hedge planting, herbal ley seeding, Natural Flood Management and grassland management. Holly works with landholders and farmers to help them secure funding for the work from sources like SLSP, SFI, Woodland Trust and FiPL. Holly has also convened the second Climate Action Network meeting.

Wye Adapt to Climate Change? is a 3 year partnership project which started in 2023, between Herefordshire Wildlife Trust, Radnorshire Wildlife Trust and the Wye Valley National Landscape, funded by the National Lottery Community Fund. The project covers the Wye Catchment across Radnorshire, Herefordshire and the Wye Valley National Landscape. Holly is one of 3 Programme Officers, one based with each project partner, and is seconded from Herefordshire Wildlife Trust to the National Landscape Team.

**g. Marches Real Food & Farming Convergence, Monmouthshire, 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

The 2025 Marches Real Food & Farming Convergence will be held at Square Farm, Mitchel Troy, Monmouthshire on 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> October 2025. Square Farm is a local organic family farm, participants in the ACE Monmouth Regenerative Farming scheme and previous runners-up of the AONB Farming Awards.

The Convergence will be an interactive space to explore agroecology, regenerative farming, building strong local supply chains, policy change and food equity. It aims to foster collaboration and reimagine the local food future to create a regenerative and resilient food system. The Convergence is hosted by the Marches Real Food & Farming Network in collaboration with Monmouthshire Food Partnership and the Wye Valley National Landscape.

The programme is still in development. If you want to contribute ideas for Panel sessions, Open forums and Practical workshops - [apply here](#)

There will be Exhibitor opportunities *to share products, projects or ideas of interest to the Convergence audience, if interested you [apply here](#).*

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## Marches Real Food & Farming Convergence

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*Gather | Discuss | Collaborate | Feast*

### SAVE THE DATE:

3rd & 4th Oct 2025 @ Square Farm Monmouth



**SHARE WITH US:**  
We want your Ideas !



#### h. Review of Natural Flood Management in Wales: Final Report

Welsh Government have published the Review of Natural Flood Management in Wales. This overarching report seeks to summarise the findings, outputs and recommendations from recent years, bringing together the information and research to provide a picture of:

- Natural Flood Management (NFM) delivery in Wales to date
- Opportunities for NFM delivery going forward
- Recommendations of how best to deliver NFM

For the full report see

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2025-02/review-of-natural-flood-management-in-wales-final-report.pdf>

