

## ANNUAL REPORT

### ***Purpose***

To present the annual reports for 2024/25 on the achievements of the Wye Valley National Landscape Team.

### ***Recommendations***

That the JAC welcome the Annual Report on National Landscape achievements for 2024/25

### ***Key Issues***

- The 2024/25 Annual Report on the Work Programme is appended for the Wye Valley National Landscape Team.
- High levels of achievement were maintained despite the challenges of some staff turn-over and consequent reduced capacity during recruitment periods.
- The summary financial report will be presented at the November JAC.

### ***Reasons***

The Work Programme Report for 2024/25 tabulates the achievements of the National Landscape Team during the period. The Work Programme Annual Report is also presented to DEFRA and Welsh Government as contributory evidence to the National Landscape Partnership annual grant claims to the two government core funding partners.

### ***Implications***

There are a number of highlights outlined in the 2024/25 Annual Report of achievements from the National Landscape Work Programme. Good progress was made finalising and delivering the Species Action Plans (SAP) for Hedgehogs and Bumblebee assemblages, despite a turnover of Nature Recovery Officers. Control of Invasive Non Native Species (INNS) continued with 40% of sites demonstrating a decrease in abundance of Japanese Knotweed. The Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme invested more the £750,000 into the area. Meanwhile the Wye Adapt to Climate Change Project, in partnership with Herefordshire & Radnorshire Wildlife Trusts, provided farmers & small holders with advice on Nature Based Solutions. Restoration of Cleddon Bog SSSI continued. Access for all was enhanced at several locations and The Willow Walk was established at Ross. The new Wye Valley Walk Route Guide was finished and preparations were made for the programme of walks and events for the Wye Valley Walk's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025. The National Landscape Volunteers completed regular task days at numerous sites throughout the year (and in all weathers). A number of funding bids and collaborations were developed including 3 successful projects under the National Grid Landscape Enhancement Initiatives (LEI) totalling £792,335 over the next 3 years.