

NATIONAL LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL STUDY TOUR

Purpose

To endorse the date and outline programme for the Annual National Landscape Partnership Study Tour.

Recommendations

That the JAC

A. Note the date of Friday 26th September 2025 for the Study Tour, with a focus on the National Grid Landscape Enhancement Initiative and other projects between Ross and Monmouth.

B. Encourage a good attendance, and invite representatives from our neighbouring Shropshire Hills and Malvern Hills National Landscape Partnerships and the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority and other appropriate partners.

Key Issues

- The Wye Valley National Landscape Partnership Annual Tour will be held on Friday 26th September.
- The programme is still being finalised but will focus predominantly on projects supported through the National Grid Landscape Enhancement Initiative and other projects and other land management issues between Ross and Monmouth.
- Initial invitations for expressions of interest to attend will be sent out shortly.
- Invitations should be extended to representatives from our neighbouring Designated Landscapes and other appropriate partner organisations in the interest of sharing good practice and broadening collaboration.

Reasons

The Annual Wye Valley National Landscape Partnership Tour is hosted by the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) and has a good reputation as both an information exchange and networking opportunity, with good attendance from the wider National Landscape Partnership. The invitation to attend the Tour is extended to all members of the JAC, to Senior Officers and County and District Councillors whose wards fall within the Wye Valley National Landscape along with representatives from all the constituent Town/Parish/Community Councils. It is thus a key tool in the transfer of information to the wider partners and interested parties in and around the National Landscape.

Implications

The date of 26th September is proposed for the 2025 Wye Valley National Landscape Partnership Tour. In the interests of wider collaboration invitations will be made to other appropriate partner organisations and neighbouring Designated Landscapes; including the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority, the Malvern Hills and Shropshire Hills National Landscape Partnerships, the National Landscapes Association, Welsh Government and DEFRA.

The programme for the Tour is still being finalised, but will include visiting one or two locations benefiting from the National Grid's Landscape Enhancement Initiative (LEI) funded projects. Other sites visited are likely to include landscape management, access and river issues in the area around between Ross-on-Wye and Monmouth, in the middle section of the Wye Valley National Landscape.

The event reaches a wide audience of National Landscape partners and interested parties and always proves to be very popular and informative for those who attend. Lunch and transport will be included in the modest charge to attendees.

Background

Each year the JAC hosts the Annual Study Tour.

In 2024 the tour focused on Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) projects and land management issues in the Herefordshire part of the National Landscape. Visits included looking at a free-range egg production enterprise; maize undersowing & Natural Flood Management (NFM) projects; agroforestry, orchards, solar panels, beef & arable production, an anaerobic digester, barn restoration & glamping; DEFRA Access for All projects including t Ross Riverside & Willow Walk with new disabled parking & bridges.

In 2023 the Tour was focused around the lower Wye Valley between Monmouth and Tintern. The tour visited a range of sites and initiatives associated with visitor, social and/or land-use management, supported in various ways by the AONB Unit and designation, including Tintern Visitor Experience signage, a One Planet Development, a decarbonising Village Hall, 2 farms - one a Nature Reserve and the other a youth farm charity, and Old Station Tintern.

The 2022 Tour visited a variety of sites associated with land-use and land management and various AONB projects and initiatives, with regenerative farming and recreation, including variously football, fishing and hostel accommodation, in and around Ross-on-Wye, Brampton Abbots, Lydbrook & Welsh Bicknor in the south Herefordshire and Gloucestershire parts of the AONB.