

Wye Valley National Landscape Team - Work Programme 2025-2026 – Annual Report

Work Programme Objectives	National Landscape Team Achievements & Outcomes 2025-26
<u>Nature</u>	
<u>Species Actions Plans (SAP) for Special Qualities [SQ]</u>	
· Finish/publish: Woodland butterfly assemblage SAP for Wood White and Pearl Bordered Fritillary in relation to Woodlands [SQ2]	Published and adopted by Wye Valley National Landscape Joint Advisory Committee, as 4 th of 5 SAPs
· Draft Water Crowfoot SAP as indicator for River [SQ3, SQ10]	Final SAP drafted and presented to TOWP. Collaboration with Friends of River Wye over river drone filming trials and Big Ranunculus Watch. Water-crowfoot (Ranunculus) drone survey methodology written up for peer review.
o Noble Chafer beetle SAP in relation to Orchard habitats & Veteran Trees [SQ27, SQ18]	In partnership with The eDNA Consultancy, a new species-specific environmental DNA (eDNA) primer was investigated to enable more effective detection of Noble Chafer populations. Once validated, this technique will be used to survey orchards across the National Landscape, helping to identify previously unknown populations, target conservation efforts and inform future habitat management. Habitat enhancement has included the creation of new traditional orchards at Bendith, Ross-on-Wye, and Stowe Court, St Briavels (20 trees), alongside the provision of fruit trees to landowners to restore existing orchards. Funding was also provided to support a programme of traditional orchard management and pruning workshops delivered by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, helping landowners develop the skills required to maintain these valuable habitats. Public engagement has remained an important aspect of the project. A Traditional Orchard Storytelling event, led by ethnobotanist Pridie Tiernan, combining folklore, outdoor learning and nature connection to raise awareness of the ecological and cultural importance of traditional orchards and the wildlife they support. To further enhance breeding habitat, three new Noble Chafer habitat boxes were constructed to be installed within suitable orchards.

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o Hedgehog SAP as a locally iconic species [SQ1, SQ4, SQ5, SQ26]; including Support Hedgehog Rescue Centre	The Hedgehog Monitoring Project was delivered at Walford Primary School, Trellech Primary School and Whitchurch Primary School, engaging over 300 children in hedgehog conservation and citizen science. The supply and loan of tracking tunnels and wildlife cameras enabled hedgehog activity to be recorded at all three schools. Monitoring was also undertaken at Lower Gockett Farm (Monmouth) and Howle Hill (Walford). Two individual hedgehogs were recorded at Lower Gockett Farm, while no activity was detected at Howle Hill, providing valuable baseline data to inform future conservation work. Community engagement included six public events promoting hedgehog conservation, including workshops, family activities and community events across the Wye Valley. A hedge laying course at Trellech Wet Meadow, delivered in partnership with Monmouthshire Meadows, supported the restoration and traditional management of hedgerows as essential habitat and wildlife corridors for hedgehogs. The Prickly Patch Hedgehog Rehabilitation Centre, near Monmouth, funded and supported, strengthening local capacity for the rescue, rehabilitation and release of injured and orphaned hedgehogs.
o Bumblebee assemblage SAP with focus on Shrill Carder, Brown-banded Carder, and Red-shanked Carder in Grassland sites [SQ4].	Three Bumblebee ID and Monitoring Workshops were delivered to recruit and train volunteers for the Buzzwatch project, increasing and up-skilling local capacity for long-term bumblebee monitoring. The workshops were successful, with participants at Trellech Wet Meadow recording one of the National Landscape's priority species, the Red-shanked Carder Bee. Public engagement activities included educational stalls at the Ross Town Council Picnic in the Park, where visitors learnt about the importance of bumblebees and took part in wildflower seed bomb activities to promote pollinator-friendly habitats. Baseline eDNA surveys were also undertaken at Landscape Enhancement Initiative (LEI) grassland restoration sites to investigate the potential for monitoring bumblebee populations before habitat enhancement works. Although no bumblebee DNA was detected using the initial methodology, the findings have informed a revised survey approach, with repeat surveys planned using an improved methodology this year.

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<u>Farming & land management support:</u> advice, guidance and grants, including River Friendly Farming, Natural Flood Management (NFM) & Habitat Creation/Restoration	
· Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme [England only]	The new FiPL Officer was recruited. The FiPL allocation for the year was £339,063.00 with the budget being fully spent during the year. In total grants were offered to 33 projects. 118 farmers were involved in one capacity or another, with 326 ha of land supported. Outputs included: • Thirteen projects delivered outcomes reducing flood risk, including 6 new ponds. • Seventeen projects were involved with delivering understanding of Carbon storage, Carbon emissions and Climate Change impacts, such as the creation of 6.3 ha of woodland and 490 metres of hedgerow. • Ten school days were supported. • Eight projects delivered outcomes to improve the resilience of nature friendly sustainable farming businesses. Examples include an on-farm butchery retail unit; A2 milk pasteurising for on-farm sale; faster sterilising of apple juice bottling.

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Ffermio Bro, Welsh Government programme. Working together to:- • Support nature recovery and ecosystem resilience • Deliver activities spanning multiple farms to achieve common environmental goals • Enhance farm business sustainability and resilience • Create opportunities for public engagement with our landscapes and cultural heritage	Ffermio Bro Officer recruited, and delivery of the collaborative programme funding activities spanning multiple farms to create landscape-scale impact. Full budget spend of £98,000 was achieved. Collaboration focused on 2 aspects: Thematic – Farms across the National Landscape working toward shared goals, without requiring formal cluster arrangements, Geographic - Projects where farmers work together on connect habitats and/or through local catchments along rivers or streams undertaking coordinated actions to improve water quality, In the first year Ffermio Bro worked with 11 Farmers facilitating: – 1,600m of new hedgerows planted – 710m hedgerows restored – 12ha of woodland enhanced – Leaky dams installed and ponds created – 914m of riparian corridors enhanced – Dry Stone Walls repaired
· Wye Adapt to Climate Change? (WACC) Programme	18 new farms were visited and provided site-specific advice on opportunities for nature recovery, sustainable land management, and natural flood management. Support was provided to deliver the following interventions: - 5 ponds created - 2 ponds restored - 26 ha meadow restored - 33 leaky dams installed - 1.1 km hedge planted - 1.2 km fencing installed (e.g. to fence off a brook from livestock or improve grassland management). - 327 m hedge laid - 1.8 ha trees planted (i.e. to create shelterbelt, orchard and riparian woodland)

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	- 3.5 ha herbal ley seeded
<u>· National Grid Landscape Enhancement Initiative (LEI) projects</u>	
o Magnificent Meadows Tremendous Trees and Wonderful Wetlands [LEI 1]	• 1.73ha of meadow grassland creation across 2 landholdings. • 30 parkland trees and 5 orchard trees planted. • NFM interventions at one farm including a 140m bund, sediment trap and a 200m² attenuation pond. • 8 leaky dams installed across 2 landholdings.
o Marstow and Pencraig landscape connections [LEI 2]	• 826m of new hedge planted across 3 landholdings. • 21 Standard Hedgerow Trees planted in new and existing hedge lines, over 2 landholdings • 184m of hedge have been restored at Little Whitfield Farm through protection from livestock
o Whitchurch to Howle Hill landscape enhancements [LEI 3]	• 793m of new hedge planted across 5 landholdings. • 55 Standard Hedgerow Trees planted in new and existing hedgelines, over 4 landholdings • 367m of hedge has been restored through gapping up and coppicing on 3 farms. • 11 roadside field gates have been installed adding to the distinctive character and setting of the landscape.
· Conservation Grazing	Collaboration on-going with Herefordshire Meadows CIC, Monmouthshire Meadows Group, Grazing Management Ltd, Woodland Trust and other interested landowners.
· River Friendly Farming	Worked with Herefordshire Rural Hub, Farm Herefordshire and Wye & Usk Foundation, particularly through Wyescapes - Food, Nature, Water - Landscape Recovery project. Farm Herefordshire & Wyescapes boards attended, supported Rural Hub with evidence for Wyescapes submission to DEFRA. Outputs included within LEI project work, FiPL and other updates
· Natural Flood Management (NFM) projects	NFM advice, guidance and signposting to grants through FiPL & WACC On-going liaison with Local Planning Authorities and other stakeholders over Planning requirements for ponds & lakes. Outputs included within LEI project work, FiPL and other updates

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Invasive Non Native Species (INNS) control	• 336 recorded stands of Japanese Knotweed treated. • 448 American Skunk Cabbage plants treated at sites across Brockweir, Cleddon and Whitebrook. • 3,800 Cherry Laurel stems treated at Brockweir and the Hudnalls SSSI / National Nature Reserve. • 3 volunteer days of Himalayan Balsam bashing organised. • 1 Himalayan Balsam action group supported (Archenfield Community Environment Group).
Wildlife of the Wye Valley Guide/Leaflet	Draft text prepared.
<u>Climate</u>	
Peatland Restoration particularly at Cleddon Bog SSSI	• 1800m2 of scrub cleared (about 1.2% of SSSI), with 660 workhours in total, from four chainsaw operators and 25 labourers removing around 4,500 willow and birch trees. • 8 cattle with no-fence collars grazed the site from May-September with Grazing Management Ltd. & volunteer cattle checkers • A National Vegetation Classification (NVC) survey of Cleddon Bog SSSI was carried out in July 2025, to compare with a 2008 NVC 'Lowland Peatland Survey'. Changes to vegetation communities which have occurred since 2008 were assessed. ○ A number of locally scarce or rare plants are still present. One notable liverwort was newly recorded – <i>Kurzia sylvatica</i> is new to Monmouthshire. The site remains of high conservation value for its mire communities. ○ Meetings held to refine reduced grazing numbers on SSSI for 2026 due to survey results.
Climate Action Plan	• Initial draft prepared with guidance from National Landscape Association (NLA). • 4 staff attended Carbon Literacy training • Staff at Landscape Observatory: Climate Smart Adaptive Management Workshops. • Upgraded EV van purchased for Wye Valley National Landscape Team.
Carbon & Climate Assessments of Landscape Management Zones (LMZs)	Preliminary investigation made. But time and data insufficient for detailed output.

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Climate Action Network (CAN) & Wye Adapt to Climate Change (WACC) events	CAN meetings convened and hosted. In September 2025, the WACC project coordinated a ‘Day of Action’ for climate and wildlife, bringing together around 20 events across the Wye Valley National Landscape and Herefordshire. Delivered in partnership with Herefordshire Wildlife Trust (HWT), the day featured activities led by staff from the Wye Valley National Landscape team, HWT, and a range of community groups and organisations. Events focused on climate action, nature recovery, and sustainability, with highlights including free travel on the 65 and 69 bus routes between Monmouth and Chepstow—sponsored in collaboration with Monmouthshire County Council—to encourage sustainable transport. Other activities included a tour of an off-grid smallholding, farm walks showcasing climate-friendly farming, and surveys exploring local biodiversity. Around 150 people took part in events throughout the day. Feedback identified that the events were well received and the subsidised buses had increased passenger numbers. We hope to replicate the day September 2026.
Training & Development	4 staff attended Carbon Literacy training
<u>People</u>	
Volunteers – tasks & events	Monthly conservation tasks with average 15-25 volunteers. • 12 task days over 11 months (break for August). Tasks include Scything, Balsam Control, drystone walling, vegetation clearance, birch clearance, hedge & tree planting, shelterbelt planting & litter picks. Collaborated with 10 different organisation/landowners on volunteer events. • also held 2 volunteer training session: ○ Clay Estates Farm Tour- learning about their sustainable farming practices and future projects. ○ Lower Gockett Farm- learning about Natural Flood Management, sustainable farming and the Prickly Patch Hedgehog Rehabilitation Centre. • WVNL supports various local Volunteer Groups ○ Hedgehog First Responders Unit & Prickly Patch Rescue Centre. ○ Wet Meadow Cattle Checkers. ○ Beacon Hill & Cleddon Bog Cattle Checkers. ○ Ross Walkers are Welcome - Miles without Stiles group.

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	○ Young Adventures. • Cattle Checkers have clocked up 378 hours of volunteering. • Hedgehog First Responders & Prickly Patch Volunteers have clocked up 900 hours. • Ross walkers are Welcome- Miles Without Stiles volunteers have clocked up 594 hours. • Youth Adventurers volunteer has clocked up 24 hours. Total volunteer hours over the past 12 months: 2,940 hours over 240 days of work.
Young Adventurers	Engaged 82 attendances of young people, several regular children who attend have SEN. Activities included: • April 25- Tour of the Beaver Enclosure, near Lydbrook. • May 25- Bush Craft at Bearse Farm, St Briavels. • June 25- Hedgehog House Building with a talk from our hedgehog Champion Dylan Allman. • July 25- Traditional Crafts- Whittling and Drystone walling at Trellech Church. • September 25- Water sampling and invertebrate ID - Climate Day of Action, Llanishen. • October 25- Geology Walk and Cave exploring, Lords Wood, The Doward. • November 25- Screen Printing, Whitchurch Village Hall. • December 25- Xmas crafts at Bears Farm. • February 26- Outdoor cooking at Wyesham Community Woodland with Ancient Boar Adventurers.
Training & Development of LPA staff & Cllrs including s85 Training	Programme in development. Standard response letter drafted and shared with LPAs with offer of training sessions, jointly with Malvern Hills NL.
Governance, including Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) & National Landscape Partnership (inc. training, Tour & Seminar)	• JAC Membership review progressed, with 2 new JAC members recruited. Work to fill further vacancies suffered due to time constraints, both of potential new members and other WVNL priorities. • Annual Study Tour organised on 26th Sept, with 31 attendees from a good spread of representatives from across the National Landscape. The Tour visited various conservation and access and farm projects around the Bishopswood, Goodrich and Brelston Green area, including undergrounding of electricity lines, Kerne Bridge Canoe launch site, the National Grid Landscape Enhancement Initiative (LEI) and Wyescapes projects. • 3 JAC's serviced, along with 3 Technical Officers' Working Party (TOWP) meetings hosted and 2 Steering Group meetings. • New Memorandum of Understanding drafted and shared with LA partners and Malvern Hills NL.

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	• 2026/7 draft Work Programme presented to TOWP & JAC
Wye Valley National Landscape Fund with Herefordshire Community Foundation (HCF)	The fund is currently closed to allow the Endowment Fund interest to grow in value for new applicants.
Wye Valley Walk (WVW) 50th Anniversary events	• Launch of new source-to-sea Wye Valley Walk Official Cicerone Guide Book at Chepstow Library during Chepstow Walking Festival. • Programme of 13 guided walks from source to sea, April to October (200 participants). • Certificate award ceremony in Chepstow Museum for individuals that completed whole route. • Spin off exhibition of paintings/ video 'Flow/Llif' in the Museum Winter 2025/6, (4,369 visitors). Exhibition to move to Hereford in July 2026. • Collaboration with The Outdoor Guide putting the Wye Valley Walk onto this popular walking platform and supplying 10 'Waterproofs and Wellies' packs for schools on the Wye Valley Walk. • Travel Lightly Public Transport Map for the Wye Valley Walk produced. • 8 eye-catching Wye Valley Walk benches installed at the key viewpoints on the Walk: Hafren Forest, Fownhope, Caplor viewpoint, Townsend Farm, Biblins, Monmouth Showground, Duchess's Ride Llandogo and , St Michaels Church Tintern. • Wye Valley Walk passport scheme currently has 666 members. Counter data retrieved from Piercefield for 12 month to August 2025. Highest counter (of 4) totalled 24,056 for year, with 3,694 for August, therefore an average of about 65 people per day. 50% of all use is on the weekend. 51% of use between 12noon and 5pm.
Website update & review	Proposals & specification drafted
LA Liaison	Turnover of senior officers at Herefordshire Council necessitated renewed engagement with new hierarchy. Herefordshire Cabinet member briefing delivered in March 26.
Local, Regional & National partnerships, collaborations & liaison, including National	• Good team representation at the National Landscapes Conference in Winchester • Wye Valley National Landscape Manager in 2nd year as chair of TCLW.

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Landscapes Association (NLA) and Tirweddau Cymru Landscapes Wales (TCLW)	• Hosted TCLW seminar at Caer Llan with 60 delegates from across Wales' 5 National Landscapes and 3 National Parks. Site visits took delegates to Meend Farm, Lower Gockett Farm and Cleddon Bog SSSI. The event incorporated the official launch of Ffermio Bro by the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Changes and Rural Affairs, Huw Irranca-Davies, at Meend Farm, Penallt. • Staff engagement variously with NLA & TCLW briefings, workshops, working groups & training sessions. • NLA Lead Officers' meeting attended in Birmingham and NLA Chairs' Conference in London. • 2 staff involved in National Landscapes Academy, with series of residential CPD / personal development / teamworking events.
Place	
AONB Management Plan Review	Programme progressed, albeit slowly in-house. • Vision and Special Qualities reviewed & condensed, document framework produced and Strategic Objectives reviewed and consolidated. • Pre-consultation Draft Management Plan prepared and shared with TOWP & JAC.
· Nature Recovery Plan	Complete Nature Recovery Plan, presented to TOWP and approved by JAC.
· State of the National Landscape Report	State of the National Landscape Report draft updated
Lower Wye Track & Trails Action Plan & Steering Group	• 2 Steering Group meetings held. • Consultants' report received on the audit of approximately 11 km of unsealed UCRs across two areas around Tintern and Whitebrook. The audit focuses on the condition and management of each unsealed UCR, including a habitat survey, along with proposed options for practical interventions to address identified issues, including surface repairs, improved drainage, and restoration of natural and cultural/historical features. • 1 Steering Group workshop facilitated to consider results of UCR condition audit. 4 priority routes agreed: ○ Whitebrook: Horse Way/Grove Road & the Maypole Road cluster ○ Tintern: Tintern Road & Chapel Hill Road.

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Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places (SLSP) Nature & Climate programme[Wales only]	Wide range of Nature & Climate projects funded, including River Friendly Farming & NFM interventions, INNS control, SAP delivery also Fencing off of SAC woodland by Alcove viewpoint in Piercefield Woods SSSI. 2 Community halls were supported with Decarbonization Enhancements. • Mitchel Troy received an energy audit from Gwent Energy CIC • The Bridge Centre had an electric vehicle charging point installed. Upgraded EV Charge Point installed at Wye Valley National Landscape Office
Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) [Wales only]	10 projects were supported through the SDF. • Grazing Management- Conservation Grazing at Wet Meadow [Yr 2 of 2]. • Marches Real Food and Farming Network- Marches Real Food and Farming Convergence. • The Prickly Patch: Rehabilitating hedgehogs for a Wye-Id and happy future. • Chepstow Boat Club- Enhanced Chepstow Pontoon & Walkway. • Wye Valley River Festival- Rare Earth [Yr2 of 2]. • One Planet- Community Biochar Training [Yr 1 of 3]. • Lower Gockett Farm- Events Shelter. • Roots In- Regenerative farm engagement programme • Wyesham Community Woodland Management Plan [Yr1 of 2] • St Michael's Church, Mitchel Troy- Drystone wall repairs.
Access for All enhancements (England)	14 projects were supported through the DEFRA Access for all funding • Footpath enhancements along the WVV in Fownhope included a new handrail and steps up to Caplor Camp and surface improvements. • Carpark surfacing and installation of 2 disabled bays at Fownhope Pavilion. • New access for all picnic bench at Haugh Wood car park area. • New sensory, bench along the access route and wood white butterfly walk in Haugh Wood. • Re-surfacing Haugh Wood Carpark and the installation of marked disabled bays. • 'Wye Princess' river boat refurbishment project to enable vessel to be launched as a community facility to run educational and recreational trips for disadvantaged and disabled groups.

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	• 1 new gate was installed at Bicknor Court along footpath REB7 replacing a stile to create better access for local walkers. • Contribution to development and design of an access for all Changing Places facility at Red Meadow carpark in Ross-on-woye. • Contribution to installation of a wheelchair path to Biblins Youth Campsite activity field to enable users access to campfire site and archery area. • Contribution towards the preliminary designs for upgrading both Redbrook Bridge and Lydbrook Bridge. • WVV bench was installed at Biblins. • Access for All bench installed along the Rope Walk in Ross, this included laying Biopave and Teram geotextile matting around the bench area to enable wheelchair users to access the bench. • Further mapping, warmakers, interpretation and illustrated map designs for the 'Willow Walk'. • Willow coracle man woven sculpture installed at Townsend Farm. • Willow Walk illustrated map completed • Stiles replaced with gates in Fownhope and Woolhope area, improving access for local residence and visitors as part of Ross Walkers are Welcome - Miles without stiles programme.
Trellech Common Access Improvements	Following the installation of a 2-way bridleway gate in 2024 for the Wheelchair Ramble, The North Footpath Group asked if the section of path that leads from the gate into Trellech Common could be surfaced as it is a well-used path for locals. The WVNL liaised with Monmouthshire Countryside, NRW and the Community Council to oversee the re-surfacing of the 240m of PROW 382/406/2 in October 25. The project was a huge success with many positive comments from local residence who are now able to use the path all year-round including residents with off road wheelchairs and pushchairs.
Access Audits	Experience Community were commissioned to carry out access audits at Haugh Wood and Chepstow Park Woods. The audits made recommendations to improve access to both sites and created a Photo Trail for wheelchair users to follow. Following the audits a number of improvements have been made at Haugh Wood through the Defra Access for All funding.

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	The Chepstow Park Wood recommendations have been presented to the Monmouthshire Local Access Forum and NRW with a view to implement quick wins in the future such as on-site information and wheelchair accessible benches and picnic tables.
· Cleddon Falls & Jubilee Walk	Enhancements made to waterfall steps after treefall and landslip.
· 65 & 69 Bus Routes/Walks	Climate Day of Action included free travel on the 65 and 69 buses allowing attendees at events to travel by public transport. Travel lightly public transport map for WVNL in production.
Fixed Point Photos	Summer photos in 2025 completed. Winter 2025/26 incomplete due to time resources – consideration being given to reducing level of photography from twice per year to a single summer programme.
Undergrounding (low voltage lines)	Wales – schemes in Trellech and Llanishen have been approved by the steering group and work, including landowners' consent, being programmed in by National Grid. Anticipated completion by Spring 2027. England – schemes at Sollers Hope, Fownhope and Edge End, nr Coleford have been approved by the steering group and are now with National Grid teams for consultation and, pending permissions and consents, delivery.
Planning & Development Control - Planning applications - Local Plan reviews - Position Statements on Tranquillity, Setting & Cultural Capital - Land use Framework	• Ongoing monitoring of Planning Applications and 35 comments/responses made. • Liaison with LPAs over Local Plans • Tranquillity context drafted for new Position Statement • Information fed into various NLA responses, including on Land use Framework. • On-going monitoring of Planning Applications and comments / responses made as necessary. • Forest of Dean Local Plan scrutinised and response prepared with Malvern Hills NL, • Comments provided to Scrutiny Committee on Monmouthshire Review Development Local Plan.
Cultural heritage projects - Overlooking the Wye legacy & Offa's Dyke Collaboratory	Assessment of various Overlooking the Wye interpretation panels that had reached end of life. Overlooking the Wye self-guided walking leaflets reviewed and redrafts prepared.
Marches Real Food and Farming Convergence	The Convergence took place 3-4 th October 2025 at Square Farm, Mitchel Troy, bringing together nearly 200 people over 2 days for conversations, panel sessions, workshops, walks and talks on a wide range of food

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	and farming topics. Despite storm Amy bringing wind and rain and reducing on the day footfall, the event went well and was successful in building connections across the bioregion. See full programme here The video clip on the website and photo gallery capture the spirit of the event. Over the weekend there were: • 8 plenary discussions covering issues from regenerative farming to diets and involving council members, farmers and producers, food advocates and school children. • 8 open forum discussions, providing space for dialogue on farm clusters, listening to the land, a basic income for farmers and food partnership priorities. • 4 farm walks both with the host farmer Rob and local experts and practical sessions that covered measuring nutrient density, to making preserves and seeing what was alive in the soil from a Johnson Su experiment. • The Collaboration Hub-space to facilitate conversation and to capture ideas, opportunities and challenges.
Landscape Connections Bid to National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF)	Proposals developed for a 10 Year cross-border initiative working with famers, landowners and communities to strengthen connections between people and their landscape, restore nature and improve water quality. Focus on catchments feeding into the River Wye within the Wye Valley National Landscape, addressing systematic problems at a landscape scale. Proposals shared with partners including Farm Herefordshire, Wye Catchment Partnership, Wye & Usk Foundation, Herefordshire Wildlife Trust, Marches Real Food and Farming Convergence, Herefordshire Council Natural Environment Team, Woodland Trust, Wyescapes Project Board, TOWP and endorsed by JAC. Expression of Interest submitted to NLHF in mid March 2026.
PR, communications & outreach activities	Dark Skies Promotion and Outreach: • 4 x Biofluorescent Walks at Whitestone (60 participants), • Planetarium at Trellech Church and The Garron Centre (80 participants total). • Dark Skies bench installed at Fownhope Recreation ground with associated Dark Skies content web content: https://fownhopeparishcouncil.gov.uk/from-the-dark-skies-bench/ • Nightjar walk on Beacon Hill (20 participants),

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	Walking Outreach: • Chepstow Walking Festival - Paperchase through Whitebrook walk (16 participants) & Wye Valley Walk illustrated talk (60 participants), Geology Walk (20 participants), • Ross Walking Festival Flower Patch Walk (20 participants), • Community Walk to Wye Valley Walk bench Beacon Hill (20 participants) Comms: Our social media presence has continued to grow with just under 14,000 followers. Facebook accounts for most of the growth and is our most effective channel for sharing information on our activities and events, with LinkedIn becoming increasingly useful. We published 210 posts on Facebook. during the year, which were also published on Instagram and LinkedIn. Additional stories were put out on Instagram to publicise events and on our newish Wye Valley Walk Instagram page. Top content through views past 3 months was: Wye Valley Walk new benches & walk suggestions (25366), WVV Public Transport Map (20673), Volunteers at St Mary's Tintern (11386) Wye Valley Walk 'Flow/ Llif' exhibition (7557), Invasive Species (6950), Himalayan Balsam (6222) and Woodland Butterfly Walk (5345)
Funding, resource management & Monitoring	▪ Herefordshire Cabinet report on Acceptance of National Landscape funding. ▪ Bids and Claims submitted as required, with 10 different core & capital claims submitted to different criteria and deadlines for end of financial year and 2 project claims. ▪ Monthly meetings with Herefordshire Council Capital Accountant. ▪ Wye Valley National Landscape Steering Group serviced and reviews budget in October & February. ▪ All budgets spent and claimed within thresholds.
Work placements	• 4 day placement provided to A Level student. • Careers advice provided to 2 young people. • Reference provided for former placement. • List of proposed Masters topics circulated to local colleges & universities. • Hosted site visit for Worcester University BSc Environmental Management and Sustainability students.