

## **Key Findings of ‘Developing collaborative land management actions in Breconshire’ Feasibility Study**

### **1. Introduction**

This feasibility study has been commissioned by the Green Connections Powys project (the project). The project operates across the county of Powys and is collaboration between [Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust](#), [Radnorshire Wildlife Trust](#) (RWT) and the Brecknock Office of the [Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales](#).

### **2. Background**

Following on from a previously commissioned feasibility study, ‘Exploring Collaborative Habitat Land Management in Powys’. MAES Services were commissioned to build on the results of this study and provide one-to-one facilitation for small landowners and land management contractors within Breconshire, with the aim of creating sustainable relationships between services and service providers to bring about better habitat management.

### **3. Key Findings**

- a. **Signposting of grants** – A recurring topic of conversation with landowners is the lack of awareness of what funding is available for land-based projects/work.

**Recommendation:** Project staff should encourage all land holders they engage with to subscribe to Welsh Government Gwlad newsletter and explore the possibility of creating a land owner mailing list and newsletter where grants and advice can be easily shared.

- b. **Applying for funding** – Several individuals expressed the need for support in applying for WG Agri environment funding schemes due to them having no knowledge of systems such as Rural Payments Wales.

**Recommendation:** Explore the creation the of a ‘Contractors & Consultants directory’ where individuals and groups could be signposted to an agent or facilitator who could apply for a grant on their behalf.

- c. **Machinery hire, loaning of equipment and machine rings** - During conversations, the hire, loaning and the idea of a machine ring were discussed.

**Recommendation:** Explore in partnership with other likeminded organisations, whether a suite of machinery that aligns to the needs of smaller landowners could be centrally held with a commercial operator for hiring and leasing, modelled on the Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water weed wiper scheme.

- d. **Establishment of a South Brecknock Wildlife Landowner Group** – Individuals located in the south Brecknock area expressed an interest in the creation of a southern group although no one identified themselves as a lead point of contact.

**Recommendation:** Further work and facilitation is required in the creation of a South Brecknock group. This should be explored when staff resources allow, although this group may naturally occur as membership of the North Brecknock group increases.

- e. **Land Engagement officers/further facilitation** – A strong theme raised during engagement with landowners was the desire to have a single point of contact for a longer period who could undertake an initial survey of a holding, produce a management plan which incorporates themes such as nature, access, heritage etc and identify funding sources.

**Recommendation:** Explore the idea of funding an engagement officer (potentially in partnership with an organisation) that takes a holistic approach to land management which incorporates work nature recovery, health & wellbeing, heritage etc.

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