**The benefits of having a Local Wildlife Site**

**A guide for landowners**

There are many positives from achieving Local Wildlife Site (LWS) status for your land:

* It acknowledges the landowner’s excellent management over many years.
* They may offer an edge in the diversification of farming or business enterprises.
* Landowners receive a report with botanical (flora) and fauna survey data
* The report also contains habitat management suggestions with sign-posting to grants and other support (where applicable)
* This survey information can be used as a baseline for future agri-environment schemes where payment by results may also be a feature.
* A baseline botanical survey revealing good plant diversity can provide a route to gain access to higher agri-environment scheme payments.
* Evidence of sward diversity (gained from the botanical survey) can be used to gauge likely carbon sequestration potential for possible future carbon credits as well as potential soil health status.
* LWS status provides an element of protection (a general presumption against harmful development)
* **LWS selection is non-statutory so does not impose any legal obligations or restrictions**, but they are identified in a local authority search e.g. when purchasing property or land.
* **LWS status does not affect current agricultural activity** – any management plans are advisory and will either complement existing good management or provide advice of how landowners could enhance the biodiversity interest of the site.
* **LWS selection does not grant any rights of access** (but may be helpful if landowners wish to hold events and encourage naturalists/photographers).
* **LWS selection does not lead to SSSI designation** – the two processes are entirely separate.
* Across the country, without Local Wildlife Sites and their sympathetic owners there would be far fewer places for wildlife.

If you own wildlife-rich land in Powys and would like a free survey, please get in contact with Fiona (LWS Officer) on 07377 440887 or fiona@rwtwales.org

Extracts taken from Herefordshire Wildlife Trust website – Local Wildlife Sites section.