

South Mercia Grassland Focus



Why Grasslands?



- 95% loss of lowland meadows in England
- 20% of Neutral grasslands in England
 - Similar picture in Herefordshire and Gloucestershire
- Small sites but they are the jewels in the crown – some with incredible diversity
 - Scattered but broadly connected

Priority Habitat is being lost continually

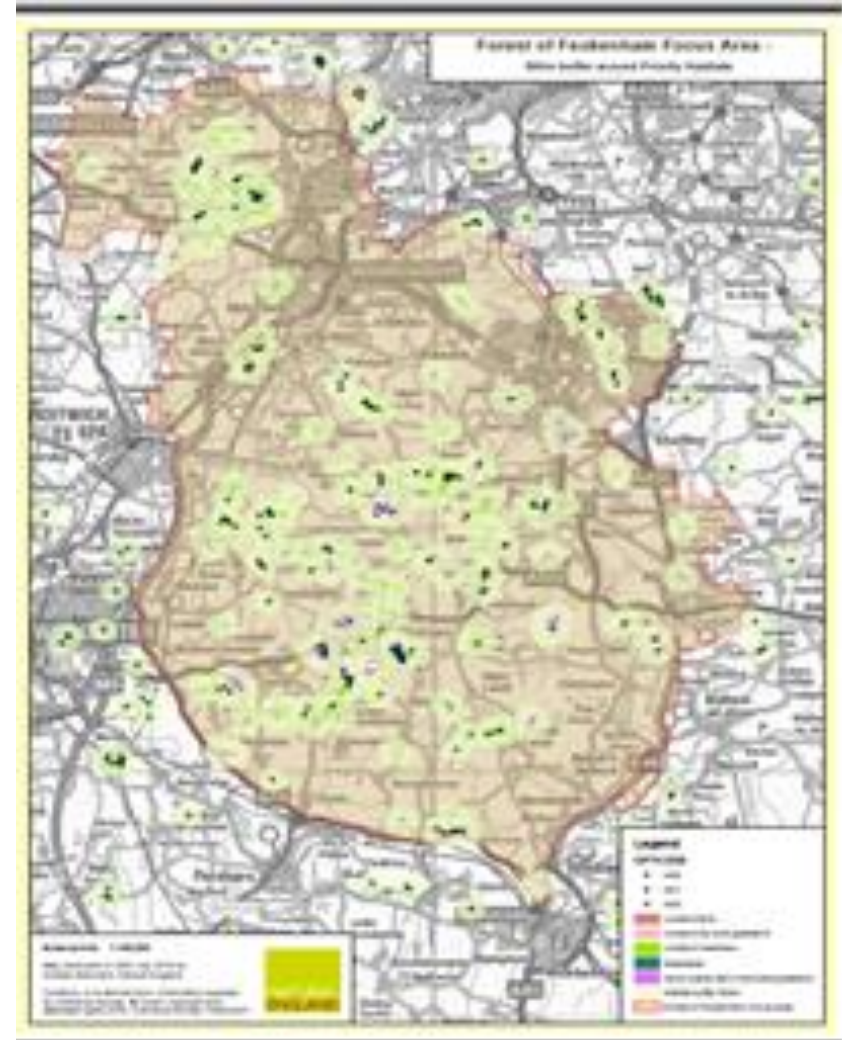


- **An assessment of data between 2002 – 2006 showed that about 36% of grassland and mixed grassland sites in Worcestershire were damaged or destroyed**
- **This attrition is ongoing**
- **EIA's are a window into how these habitats are being lost**
- **Small sites don't score in CS but need protecting**
 - **We are trying to solve this through grouping small sites to bring into scheme**

Opportunity Mapping

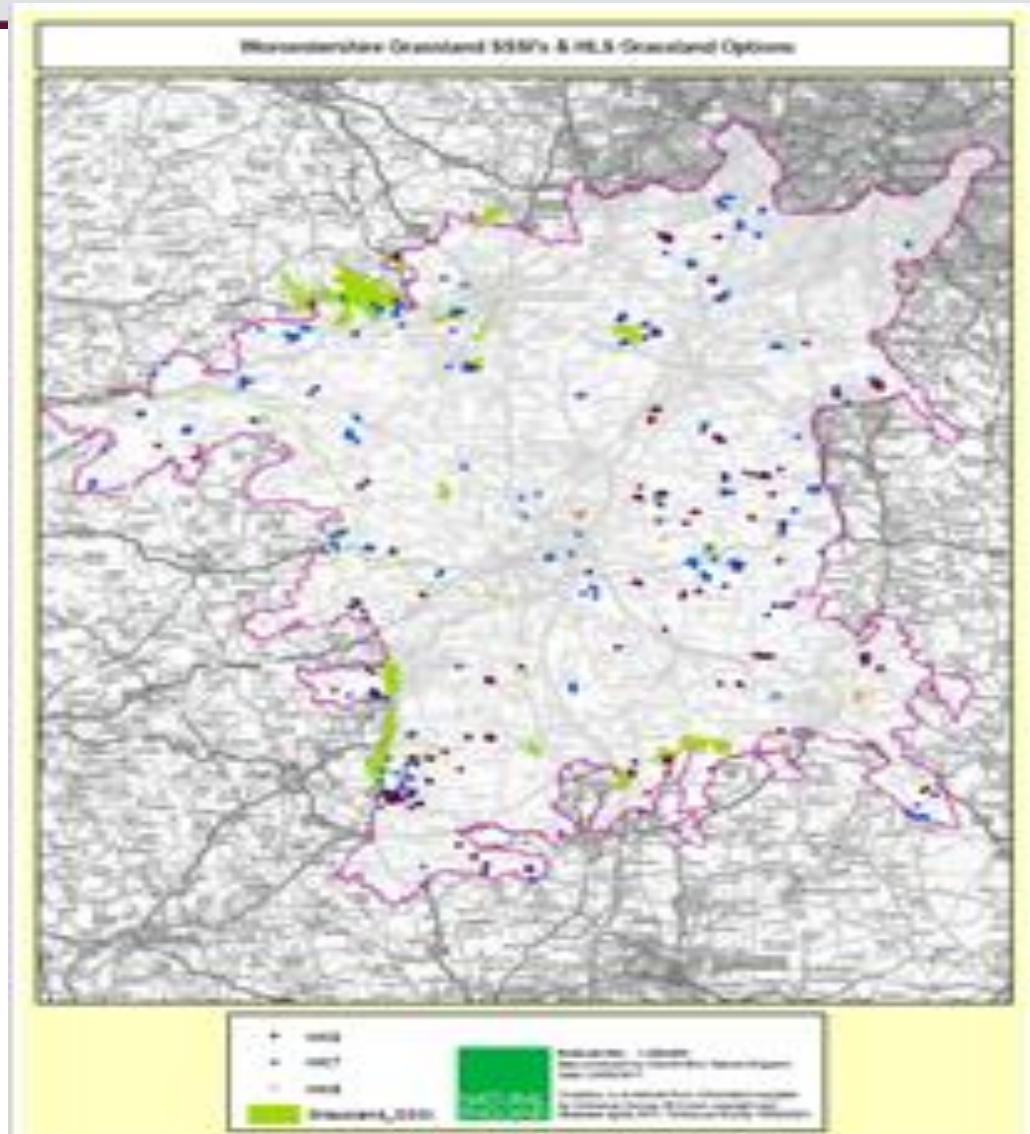


- Funding for mapping
- Focus our efforts
- but don't exclude areas



Opportunity Mapping

- **Worcestershire Grasslands**



Habitat **ACTION!**



- **Countryside Stewardship**
 - **100 ha/250 acres of restoration and creation in FoF 2017 start**
 - **More coming in 2018**
 - **Large scale work is important**
 - **Unfortunately CS takes no account of Focus areas in scoring or prioritisation – So only we make the difference on the ground**
 - **We need to be joined up in our approach – national and local priorities need to be aligned**

Working in Partnership



- **Facilitation area set up initially for pollinators by the WT but this included Grasslands.**
- **We have worked with WT to match facilitation area to the Focus area boundary of the Feckenham Forest/Worcestershire**
- **CFE farmers group have been focusing on grassland creation and restoration – one event last year /more to come**
- **Herefordshire Meadows facilitation group is going great**



- Donor meadow project – We have about 20-30 donor sites for each county in South Mercia.
- These are now held by Wildlife Trust partners who help farmers find the right site.
- The donor meadow resource has already been used this year with more than 200 acres earmarked for next year (2018).

What next?



- **Data – evidence base for loss and current extent – we need a baseline!**
 - Partnership work with WT and Council on Phase 1 mapping and site checking – Evidence funding through NE for opportunity mapping/Donor meadow mapping in W/H/G
 - Nick has already done Warwickshire
- **Move grassland option into Mid-tier**
 - Project with the wildlife trust and other partners on grasslands to fund capital works

What next?



- **Countryside Stewardship is so important**
 - **Flagship delivery scheme**
 - **Reputation**
 - **Cluster Approach - Income generation**
 - **Support for ag holders post start date.....**
 - **Targets are good! (for habitats anyway)**
- **Shaping our priorities WITH our partners/**FARMERS!****

What next?



There is a place for a Wildflower meadow on every farm

- **Traditional mixed farm – herb/hospital patch**
- **Arable field margins – seed harvesting**
- **Green hay/harvested seed for re-seeding/soil health**
- **Species rich hay feeding – demand for species rich hay**
- **Spring turn-out on intensive grass farms**
- **Holistic Planned grazing**
- **Natural Growth promoters**

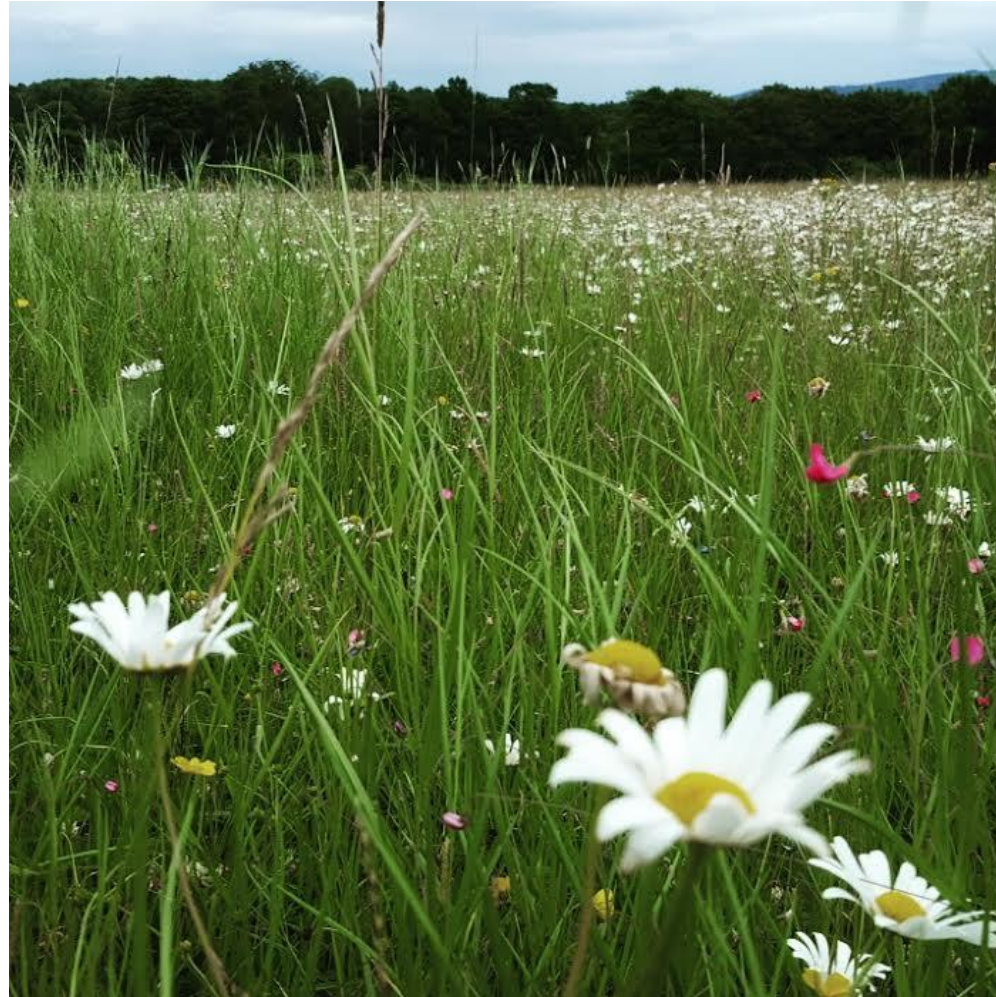
What next?



Cluster Projects in each county

- **Farmer led/farmer funded - Ownership**
- **Potential NE/DEFRA funding for ecological monitoring/adviser time**
- **Potential for funding for innovations/risk taking etc – crop insurance for trying something that has potential – harvested seed instead of Herbal ley?**
- **Biodiversity offsetting**
- **Real action – demonstrated with real data – baseline**

Croome Court



Croome Court



Croome Court



New management techniques



New management techniques



Business performance with Holistic Grazing



- Gross Margin on 12 month fattening Native store cattle -
Over £450 per head
- All cattle finished off grass alone by 28 months average – all under 30 months
- Average daily live-weight gain of 0.8 kg per day – Even though they were out wintered with no hay.
- System has allowed me to expand my operation from small family farm of 44 acres – I now rent 180 acre farm and 190 acre farm up to 420 acres.
- Leasowes farm – Restoration/Eades meadow.



Part 1 Land Register (AL2) Map
SIU - 108775287
ALVADR006
Map 2/5

Legends
Your PLR Parcel(s)
GPS Permanent Ineligible Feature
Adjacent Parcel Boundary
Unconfirmed Boundary
In 2 Information

Block ID	Parcel ID	Total Area (ha)	GPS Permanent Ineligible Area (ha)	English Hectares
010000	010000	1.31	0.00	0
010000	010001	1.30	0.00	0
010000	010002	6.70	0.00	0
010000	010003	1.30	0.00	0
010000	010004	6.60	0.00	0
010000	010005	10.20	0.00	0
010000	010006	1.30	0.00	0
010000	010007	1.30	0.00	0
010000	010008	1.30	0.00	0
010000	010009	1.30	0.00	0
010000	010010	1.30	0.00	0
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010000	010100	1.30	0.00	0

Scale 1:5000
10m 0m 10m 20m 30m

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ALVADR006 Date 23/10/2009

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Please return this sheet to us if you want to make any changes to the narrow shown on it









THANK YOU FOR
YOUR TIME



Questions

Please direct all questions to:

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