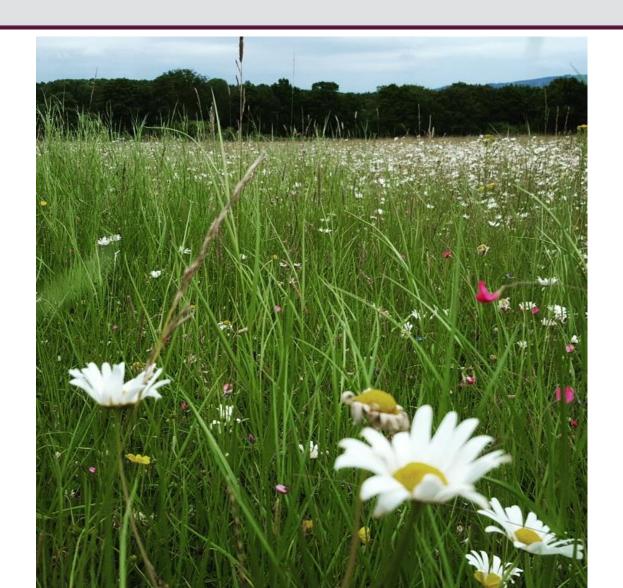
### **Grassland Clusters**







### Why Grasslands?





- 95% loss of lowland meadows in england
- Worcestershire has 20% of Neutral grasslands in England
  - Similar picture in Herefs and Glos
- Feckenham Forest is one of the main hotspots in Worcestershire – as well as for Ancient woodland and Parkland.
- 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 SWS grassland and mixed grassland sites 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 for justification and MID-TIER.

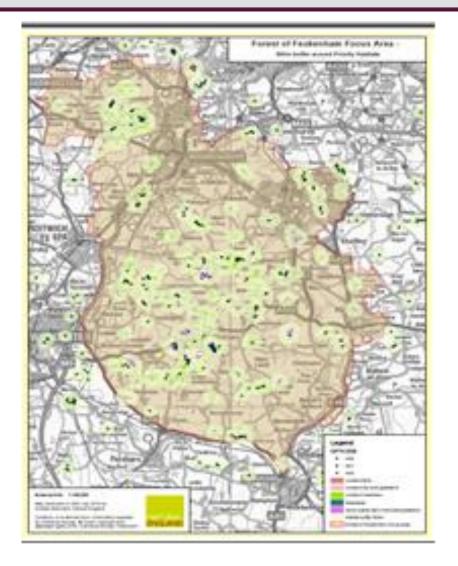


### **Opportunity Mapping**



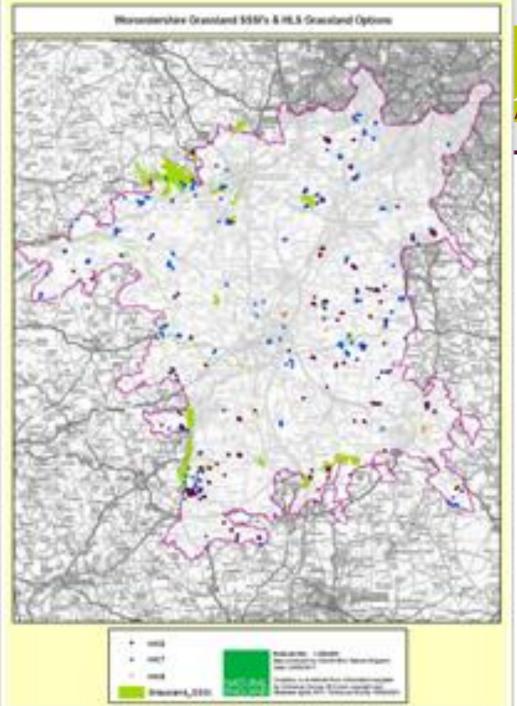


- Funding for mapping
- Focus our efforts
- but don't exclude areas



## Opportunity

 Worcestershire Grasslands





### 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







- 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
- Outside funding for grasslands
  - Project with the wildlife trust and other partners on grasslands to fund capital works







#### **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







- Countryside Stewardship is so important
  - Flagship delivery scheme
  - No 1 SSSI remedy option but SSSIs don't score
  - Cluster Approach Income generation
  - Support for agreement holders post start date.
- Shaping our priorities <u>WITH</u> our partners/FARMERS!



### **New Practices**





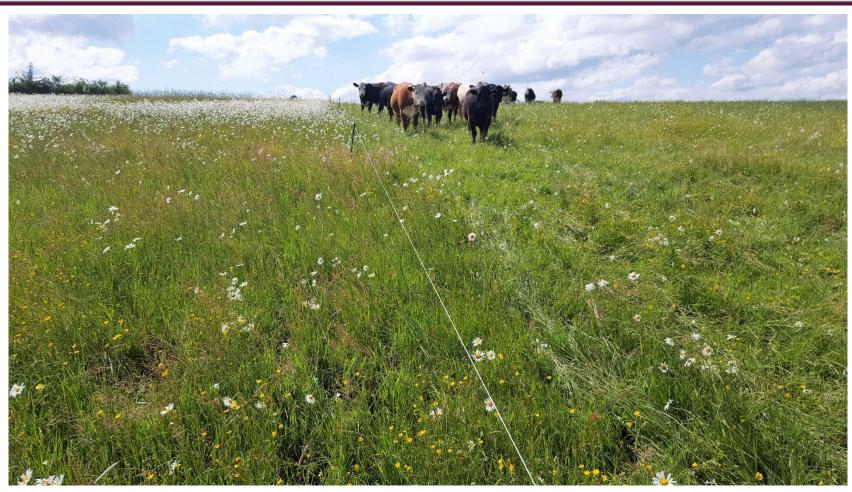




### Holistic Planned Grazing





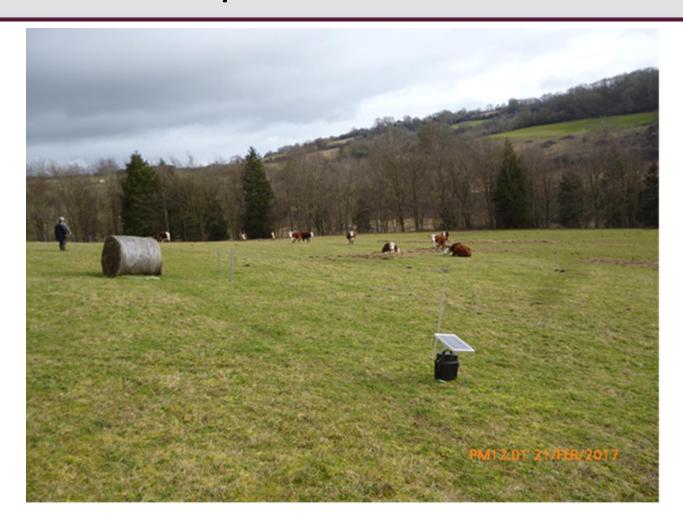




# New management techniques









# New management techniques



















### Business performance





- Gross Margin on beef suckler system £650/cow
- 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 on store cattle – Even though they were out wintered with no hay.
- Leasowes farm Restoration/Eades meadow. 180 acres in one application.

# Holistic Grazing in Scotland









# Holistic Grazing in Scotland







# Using holistic grazing principles to increase/maintain diversity



#### **Advantages of Holistic grazing:**

- Extended winter grazing with better nutrition for animals
- Easier stock checking when wintering on multiple sites
- Proper rest periods allowing for necessary plant recovery especially important for forbs.
- Small mammals love it!
- Weeds go away!
- Forage not removed across large areas in one day (compared to a hay cut) – increased age diversity.
- Increased productivity of grasslands.

## Using holistic grazing principles to increase/maintain diversity Forestry Commission



#### Advantages of Holistic grazing:

- Wintering COSTS!
- Low Fixed costs.
- No additional feed costs
- Low barriers to entry for young farmers
  - Cheap Infrastructure
  - Contract grazing other peoples stock
- Great fun when you are moving forward.





#### There is a place for a Wildflower meadow on every farm

#### **Post Brexit?**

- 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
- Holistic Planned grazing
- Growth promoters







## Questions