

# Feasibility Study: Exploring Collaborative Habitat Land Management in Powys

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## Introduction

Green Connections Powys, a collaborative Wildlife Trusts project across Powys, commissioned this feasibility study to investigate opportunities for local collaborations between Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), contractors, farmers, lifestyle landowners and volunteers that deliver improved habitat management and provide mutual benefits.

The Green Connections project is funded through the Welsh Government ENRaW scheme. It started in April 2021 and runs until March 2023. It is active across the whole county, being delivered by a partnership between Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust, Radnorshire Wildlife Trust and the Brecknock Office of the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales, with RWT taking the lead.

## Background

The Green Connections project works with community groups, small businesses, landowners and statutory organisations to take local action to address climate change and biodiversity loss, and create a nature recovery network across the county.

It has become clear that small landowners frequently wish to manage their land for wildlife but often don't have suitable machinery, livestock, time, physical ability, or the right level of knowledge to do so. They may well rely on the goodwill of a local farmer to provide support when they have time, and this may not give the best outcome for wildlife.

Similarly habitat areas within larger farm holdings may be of a small scale and require different machinery or labour that isn't easily provided within the farm business, making it logistically difficult to achieve good management.

Active management of small areas of habitat in isolation tends to be resource-heavy, often requiring relatively high financial outlay or significant upskilling of the landowner. The hypothesis that an alternative way of working, in the form of managing habitat areas collaboratively on a local scale could provide benefit through shared resources and efficiencies is being assessed through this report.

This feasibility study investigates three aspects of this gap in achieving good management:

- How willing small landowners are to pay for habitat management to benefit wildlife in a similar way that people hire equipment and contractors for other small jobs

- Whether there are contractors or hire businesses around Powys/Mid Wales who already have specialist equipment for habitat management, or are willing to purchase small and specialist equipment as part of their enterprise
- The feasibility and appetite for setting up small machinery rings and other collaborative models of managing habitat based on the experiences of other groups of landowners and volunteers

This study also looks at whether there is a small business model that could help meet the need for small-scale habitat management work in Mid Wales

## Methodology

At an initial set-up meeting with the project lead and members of the project steering group, the habitats for which it is hardest to achieve good management at a small scale were provisionally identified, and later confirmed through further research, i.e.

Hay meadow

Wetland and/or ponds

Other species-rich grassland

Woodland

Hedges

In addition orchards were included by more than one landowner.

Two online and paper-based surveys were circulated over the summer amongst members of wildlife trust groups; attendees at the Smallholding & Countryside Festival and other events. The first survey was intended to collect information about the barriers landowners have with achieving good management and their views on collaborative conservation initiatives. The second was to identify potential contractors who could provide management services such as haymaking.

Also, direct contact was made with other small landowners within Powys; Facebook groups; agricultural contractors; organisations working with groups of farmers (e.g. Farming Connect Development Officers); various meadows groups bordering Powys, and other projects with related aims & objectives.

The report intends to draw together the findings of the research in a narrative style, without necessarily identifying the precise source of each piece of information. It includes SWOT analyses for the most promising items and an outline of a potential business model.

## Results and Evaluation

### Landowners

20 people responded to the landowners survey from across the three vice-counties within Powys. Several others completed a survey on paper or verbally when interviewed. These additional responses reinforced the views given in the online survey and taken together it was agreed that the number of responses, while not very high, was sufficient to give an accurate outline of landowners' views on their management issues and attitudes towards achieving better management.

The responses highlight that 7 out of the 20 do not have the resources (machinery, equipment or grazing animals) to manage their land.

7 people would like to 'borrow' grazing animals and 3 would be willing to lend them.

10 would be willing to pay a contractor and 10 would be willing to be part of a community group owning machinery or grazing animals, with 9 potentially contributing financially towards the purchase of machinery or livestock.

There was some interest in being part of a volunteer/workshare group (5), and more interest in receiving the help of such a group (6). 1 person was willing to contribute financially towards such a group, others to lend in kind items etc (6), and 3 would be willing to help organise such a group.

A summary of the results is included as an annex at the end of this report. Question 7 has been omitted because answers contain personal contact information.

### Contractors

Only two contractors responded to the survey. One of these specialises in using hand tools. The other predominantly does work involving trees, but would be prepared to hire out equipment to an individual or collective. Both would be willing to provide training and participate in group management efforts. A summary of the survey for providers of habitat management services is included at the end of this report.

It is notoriously difficult to get contractors to put anything in writing, so telephone and face to face interviews were also conducted.

Although there are directories of contractors, e.g. the @Find a Hedgelayer section of The National Hedge Laying Society website; the majority of contractors who are prepared to work on small acreages tend not to be found on them; as an example, only three hedgelayers in Powys are on the NHLS website, but asking around very quickly provided the names of three more in Radnorshire alone.

Experience in carrying out this study has shown that word of mouth, Facebook pages such as *South and West Wales Smallholders*. and local directories or newspapers (Montgomeryshire is especially rich in these) are the most reliable way of making contact. As an example the former Farming Connect Development Officer

in Montgomeryshire was able to identify several potential contractors who have small 'conventional' balers as opposed to large round balers, but none of them advertise their services to any great extent.

The research done for this study indicates that Powys is quite well supplied with contractors who undertake hedgelaying and management of all kinds of trees. Pond digging and maintenance is also well provided, although it may take some time and effort to connect with a suitable contractor using the methods outlined above.

In view of the availability of contractors for hedges, woodlands, orchards and ponds, the rest of this section concentrates on management of species-rich grassland, including (but not confined to) hay meadows.

#### Contractor with hay making machinery

Contractors tended to highlight common issues when discussing the feasibility of providing a service on small acreages. These are exemplified by the responses of one contractor regarding hay making:

Usually charge around £17/acre for mowing, and £30/ac each pass for tedding & rowing up (has to be done at least twice); £1 per small bale for baling.

Thus a 2 acre field yielding 160 bales would cost about £314 to harvest the hay. This will be higher in 2023.

Considerations from the contractor's point of view include;

Distance – would not want to travel more than about 10 miles because the longer the "downtime" the less they are earning. Fuel costs are higher, and there are more maintenance costs because most machinery is not designed to travel on roads for any distance. Would be happier if there were several small jobs to do which were close to each other, but 5x2ac is still more work and higher cost than 1x10ac.

Access and in-field turning – gateways may be small and awkward, and turning/reaching corners in small fields can be difficult.

Suggestions from contractor;

If the landowner were able to do any of the steps in the haymaking process listed above, e.g, mowing, tedding or rowing up, this would obviously reduce the contractors cost.

In small fields he would be willing to bale only (e.g. if cut by scythe) especially if the hay could be rowed up into the middle of the field, i.e. raked out of corners and edges.

A contractor could top the field twice a year for less cost, but obviously there would be no hay produced.

Ask around to see if someone local has small scale haymaking kit, even if they don't do a lot of contracting. This is likely to work out cheaper but takes time to achieve.

He also pointed out that their round baler produces one bale per 17 small bales, and even if these were wrapped as haylage, the cost would be lower per small bale

equivalent. The obvious downsides to this are that the larger machinery may not operate efficiently in small fields, and the landowner probably won't have the machinery to handle large, wrapped bales. If however, the bales were to be sold directly off the field, it would be the purchaser's responsibility to handle them.

#### Contractor making hay by hand

In 2022 a small landowner in Radnorshire engaged a small scale specialist contractor to scythe, spread, turn, rack up and hand bale hay on less than an acre. The anticipated cost was £495 - £720, depending on how long it took to mow and how many turnings the hay required, calculated on a labour cost of £15/hour. In reality the total number of hours taken added up to a cost of £1,097, and even then not all the hay was baled. It was noted that hand knotting the bale strings quickly caused sore fingers in those not used to it.

The need for so much extra work additional to the original quote was due to a large extent to the crop being very mature by the time it was cut in August, so that many of the herbaceous species were quite woody and tough, and the vagaries of the weather requiring the crop to be turned more than originally planned.

The owner planned to sell the hay to offset costs but found this quite difficult to do. This is a commonly encountered issue with small scale hay fields managed for wildlife more than productivity. Buyers' reservations include;

The sward may contain a lot of flowering plants which are very mature by the time of harvest so provide low quality nutrition for livestock compared to if it was cut earlier in the season.

The sward composition may include plants which are either harmful (e.g. ragwort) or unpalatable to livestock (leading to wastage of the hay and having to buy in additional rations).

The hay has been stored improperly, either uncovered or where there is no airflow (e.g. under a tarpaulin), both of which encourage disease-causing moulds to grow and reduce nutritional value.

It is also worth noting that small landowners often prefer to sell their hay as soon as it is baled due to lack of storage, but there is least demand for it at that time of year so buyers are able to pick and choose what they buy.

These factors also apply to wrapped haylage, which has the advantage of being weatherproof, but the disadvantage that the composition and stage of maturity of the sward is not easy to ascertain without cutting into the bale, which can cause it to spoil.

Several landowners who were interviewed have managed their fields through a barter arrangement with neighbours; offering either grazing or standing hay for free or in exchange for some maintenance work or similar. In theory this sounds like a good arrangement. In practice the neighbours, for many different reasons, tend not to be able to provide the grazing or hay making service at what the landowner considers an appropriate time or at an appropriate level, so it becomes a compromise between what each party wants rather than an ideal solution.



Discussions with landowners, the scything contractor and other research has highlighted that alternative methods of managing 'hay' fields such as successional mowing (mowing sections of field in turn) or by appropriate grazing may well be less expensive, more achievable and better for biodiversity than taking the traditional one cut hay crop.

#### Specialist small scale contractor startup/expansion

More than one person has expressed an interest in providing a contracting service aimed at small areas of habitat land, but all are cautious of committing themselves until they have a clearer idea of the level of demand, and more confidence that landowners are prepared to pay for their services. The continual increase in inflation and cost of living; rising fuel prices, and difficulties with sourcing supplies of fencing materials are also significant factors.

As an example, one contractor who was interviewed has land of his own near Llangurig, and already does landscaping and garden maintenance type contract work. He's already been looking at the costs of hiring equipment as opposed to buying it to see if this will keep costs down. He has a quad bike so may be able to hire in mowers or toppers which fit onto it, but he's also looking at small scale petrol driven machinery such as post knockers and post hole borers; pedestrian tractors with attachments for cutting, turning and baling hay.

His preferred model for contracting is that the landowner hires the machinery and provides the petrol etc to run it. He then charges his time at a very reasonable hourly rate, and charges for travel if the job is more than a certain distance away.



Power Scythe



Flail Mower

The power scythe and flail mower (for cutting back very tough vegetation) pictured above are available to hire from Masco Plant Hire in Llandrindod Wells. Each



currently costs £85.00 per day + £40.00 for subsequent days, or £180.00 per week. Prices are +VAT and + delivery unless collecting yourself. The hirer is expected to cover the costs of any damages while the machine is in their possession, either through insurance or paying for repairs.

It is estimated that the cost of one day's mowing using a contractor and hired machine would amount to at least £200. Subsequent days would cost less but still in the region of £180.

The Herefordshire Meadows website includes a useful description of buying small scale hay making machinery, specifically a pedestrian tractor with attachments, with costs. It can be accessed via this link, and is also included at the end of this report

[Smallholders Experience of Machinery for Flower Rich Meadows \(herefordshiremeadows.org.uk\)](https://www.herefordshiremeadows.org.uk/Smallholders-Experience-of-Machinery-for-Flower-Rich-Meadows)

There is also a YouTube video on it at <https://youtu.be/bbyllz9wW5U>

Similarly the Monmouthshire Meadows Group has compiled a summary of their members' experiences of machinery to manage hay meadows at [machinery-for-meadow-management-oct-2022.pdf \(wordpress.com\)](https://www.monmouthshiremeadows.org.uk/machinery-for-meadow-management-oct-2022.pdf) also included at the end of this report.

### Experiences from other projects

Several different meadows groups, plus projects involved in habitat land management have been researched for this study, with the findings being summarised below. The groups included Herefordshire Meadows Group, Monmouthshire Meadows, Marches Meadow Group, Parish Grasslands, Carmarthen Meadows, Ceredigion Meadows and others. The successes or otherwise of individual projects have not been identified per se, because members' perceptions tend to be biased towards their individual situations rather than the group as a whole.

**Communication and facilitation are key.** The best way to bring people together for a collaborative effort for more than a short time, is to expend effort and finances in making sure that there is good collective understanding of what is required and how it can be achieved. Projects which have employed a good facilitator are more cohesive and successful in achieving outcomes. The meadows groups in particular have informative and useful websites, social media pages etc., and act as social hubs to a certain extent, but a group needs to reach a 'critical mass' before it can build up momentum to be self sustaining. Members of the groups value the social events, organised walks, training and participatory activities, as well as the advice and direct help they receive, and these definitely contribute to their success. One comment given was that if visits are always made to an exceptionally good (species-rich) meadow, this can put off those with 'poorer' fields, because they can feel that they will never match up. Thought should therefore be given to making sure those at the lower end of the spectrum are also valued.

**Landowners need to be realistic about how much it costs** to manage their small areas, which may be off putting when known. They are not always aware of alternative cheaper methods, so there is an ongoing need for advice on this.

**Buying machinery for group use is not the best option.** The Marches Meadow Group for example were grant funded to purchase a small tractor with implements, but the terms of the grant meant that they had to buy a new machine of a different type to the secondhand item they would have preferred, and subsequently experienced maintenance problems with it. There is at least one small group of landowners in Herefordshire who do own machinery collectively, but they are based in one village where one of the coordinators of the Herefordshire Meadows Group lives, which undoubtedly contributes to the success of that particular enterprise. This statement on the Parish Grasslands Project website summarises a common view. *PGP first offered a machinery service in 2004. This consisted mainly of haymaking, topping and flailing. For a number of years this service ran successfully. But from about 2010 orders had fallen to such an extent that income was failing to cover expenditure. After running at a loss for a number of years we closed the service at the end of 2013. This outcome is mirrored by the experience of similar groups, which have also found it impossible to offer a sustainable agricultural machinery service. The machinery was purchased with grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and a number of other organisations.*

**Landowners tend to want simple, straightforward management advice, often as an ongoing occurrence .** This sounds reasonable in theory but is very resource-heavy and therefore not sustainable for a project to fund outside a certain limit. Projects have generally provided advice to members joining a group when being funded to do so. Some charge a subscription which includes some advice, but usually it becomes something that the landowner has to buy in, albeit sourced by the group. Landowners do not always realise that there many factors which influence management, e.g. seasonal weather conditions, grazing patterns; and may for example follow an agri-environment prescription even if they are not in a scheme and it is not relevant to their land. Projects therefore try to upskill landowners (e.g. in appropriate grazing and alternatives to taking a traditional hay crop) and act as match-makers or signposts to contractors and suppliers.

**Funding:** All the groups included in the research only came about through generous grant aid. Although members do not lack enthusiasm, and pay an annual membership and pay to hire equipment etc; it is the external funding which has enabled each group to continue to function. As much of the funding goes on staff time to organise, facilitate and provide a service to their members, it is extremely unlikely that a new habitat management group would function without grant aid.

## Evaluation of Results

Potential collaborative actions to enable better management of small areas of habitat are evaluated using a SWOT analysis method to identify key features.

Volunteer workshare group  
 Or similar reciprocal arrangement

<b>SWOT Analysis for</b>	
<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<p>Low cost            Participants are invested in the end result on their own and other land</p>	<p>Participation can't be guaranteed (or enforced)            Training and equipment needed – cost attached            Only of real interest to those with time to invest            Needs an efficient coordinator and agreed terms            Area which can be managed likely to be very small</p>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<p>Enables management on small and awkward areas            Skills increase, morale improved and social interaction with like minded people increased, leading to more participants</p>	<p>Participant availability may not coincide with peak need            Participants may disagree about ratios of work done to management achieved e.g. X owns 2 ac, Y owns 4ac so Y is perceived to benefit at X's expense</p>

Management by rented, borrowed or collaboratively owned grazing animals

<b>SWOT Analysis for</b>	
<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<p>Potentially low cost to hire in stock                      Can barter grass for management                      Obviates need for machinery                      Potential additional end product (meat or animals for sale) for collaboratively owned livestock                      Easy to source                      Livestock grazing good alternative to hay making or topping, at much lower cost</p>	<p>Site infrastructure needs e.g. fencing, water troughs, handling pens can rapidly increase costs                      Initial investment required for collaborative ownership                      Need commitment from collaborative participants for better or worse, e.g. illness or death of animal                      Renting or bartering grazing may not lead to appropriate grazing in terms of timing or numbers/type of stock                      All participants need right mindset; it's potentially loss-making for grazier and value of grazing may be overestimated by landowner</p>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<p>Livestock owner could establish a business contract managing land with livestock or renting out grazers</p> <p>Having livestock on land may allow owner to access Basic Payment Scheme etc. by achieving "active farmer status"</p> <p>Funding for infrastructure tends to be easier to get than for ongoing management</p>	<p>Cattle are subject to complicated and costly TB testing regime so less easy to obtain for grazing but may be most appropriate animal                      Different types of livestock vary in how they graze so the wrong type of animal may be detrimental to habitat, e.g. goats browse, sheep actively seek out devil's bit scabious, ponies graze patches very tightly                      BPS generates more paperwork, as do movement regulations</p>

## Group owned machinery

<b>SWOT Analysis for</b>	
<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<p>Flexibility; machinery available when needed</p> <p>Quicker and easier than doing work by hand</p> <p>Can be used to kick-start active management on neglected sites e.g. opening it up for grazing</p>	<p>Expensive; significant investment to purchase, and ongoing running, repair &amp; maintenance costs</p> <p>Need a competent operator</p> <p>2 people may want it at the same time; peaks and troughs of demand may exclude some users</p> <p>Unlikely to get enough use to cover costs</p> <p>Responsibility needs to be shared</p>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<p>The right machines would enable a lot of habitat management work not currently happening</p>	<p>Could end up costing a group money</p> <p>If bought with a grant can have restrictions on use, e.g. must buy new, no hiring out</p>

## Contractor specialising in small scale work

Could be on a spectrum from large business with some small equipment to very small enterprise hiring in equipment for each job

<b>SWOT Analysis for</b>	
<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<p>Landowner only pays a known amount (no hidden costs)</p> <p>Contractor has knowledge and experience that landowner doesn't</p>	<p>Contractor needs to be in tune with the landowners way of thinking</p> <p>Contractor may be constrained by weather or time</p> <p>Contractor is too busy to give the job the attention the owner would like</p>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<p>If a group of landowners can use the same contractor it will lead to increased loyalty and prioritisation by contractor due increased revenue – win win</p>	<p>Contractor does not have appropriate machinery for narrow gateways or small fields</p> <p>Costs are prohibitive</p> <p>Contractor will put small landowners at the bottom of the list and will think them high risk 7 low reward</p>

## Potential small business model

From the information gathered during this study it is unlikely that a single method of management would be the best fit. Collaborative enterprises work best on a very local level, and communication is key to success. The one-to-one facilitation and match-making services provided by most projects concentrating on small scale habitat management are the undoubted source of their successes. Accordingly the following business model is proposed.

It is expected that project or other grant funding is necessary for this to succeed.

**Staff:** One full-time Facilitator/Field Officer or 3 x 2 days/week distributed throughout Powys and working from home.

### Remit

1. Assess actual needs of small landowners for contractors, grazing animals or other help at a local level, building on the results of initial feasibility study
2. Develop rapport with local contractors and graziers
3. Start up workshare groups where appropriate, including co-ordinators
4. Organise training to address knowledge gaps in appropriate management for landowners, contractors, workshare participants
5. 'Matchmake' and otherwise bring contractors, graziers & landowners together in local groups or clusters for long term
6. Organise events, feedback, walks etc to upskill all those involved in management
7. Develop a simple flow chart or score card to enable landowners to make good decisions about how to manage their land without needing to buy in advice
8. Assess one-off interventions which could be funded to enable owners to establish better management, e.g. fencing, water troughs, hiring a big piece of machinery to kick-start management

### Other costs:

1. grant fund for one-off interventions
2. modest training and events budget, including production of the management decision-making tool

## Conclusions

- There is enthusiasm and a perceived need for some kind of collaborative habitat management enterprise in Powys, but it is difficult to gauge the level of real commitment at this stage, mostly due to rising costs
- From the relatively small sample size the online survey yielded, there does seem to be a number of small landowners willing to commit to a workshare group, in the form of labour, coordinating and providing training/equipment. However, in order to be sustainable workshare groups need to be organised on a fairly local level, which will require additional facilitation to bring to fruition

- There are a number of contractors providing land management services throughout Powys but they are not always very visible, and it takes time to locate them and to develop a relationship with them
- Not all contractors will work on small areas of grassland, either because their machinery is unsuitable, they are not interested, or it is uneconomic for them to do so. They will have to put their costs up in 2023, which will impact on their customers, and their own businesses
- There are contractors who potentially will broaden the scope of what they do to include small scale habitat management if there is enough demand. However it is difficult for them to plan to do this in view of continually rising costs of machinery, equipment, fuel, etc. and the knock-on effect of how willing customers will be willing to pay for their services
- There is a wide variety of equipment and machinery available to hire across Powys, which the experiences of different meadows groups indicate is usually more viable than buying outright by either individuals or organisations. Hire costs are also likely to rise by next year. Hiring in is a relevant option for contractors, workshare groups and individuals
- There is scope for non-traditional methods of management on problematic areas without losing diversity, e.g. hay meadows being strip mowed/successionally mowed and/or grazed appropriately as an alternative to mowing and baling the whole field; goats being tethered to browse brambles and blackthorn; cattle with no-fence collars grazing where boundaries are not stockproof
- There are flourishing meadow and grassland groups in most of the counties surrounding Powys, most of which include management of hedges and other habitats in their aims. Research done during this study and the experiences of the Green Connections staff indicates that there is a good basis for at least trialling the setting up of a collaborative habitat land management group in Powys, if grant funding can be found
- There does not seem to be one particular recipe for success, but keeping everything local; having a good facilitator to develop relationships and capacity-build with landowners and contractors; maintaining a flexible approach to how the group's aims are achieved, and adapting to changing circumstances are all important

## Acknowledgements

I would like to thank everyone who completed the online surveys, and those who patiently and thoughtfully answered my questions in interviews.







These include, but are not limited to, individual landowners, contractors, meadows group representatives, machinery hire businesses, ecologists, Wildlife Trust staff, and people who know people.

I would also like to thank the Green Connections steering group for their help, and particularly Darylle for giving me the opportunity to undertake this interesting and hopefully fruitful study.











## Annexes

### Powys Habitat Land Owners Questionnaire

1. Do you own habitat land which needs active management? Please tick all that apply				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Hay meadow		78.95%	15
2	Wetland and/or ponds		57.89%	11
3	Other species-rich grassland		57.89%	11
4	Woodland		63.16%	12
5	Hedges		78.95%	15
6	Other (please specify):		21.05%	4
			answered	19
			skipped	1
Other (please specify): (4)				
1	20/06/2022 22:27 PM ID: 193782260	Felled Sitka spruce plantation 15 acres improved grassland		
2	29/07/2022 21:25 PM ID: 196672985	New orchard		
3	03/08/2022 10:49 AM ID: 196930115	Two fields, total approx 2 acres former rough grazing. Trying to restore old hedges, planting new hedges and trees and generally encourage better biodiversity.		
4	20/08/2022 13:12 PM ID: 197987268	Cider orchard		

## 2. How do you currently manage your land? Please tick all that apply

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Your own grazing animals		42.11%	8
2	Somebody else's grazing animals		42.11%	8
3	Own machinery		63.16%	12
4	Contractor with machinery		47.37%	9
5	By hand, alone or with family & friends		63.16%	12
6	With a volunteer/workshare group		5.26%	1
7	I don't have the resources or equipment to manage it properly		36.84%	7
8	Other (please specify):		10.53%	2
			answered	19
			skipped	1
Other (please specify): (2)				
1	20/06/2022 22:27 PM ID: 193782260	Resources includes knowledge. I employ two lads two days a week to do manual labour.		
2	03/08/2022 12:51 PM ID: 196940045	Mechanical scythe then rake by hand		

**3. . If you feel you are not able to manage your land properly, would you be interested in any of the following? Please tick all which apply**

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	"Borrowing" grazing animals		43.75%	7
2	Buying your own animals		6.25%	1
3	Paying a contractor with suitable machinery and experience of small scale habitat management		62.50%	10
4	Buying your own machinery		6.25%	1
5	Being part of a community owned machinery or livestock group		62.50%	10
6	Being part of a volunteer/workshare group who jointly manage their sites by hand		31.25%	5
7	Having the help of a volunteer/workshare group to undertake key tasks but not actively participating		37.50%	6
8	Other (please specify):		25.00%	4
			answered	16
			skipped	4
Other (please specify): (4)				
1	20/06/2022 15:42 PM ID: 193749304	In terms of help from a volunteer / workshare group, I'd be happy to contribute in ways other than physically - e.g. financially or in terms of training opportunities		
2	20/06/2022 22:27 PM ID: 193782260	Paying specialists for surveys and management plans		
3	03/08/2022 10:49 AM ID: 196930115	Some really good ongoing advice re management		

**3. . If you feel you are not able to manage your land properly, would you be interested in any of the following? Please tick all which apply**

4	15/08/2022 10:02 AM ID: 197568312	Could 'lend' grazing animals (dexter cattle)
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**4. If you are interested in any of the group suggestions in Q3, how would you see yourself contributing?**

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Financially towards collective purchase & maintenance of equipment or livestock		64.29%	9
2	Volunteer organiser/admin for group		21.43%	3
3	Active participation in volunteer/workshare group		28.57%	4
4	Lending your machinery. livestock or other in-kind items, e.g. specialist knowledge		42.86%	6
5	Other (please specify):		14.29%	2
			answered	14
			skipped	6

Other (please specify): (2)

1	20/06/2022 15:42 PM ID: 193749304	In terms of any volunteer / workshare group, I would very much like to see individuals of such a group being able to build up a portfolio of recognisable habitat management skills / qualifications, if desired
2	29/07/2022 21:25 PM ID: 196672985	I am now 80 years old, so what I can do myself is becoming quite limited, and I can't really offer to help other people practically, though always willing to share ideas and see what other people are doing

**5. If you are already actively managing your habitat land, would you be willing to help others by;**

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Doing management work on other sites as a contractor	0.00%	0
2	Doing work on other sites for expenses (e.g. fuel) only	14.29%	1
3	Hiring out or lending machinery/equipment	0.00%	0
4	In a volunteer/workshare group	57.14%	4
5	Hiring out or lending grazing animals	42.86%	3
		answered	7
		skipped	13

**6. Is there a one-off intervention you would like which would then enable you to manage your habitat better, e.g. fencing or installing a water trough? If so please describe briefly**

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question	100.00%	10
1	20/06/2022 15:42 PM ID: 193749304	Yes. A small (upper) feeder pond to a larger (lower) pond has silted up and no longer functions. The larger pond is therefore constantly very low and would benefit greatly from clearing the feeder pond and outflow, thereby re-establishing a steady flow of water into the larger pond.	
2	20/06/2022 22:27 PM ID: 193782260	Possibly, but I don't know what.	
3	05/07/2022 21:09 PM ID: 194952753	I have trouble keeping brambles ,docks ,blackthorn and braken under control .	
4	06/07/2022 10:35 AM ID: 194976520	fencing, hedge planting	

**6. Is there a one-off intervention you would like which would then enable you to manage your habitat better, e.g. fencing or installing a water trough? If so please describe briefly**

5	25/07/2022 20:17 PM ID: 196313476	Digging a pond	
6	27/07/2022 15:33 PM ID: 196421981	Fencing - double fencing hedgerows	
7	03/08/2022 10:49 AM ID: 196930115	Good unbiased and non judgemental advice!	
8	11/08/2022 17:04 PM ID: 197423363	I would like specialist advice on creating a wildlife pond, or wet area; also introductions to good contractors.	
9	17/08/2022 09:37 AM ID: 197697692	fencing to establish new hedges	
10	20/08/2022 13:12 PM ID: 197987268	Possibly fencing an area to keep free from grazing animals or just to partition the land so mangement can be more flexible. Partitoning my land would mean almost certainly that there would be no water in one part	
		answered	10
		skipped	10

**8. Do you know any local contractors, livestock owners or volunteer groups who might be able to help other small landowners? If so, would you please ask them to complete our "Provider of active management" questionnaire, or provide their contact details below if they are willing to be contacted by me. Contact details will only be used to request further information for this study, and will not be passed onto any third party.**

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question	100.00%	3
1	20/06/2022 15:42 PM ID: 193749304	<i>Answer not shown for data protection</i>	

**8. Do you know any local contractors, livestock owners or volunteer groups who might be able to help other small landowners? If so, would you please ask them to complete our "Provider of active management" questionnaire, or provide their contact details below if they are willing to be contacted by me. Contact details will only be used to request further information for this study, and will not be passed onto any third party.**

2	26/07/2022 09:11 AM ID: 196327601	I will contact my contractor to ask if he would like to add his name.	
3	03/08/2022 10:49 AM ID: 196930115	Am already part of the Marches meadow group which offers similar thing but as yet haven't got round to being actively involved as further away and mainly based around long mynd area I think. Caring for gods acre and shropshire verges project both have overlapping areas of interest.	
		answered	3
		skipped	17

## Provider of active habitat management services in Powys and nearby

Q1. Do you currently provide a service managing habitat land in Powys, or would you be interested in doing so? Please tick all you have experience of

Hay Meadow

Other species-rich grassland

Hedges

Wetland and/or ponds

Woodland

Other (please specify):

Drystone walls

Q2. What management methods do you currently have available? Please tick all that apply

By hand, either alone or with others



Q2. What management methods do you currently have available? Please tick all that apply

A volunteer or workshare group

Other (please specify):

I use hand tools such as scythes, hand balers and a wide range of other hand wood-management tools. I also have chainsaw and tractor tickets.

Q3. If you have the skills and experience, would you be interested in expanding your business to provide any of the following? Please tick all which apply

Operating machinery owned by others to manage sites

Being part of a community owned machinery or livestock group

Being part of a group who jointly manage sites by hand

Supervising a volunteer/workshare group to undertake key tasks

Other (please specify):

I mainly train others in scything hay meadows, hand-hay making, hedge-laying, coppicing, green wood-working and tool repair

Q4. Are you interested in a collaborative approach, e.g. a group of landowners jointly owning resources/carrying out management? If so how do you see yourself contributing?

Operating or supervising jointly owned equipment or livestock used on a group of sites

Organisation/admin for group

Contributing machinery, livestock or other in-kind items, e.g. specialist knowledge, training

Other (please specify):

My degree in Countryside conservation and many years' experience of managing nature reserves means I can also provide advice in many situations

Q5. If you have suitable skills and experience of small scale habitat management, would you be willing to help others by providing training?

Yes

Q6. Would you be interested in receiving training in habitat management techniques in order to provide a service to small land owners? If so please list your interests

My business partner xxxx would be interested in this. Her interests are in hay meadows, woodland management, upland management, agricultural land management and wetland management

Q7. If you are interested in discussing any of these questions further with me, please include an email address, phone number and approximate location below. Contact details will only be used for this study, and will not be passed onto any third party

*Answer not shown for data protection*

Q8. Do you know any other local contractors, livestock owners or volunteer groups who might be able to help other small landowners? If so, please encourage them to complete this questionnaire, or provide their contact details below if they are willing to be contacted by me. Contact details will only be used to request further information for this study, and will not be passed onto any third party

*No Response*

Smallholders Experience of Machinery for Flower Rich Meadows (Separate doc)

Machinery-for-meadow-management (Separate doc)