



Committee and Date Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership 23 rd March 2023	Item 7
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STEPPING STONES NEEDS ASSESSMENT CONSULTATION

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Summary

This paper introduces the consultation on Needs Assessment for the Stepping Stones project. Helen Fairweather from Resources for Change and Andrew Hearle and Anam Choudhury of the National Trust will speak on this item at the meeting and seek the views of members as part of the consultation.

Recommendation

Partnership members are recommended to participate in the consultation process.

List of Background Papers Previous discussion on this topic at 8 th November 2022 AONB Partnership meeting, agenda item 6.
Human Rights Act Appraisal The information in this report is compatible with the Human Rights Act 1998.
Environmental Appraisal The recommendation in this paper will contribute to the conservation of protected landscapes.
Risk Management Appraisal Risk management has been appraised as part of the considerations of this report.
Community / Consultations Appraisal The topics raised in this paper have been the subject of earlier consultations with Partnership members.
Appendices Appendix 1 Stepping Stones Needs Assessment consultation paper



STEPPING STONES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

CONSULTATION WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE AONB PARTNERSHIP

Thursday 23rd March 2023

The Stepping Stones is a nature conservation project based in the Shropshire Hills led by National Trust and its partners including AONB Partnership. Our 50-year vision is for natural habitats in the Shropshire Hills to be restored, healthy and connected, & for the people who live, work and play in this remarkable area to understand, benefit from, and support our efforts. The Project has been supporting the local communities, farmers & conservation of the natural & cultural heritage. In planning the sustainability of the Stepping Stones Project, National Trust has appointed Resources for Change to undertake a **Needs Assessment** to get a better understanding of local needs and examine how nature-based and other local activities might be able to help meet them. Consultation with AONB Partnership is part of this Needs Assessment where we are asking members to participate in a short consultation session on 23rd March. Taking part in this session is entirely optional. To help you prepare for the consultation session, we are sharing with you the consultation questions as listed below. You may write the answers in advance and bring them with you to the meeting or email them to Helen Fairweather at helen@r4c.org.uk. Thank you in advance for your participation and inputs.

Consultation Questions

1. Name of your Organisation:

2. As a member of the AONB Partnership, what has been the key successes of working in partnership with the Stepping Stones Project? Please give examples.

3. As a member of the AONB Partnership, what has been the key challenges associated with working in partnership with the Stepping Stones Project? Please give examples.

4. Are there any new objectives that your own organisation would like to see supported by the Stepping Stones Project in the future?

5. Do you have any new project ideas for conservation of the wildlife, landscape and history in the Shropshire Hills that you would like to share?

6. Is there anything you would like to recommend that would make the current partnership with the Stepping Stones Project stronger and more effective in the future?