

**FARMING IN PROTECTED LANDSCAPES (FIPL), SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND (SDF)  
AND HEREFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (HCF) WYE VALLEY NATIONAL  
LANDSCAPE FUND**

***Purpose***

To update members on the progress of the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme, the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) and the Wye Valley National Landscape Fund with Herefordshire Community Foundation (HCF).

***Recommendation***

That the JAC endorse the recent allocations of grants under the FiPL programme, SDF and HCF National Landscape Fund.

***Key Issues***

- DEFRA have provided additional allocations in 2024/25 for the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme in England, resulting in the Wye Valley National Landscape benefiting from a FiPL total of £841,264 in this final year of the current programme.
- The FiPL Assessment Panel has approved grants utilising the full amount available, totalling £727,916 of grants and £74,526 of admin, advice and guidance, so the programme is closed for applications unless there are any unspent grants returned in time before the end of the financial year.
- DEFRA have confirmed the extension of the FiPL Officer post for 2 years but the provision of the FiPL grants programme is uncertain and dependent on the government's Budget and Spending Review.
- The Welsh Government Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) currently has £87,103.50 allocated from the £100,000 available for 202/25, leaving £10,783.50 available.
- This is the final year of the current SDF allocation but it is anticipated that Welsh Government will renew the SDF, subject to the Spending Review and Budget settlement.
- The Wye Valley National Landscape Fund hosted by the Herefordshire Community Foundation (HCF) is currently closed for applications while opportunities to grow the Fund are sought.

***Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL)***

The Farming in Protected Landscape (FiPL) grants programme currently terminates in March 2025. Wye Valley National Landscape FiPL allocation for 24/25 was originally £362,384. DEFRA offered various additional funding rounds for Protected Landscapes that had the

capacity to taken up further allocations. The Wye Valley National Landscape Team applied for and received an additional £109,304 for FiPL. The Historic Building Restoration Grant (HBRG) scheme was also launched by DEFRA and Historic England as a specific addition to FiPL. The Wye Valley FiPL Officer was able to secure £369,576 of HBRG. Consequently the total FiPL funds for 2024/25 became £841,264 of which £74,526 is allocated for programme administration including advice and guidance, through employment of the FiPL Officer and contracting of other farm advisors.

The FiPL Assessment Panel is delegated with deciding each application over £5,000. Application under £5,000 are determined by the National Landscape Manager. FiPL applications approved since the JAC in July are as follows:

<b>Code</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Grant £</b>	<b>Approved</b>
WV086	The Hyde	NFM	1,200.00	Delegated
WV088	Staunton Meend	Heathland management	2,297.05	Delegated
WV089	Eastbach Court	Optimal Shelterbelt	10,402.36	Panel
WV090	Harewood End	Lake Restoration	21,431.52	Panel
WV091	Great Trewen	Milkshed	19,950.00	Panel
WV092	Mayview Farm	Optimal Shelterbelt	12,997.02	Panel
WV093	Ballingham Court	Access Trailer	15,200.00	Panel
WV094	Elvastone Farm	Pine Ring Restoration	5,488.32	Panel
WV095	Bicknor Court	Grazing infrastructure	1,242.47	Delegated
WV096	Upper Pengethley	Optimal Shelterbelt	9,693.00	Panel
WV097	Lower Witherstone	Livestock bridge	2,341.15	Delegated
WV098	Much Fawley Farm	Bird Survey	500.00	Delegated
WV099	Northgate Farm	Butchery unit	17,000.00	Panel
WV100	Mayview Farm	Water settlement tank	2,076.00	Delegated
		<b>TOTAL this period</b>	<b>121,818.89</b>	

DEFRA have not confirmed whether the FiPL grants programme will be extended beyond March 2025. However, the FiPL Officer post has been extended by 2 years to continue farm liaison and engagement, whether the grants programme is renewed or not.

The last FiPL application to be approved in Wye Valley National Landscape to date was the one hundredth.

### ***Sustainable Development Fund (SDF)***

Welsh Government allocated £100,000 of SDF for 2024/25 for the Welsh part of the National Landscape. The SDF Assessment Panel is delegated with deciding on applications over £3,000. Application under £3,000 are determined by the National Landscape Manager. The table below lists the approved grants since the last JAC in July, totalling £9,113. To date during 2024/25 a total of £89,216.50 of SDF has been approved and committed, leaving

£10,783.50 remaining for the rest of the year. The Community Links Officer is aware of a potential application in development that may apply for all the remaining funds.

Code	Applicant	Project Title	Project value	SDF Grant	Approved
WY09 YR24W	Tintern Festivals Association	Ecofest	£5,425.00	£2,425.00	Delegated
WY10 YR24W	Coed Lleol-Small Woods	Wild in the Wye	£8,532.00	£6,688.00	Panel
		<b>TOTAL this period</b>		<b>£9,113.00</b>	

The current SDF allocation ends in March 2025. However it is understood that Welsh Government intend to continue the SDF subject to the settlement of their budgets.

### ***Wye Valley National Landscape Fund with Herefordshire Community Foundation (HCF)***

The Wye Valley National Landscape Fund with Herefordshire Community Foundation (HCF) was established with a £50,000 Endowment Fund. Project grants are awarded from the interest and any growth or donations above that base Fund. There is currently £10,000 also donated specifically for the Youth Rangers programme.

The HCF Wye Valley National Landscape Fund had a balance of £67,368 as of the last statement dated 30th September 2024. The fund is currently restricted to allow the value to grow. Opportunities need to be sought to augment the National Landscape Fund further. When funds allow, the National Landscape Team &/or SDF Assessment Panel, as appropriate, reviews and comments on applications to the National Landscape Fund to advise HCF on grant funding.

### ***Background***

For more details on grants and the application process see <https://www.wyevalley-nl.org.uk/caring-for-wye-valley-aonb/grants/>.