

## FARMING IN PROTECTED LANDSCAPES

### ***Purpose***

To advise members of the progress of the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme.

### ***Recommendations***

That the JAC welcomes the extension of the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme and endorses the allocations of the Local Assessment Panel.

### ***Key Issues***

- Each AONB and National Park in England has an allocation from DEFRA to provide grants through the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme for farmers and land managers to provide benefits for nature, climate, people and places.
- The original FiPL programme was for 2021/22 to 2023/24. The programme has now be extended for further year to March 2025.
- The Farming in Protected Landscapes Officer is able to assist farmers and land managers applying to the programme.
- The Local Assessment Panel meets regularly to determine applications for Farming in Protected Landscapes grants and has approved the full allocation of funds for 2022/23.

### ***Reasons***

The Farming in Protected Landscapes programme allows farmers and other land managers in England to liaise with the AONB Unit and apply for funding to improve public access, and deliver bigger and better outcomes for the environment, for people and for places.

Applications need to demonstrate that proposed projects help deliver the Wye Valley AONB Management Plan and must deliver against at least one of the following items under the four key themes:

#### Climate

- More carbon is stored and/or sequestered
- Flood risk has been reduced
- Better understanding among farmers, land managers and the public as to what different habitats and land uses can deliver for carbon storage and reduced carbon emissions
- The landscape is more resilient to climate change

#### Nature

- There is a greater area of wildlife rich habitat

- There is greater connectivity between habitats
- Existing habitat is better managed for biodiversity
- There is an increase in biodiversity

#### People

- There are more opportunities for people to explore, enjoy and understand the landscape
- There are more opportunities for more diverse audiences to explore, enjoy and understand the landscape
- There is greater public engagement in land management, for example through volunteering

#### Place

- The quality and character of the landscape is reinforced or enhanced
- Historic structures and features are conserved, enhanced or interpreted more effectively
- There is an increase in the resilience of nature friendly sustainable farm businesses, which in turn contributes to a more thriving local economy

The FiPL Local Assessment Panel members are listed below. The Local Assessment Panel determines applications over £5,000. Applications under £5,000 are delegated to the AONB Manager for decision.

### **Implications**

The FiPL allocation for the Wye Valley AONB Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme budget is as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Grants awarded</b>	<b>Projects supported</b>
<b>2021/22</b>	£ 96,525	£ 96,473.46	7 projects
<b>2022/23</b>	£ 220,110	£ 228,622.29	22 projects (including some multiyear from Year 1)
<b>2023/24</b>	£ 219,488	£ 128,425.55 [to date]	currently 11 projects (all multiyear from Year 1 &/or Year 2)
<b>2024/25</b>	<i>tbc</i>	<i>0</i>	~

In total 30 applications have been received and assessed, with 5 projects being refused or deferred. There are 14 multi-year projects, 4 spanning Years 1 & 2 and 11 spanning Years 2 & 3. One spans all 3 years.

Currently there is a slight overspend in Year 2 which may be mitigated by additional allocation from DEFRA, from a national pot redistributing underspends from other Protected Landscapes. Alternatively some project spends can be rolled over into Year 3.

For Year 3 (2023/24) currently £ 91,062 remains unallocated. However DEFRA have enquired whether any further resources might be required and an additional bid has been submitted.

The recently published Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 announced that the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme will be extended by one year to March 2025, with additional budget resources. However, individual allocations have not been confirmed.

The full list of approved projects are outlined below:

Project number	Farm / applicant	2021/22 £	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	Total
WV001	Grazing Management Ltd	4,938.75			4,938.75
WV002	Nature's Nest	7,146.70	951.00		8,097.70
WV003	Wye & Usk Foundation	14,942.00	31,658.00	19,125.00	65,725.00
WV004	Townsend Farm	31,144.20	34,386.00		65,530.20
WV006	Lewstone Farm	4,498.00			4,498.00
WV007	Sandford Farm	756.71	742.22		1,498.93
WV009	Ballingham Court Farm	4,000.00			4,000.00
WV010	Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust		16,357.60		16,357.60
WV012	Wye & Usk Foundation		6,284.48	11,908.00	18,192.48
WV013	Brampton Orchard		15,471.50	2,843.40	18,314.90
WV014	AONB noble chafer project		7,375.74	500.00	7,875.74
WV016	The Dingle, Checkley		10,021.26	3,694.91	13,716.17
WV017	Huntsham Farm		3,599.25		3,599.25
WV018	Tump Farm		3,073.12	5,271.21	8,344.33
WV019	Coxbury Farm		7,624.81		7,624.81
WV020	Bicknor Court Farm		6,587.46	14,264.70	20,852.16
WV021	LEAF education		700.00	13,500.00	14,200.00
WV022	Ballingham Court Farm		10,731.16	659.24	11,390.40
WV023	Taste of Self-Sufficiency		2,083.03		2,083.03
WV024	Grazing Management Ltd		2,472.76		2,472.76
WV025	Townsend Farm Modern Field		7,470.00		7,470.00
WV026	Herefordshire Wildlife Trust		5,150.00		5,150.00
WV027	Benhall Farm		2,732.64	2,818.98	5,551.62
WV028	Coxbury Farm		1,990.00		1,990.00
WV029	Dryslade Farm		2,275.26	6,309.78	8,585.04
Advice & Guidance	AONB costs	17,631.60	29,800.00	29,825.76	77,257.36
Admin	AONB costs	11,415.5	19,085	17,704.57	37,906.07
<b>Total spend</b>		<b>96,473.46</b>	<b>228,622.29</b>	<b>128,425.55</b>	<b>453,521.30</b>
Total budget		96,525.08	220,110.00	219,488.00	536,123.08
	<i>remainder</i>	<i>51.62</i>	<i>-8,512.29</i>	<i>91,062.45</i>	<i>82,601.78</i>

In total 73 enquires have been received about the FiPL programme. Recently 10 farmers and smallholders have enquired, with at least three new applications anticipated in the near future for work to be undertaken in Year 3. Meanwhile the Wye & Usk Foundation and Herefordshire Meadows are also providing advice to farmers and supporting the development of FiPL applications.

## ***Background***

The Farming in Protected Landscapes programme was originally announced in the Agricultural Transition Plan in November 2020 and launched by the DEFRA Minister in July 2021. (see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/funding-for-farmers-in-protected-landscapes>)

In January Environment Secretary Dr Thérèse Coffey unveiled the [Environmental Improvement Plan 2023](#) which included extending the delivery of the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme.

### ***FiPL Local Assessment Panel members:***

Andrew Blake, Wye Valley AONB Manager (chair)

Rob Edwards, Natural England

Cllr John Hardwick, Wye Valley AONB JAC/Herefordshire Council/Oldstone Farm

Ann Herbert, Lewstone Farm/NFU

Ali Parker, NFU

Esther Rudge, Ballingham Court Farm

Claire Spicer, Herefordshire Wildlife Trust

### ***Officers in attendance:***

Anna Stankiewicz, Wye Valley AONB Farming in Protected Landscapes Officer

Nick Critchley, Wye Valley AONB Development Officer