

**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 allocations of grants under the FiPL programme, SDF and HCF National Landscape Fund to date for 2024/25.

Key Issues

- The DEFRA funded Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme in England has an allocation of £362,384 for 2024/25, which is currently the final year of the programme.
- The FiPL Assessment Panel has approved grants totalling £303,675 in 2023/24 with £35,387 remaining. For 2024/5, £157,270 has already been allocated, leaving £205,113 remaining in what is understood to be the last year of the programme.
- Guidance and assistance to farmers and land managers applying to the FiPL programme is provided by Anna Stankiewicz, National Landscape Farming in Protected Landscapes Officer, along with Farm Advisors from the Wye & Usk Foundation and Herefordshire Meadows.
- The Welsh Government Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) currently has £80,103.50 allocated from the £100,000 available for 202/25, leaving £19,896.50 available. This is the final year of the current funding allocation.
- Community groups, local organisations and individuals wishing to apply for the SDF can get assistance from Lucinda James, National Landscape Community Links Officer.
- The Wye Valley National Landscape Fund hosted by the Herefordshire Community Foundation (HCF) is currently closed for applications and opportunities to grow the Fund need to be sought.

Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL)

The Farming in Protected Landscape (FiPL) programme currently terminates until March 2025. Wye Valley National Landscape allocation of FiPL for 24/25 was £362,384. This includes an allowance for the employment of the FiPL Officer, further Advice & Guidance

and overhead & administration costs. If these Advice & Admin allocations are not fully required they can be transferred to the FiPL grant budget.

The FiPL Assessment Panel is delegated with deciding on each application over £5,000. Application under £5,000 are determined by the National Landscape Manager. FiPL applications approved to date in 2024/5 are as follows:

Code	Applicant	Project	year	Grant £
WV012	Wye & Usk Foundation	INNS	3 of 3	5,532.98
WV014	AONB Unit	noble chafer project	3 of 3	155.00
WV016	The Dingle, Checkley	grassland & tree management	3 of 3	608.40
WV020	Bicknor Court Farm	water and habitat management	3 of 3	768.30
WV021	LEAF education	Increasing farm educational access	3 of 3	6,230.00
WV034	Lower Witherstone	Wood pasture & hedgerows creation	2 of 2	4,852.48
WV036	Fownhope PC	Coronation Walk	2 of 2	900.00
WV041	Townsend Farm	Flour & Grain	2 of 2	5,630.79
WV044	Pasture for Profit	Protected Landscapes scheme	2 of 2	28,344.80
WV047	Bearse Farm	Educational Visits	2 of 2	2,678.00
WV053	WV AONB	Willow Walk	1 of 1	14,277.00
WV055	Severn Treescapes	Orchards	2 of 2	4,738.20
WV056	Herefordshire Meadows	Grasslands	1 of 1	19,450.00
WV057	Caswell Farm	Water Capture & Resilience Improvement	1 of 1	1,244.30
WV059	Bryants Court	Companion cropping	2 of 2	6,788.62
WV060	Caradoc Estate	River Meadows	1 of 1	4,828.78
WV061	The Dingle	Veteran Trees	2 of 2	976.00
WV062	Wye and Usk Foundation	Farm Advice	1 of 1	35,000.00
WV063	Weir End	Moor Meadow	1 of 1	6,879.15
WV064	Underhill Farm	Companion cropping	2 of 2	1,987.40
WV065	Upper Pengethley Farm	Optimal Shelter Belts	2 of 2	533.00
WV066	British Canoeing	Meadow & riverbank conservation	2 of 2	2,420.00
WV067	Coxbury Farm	Optimal Shelter Belts	2 of 2	447.00
WV068	Staunton Parish Council	Staunton Meend	1 of 1	6,722.00
WV070	Wye & Usk Foundation	INNS 2	1 of 1	15,308.00
WV071	Rectory Orchard	Orchard management	1 of 1	747.12
WV072	Dryslade Farm	Educational Events	2 of 2	1,452.00

WV074	Tudor Farmhouse	Orchard management	1 of 1	832.36
WV075	Grazing Management Ltd.	LoRaWan Agri-Tech stock monitoring	1 of 1	9,588.00
WV076	Caradoc Estate	Equine grazing enhancements	1 of 1	9,117.64
WV077	Hancocks Meadow	Meadow restoration	1 of 1	8,058.28
WV078	Herefordshire Rural Hub	AG-vocates	1 of 1	14,988.52
WV079	Kilforge Farm	Undersowing	1 of 1	533.52
WV080	Townsend Farm	Information Signs	1 of 1	3,864.00
WV081	Lower Penalt	Undersowing - 2nd year	1 of 1	595.27
WV082	<i>Townsend Farm [FiPL Access Fund]</i>	<i>The Yield Centre</i>	<i>1 of 1</i>	<i>TBC</i>
WV083	Woolhope PC	Broadmoor Common	1 of 1	13,389.00
WV084	Kilforge Farm	Wetland	1 of 1	8,250.00
WV085	Wye Organic	Butchery	1 of 1	21,250.00
WVHBRG01	Lower Witherstone	Restoration of 2 barns	1 of 1	271,122.41
WVHBRG02	Ballingham Court	Reroofing of 2 barns	1 of 1	71,077.60
Projects running total				612,165.92
	Advice & Guidance (A&G)			55,093.00
	Admin			30,879.00
	A&G: Historic Building Restoration Grant (HBRG)			27,376.00
Total expenditure				698,137.92
		Total FiPL budget		362,384.00
		Total HBRG budget		369,576.01
		<i>Total budget remaining</i>		<i>33,822.09</i>

DEFRA have not confirmed whether the FiPL programme will be extended beyond March 2025. However, DEFRA does recognise the positive feedback and outcomes delivered by the FiPL programme, which would be well placed to promote and encourage take up of the full Environmental Land Management (ELM) agri-environment scheme when it becomes active.

For further advice or to discuss any project ideas, please contact Anna Stankiewicz, FiPL Officer on farming@wyevalleyaonb.org.uk.

Sustainable Development Fund (SDF)

Welsh Government have allocated £100,000 of SDF for 2024/25 for the Welsh part of the National Landscape. The current funding allocation also ends in March 2025. Welsh Government appreciate that renewed medium to long term security of funding provides

enhanced opportunities for organisations, individuals and community groups to properly plan for innovative, sustainable, environmental projects, which benefit nature recovery and the well-being of future generations.

The SDF Assessment Panel is delegated with deciding on each application over £3,000. Application under £3,000 are determined by the National Landscape Manager. The list of approved grants to date during 2024/25, totalling £80,103.50 is in the table below.

Code	Applicant	Project Title	years		Total Project value	SDF Grant
			This	Total		
WV00 YR23W	Wye Valley National Landscape Unit	Admin 10%	~	~	NA	10,000.00
WV01 YR24W	Wye Coppice CIC	Wye Coppice Training 23/24	2	2	£20,000.00	£7,226.10
WV02 YR24W	Gwent Wildlife Trust	Restoring The Wern	2	2	£6,000.00	£3,502.50
WV03 YR24W	Coed Lleol-Small Woods	Nature based wellbeing	2	2	£10,000.00	£6,285.00
WV04 YR24W	ACE Monmouth	Regen Farming Monitoring project	2	2	£18,186.00	£1,213.40
WV05 YR24W	Wye Valley River Festival CIC	The Earth Beneath Our Feet	2	2	£187,000.00	£25,000.00
WV06 YR24W	Bees for Development	Bees of Monmouthshire	2	2	£19,145.15	£5,966.97
WV07 YR24W	Wye Coppice CIC	Coppice Training & Community Outreach 24/25	1	2	£39,500.00	£19,750.00
WY08 YR24W	New House Farm	Meadow Restoration	1	1	£2,319.05	£1,159.53
		TOTALS (to date)			£302,150.20	£80,103.50
		<i>Average grant rate:</i>			<i>39%</i>	
		Remaining grant from £100,000				£19,896.50

Lucinda James, National Landscape Community Links Officer, assists applicants with projects and application development for presented to the Assessment Panel. If you are interested in applying please contact Lucinda on community@wyevalleyaonb.org.uk.

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 £67,930 as of the last statement dated 31st March 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 Unit &/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/>.