

7th July 2025

FARMING IN PROTECTED LANDSCAPES (FIPL), FFERMIO BRO, 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) and Ffermio Bro programmes, the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) and the Wye Valley National Landscape Fund with Herefordshire Community Foundation (HCF).

Recommendation

That the JAC

A. Welcomes the new members and Local Assessment Panel for the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) and the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) and Ffermio Bro programmes, and the new FiPL and Ffermio Bro Officers

B. Endorses the recent allocations of FiPL and SDF grants.

Key Issues

- DEFRA have confirmed a one year allocation for the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme in England for 2025/26, with the Wye Valley National Landscape being offered a FiPL total of £339,063 including advice and administration.
- The FiPL Assessment Panel has recently approved grants totalling £62,052.02.
- The revised Welsh Government Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) has an allocation of £95,000 for 2025/26 and the new SDF Panel met for the first time recently and approved 2 projects giving a total of £46,365.80 granted to date.
- The new Welsh Government Ffermio Bro programme has an allocation of £95,000 for grants for farmers in the Wye Valley National Landscape (Wales only).
- A successful recruitment process filled both the replacement FiPL Officer post and the new Ffermio Bro Officer.
- The Herefordshire Community Foundation (HCF) Wye Valley National Landscape Fund 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 has been extended initially until March 2026. Wye Valley National Landscape FiPL allocation for 25/26 is £339,063

including advice and administration. The Wye Valley FiPL Officer, Anna Stankiewicz, decided to leave in April following 3 very successful years running the programme. A recruitment process has brought Richie Alford into the post. He hosted a recent FiPL Panel meeting and the following grants were awarded:

Code	Applicant	Project	Grant £	Approved
WV 112	L Squire & Herefordshire Meadows	Broomy Green Meadow restoration	£2,956.80	Delegated
WV 090	Duchy of Cornwall	Harewood End Lake restoration	£14,000.00	Panel
WV 109	J W Simmons and Son	Hewelsfield Court Manure Store Walls	£13,394.00	Panel
WV 110	Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust	Severn Treescapes Orchards Connect	£4,884.60	Panel
WV 111	J & M Lyons	The Cotes Meadow restoration	£9,062.00	Panel
WV 114	T & E Matthews	Bearse Farm Educational Visits	£6,368.62	Panel
WV 115	J Hoddell and partners	Lewstone Farm Meadow restoration	£1,970.00	Panel
WV 116	Mark Jones	Upper End Farm Meadow restoration	£9,416.00	Panel
		TOTAL this period	£62,052.02	

DEFRA have not confirmed whether the FiPL grants programme will be extended beyond March 2026. However, the FiPL Officer post is currently to continue to March 2027, with farm liaison and engagement, whether the grants programme is renewed or not.

Ffermio Bro

The new Welsh Government Ffermio Bro programme, focused on encouraging nature-friendly farming practices in Wales' National Parks and National Landscapes, was launched by Deputy First Minister with responsibility for Rural Affairs, Huw Irranca-Davies, while visiting the Wye Valley in May 2025 [see <https://www.gov.wales/support-nature-friendly-farming-across-wales-most-treasured-landscapes>].

The Ffermio Bro programme in the Wye Valley National Landscape has an allocation of £95,000 for grants for farmers (in the Welsh part of the National Landscape). Chris Knight has been recruited to provide advice for farmers and landowners and help them apply to deliver the programme, he started on 1st July. Guidance and application documents have been finalised, along national guidelines, and the Local Assessment Panel has been appointed as follows:-

Cllr Ann Webb, Monmouthshire County Council & JAC
 Andrew Blake, Wye Valley National Landscape Manager
 Anna Stankiewicz, Herefordshire Meadows (& former FiPL Officer)
 Dan Smith, Tŷ-Mawr Dingestow & Nuffield Farming Scholar
 Joe Ryder, Gwent Wildlife Trust

Sustainable Development Fund (SDF)

Welsh Government has allocated £95,000 of SDF for 2025/26 for the Welsh part of the National Landscape. New Guidance for the SDF was issued for 2025/26 with the key objectives of tackling the Biodiversity and Climate Emergencies. To address and mitigate against biodiversity loss and climate change 60% of programme funding must be ring-fenced for projects which further these objectives.

The SDF Assessment Panel has also been revised in line with the Guidance:

Membership is as follows:-

Sector Representatives:

Private Sector	David Price, NFU Wales
Voluntary Sector	Charles Emes, ACE Monmouth
Voluntary Sector	Gemma Bode, Gwent Wildlife
Public Sector	Kate Stinchcombe, Monmouthshire County Council
Public Sector	Cllr Emma Bryn, Monmouthshire County Council & JAC

Advisory:

Statutory Agency officer	Sarah Tindal, Natural Resources Wales
	Andrew Blake, WVNLM Manager
	Lucinda James, WVNLM Community Links Officer

The new Panel met for the first time and, following some induction training, determined 2 applications. The table below lists the approved grants including those carried over from last year.

Code	Applicant	Project Title	SDF Grant	Approved
WV00 YR25W	WVNLM Team	10% admin	£9,500.00	~
WY01 YR25W	Grazing Management Ltd	Conservation Grazing at Wet Meadow (Year 2 of 2)	£13,742.00	Panel
WV02 YR25W	Marches Real Food & Farming Network	Marches Real Food and Farming Convergence 2025	£4,000.00	Panel
WV03 YR25W	Dylan Allman, Hedgehog Aware	The Prickly Patch: Hedgehog Rehabilitation Unit	£19,123.80	Panel
		TOTAL this period	£46,365.80	

The SDF Assessment Panel is delegated with deciding on applications over £3,000.

Application under £3,000 are determined by the National Landscape Manager.

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 £67,628 as of the last statement dated 31st December 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 assists 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/>.