

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 endorses the recent allocations of FiPL, Ffermio Bro and SDF grants.

Key Issues

- The Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) Local Assessment Panel has recently approved grants totalling nearly £150,000 for 13 projects, with over £251,000 allocated so far in 2025/26 on behalf of DEFRA and 26% remaining.
- The Ffermio Bro Assessment Panel met for the first time and approved 4 grants for £33,262 on behalf of Rural Payments Wales, with 65% remaining.
- The Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) Assessment Panel recently approved 3 projects giving a total of £67,210 granted to date on behalf of Welsh Government with 29% remaining.
- The Herefordshire Community Foundation (HCF) Wye Valley National Landscape Fund is currently closed for applications while opportunities to grow the Fund are sought.
- The continuation of FiPL grant allocation in 2026/27 is currently unknown and is dependent on the outcome of the Budget and subsequent DEFRA settlement.

Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL)

Wye Valley National Landscape FiPL allocation for 25/26 is £339,063 including advice and administration. The Wye Valley FiPL Officer, Richie Alford, has hosted two FiPL Panel meetings since the last JAC and the grants totalling £149,044.60 were awarded (see table below). The total grants awarded this year amount to £251,212 which leaves £87,851 (26%) remaining including advice and administration up to March 2026. Applications under £10,000 may be determined by the National Landscape Manager.

DEFRA have yet to confirm whether the FiPL grants programme will be extended beyond March 2026. This will be dependent on the DEFRA settlement following the Autumn Budget

on 26th November. However, the FiPL Officer post does continue to March 2027, enabling opportunities for farm liaison and engagement, even if the grants programme ends.

Number	Applicant	Project	Grant £	Approved
WV 119	Model Farm	Milking Parlour	7,049.60	Panel
WV 120	Broome Farm	Orchard enhancements	16,330.80	Panel
WV121	Pasture for Life	Advice & events	29,130.00	
WV 122	Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust	Hoarthorn Farm Arable reversion & grazing infrastructure	25,764.70	Panel
WV 123	Clay Farms	No-fence Collars	8,820.00	Panel
WV 124	Caradoc Estate	Wye and Usk Sustainable Soils Pilot for Potatoes	4,913.70	Delegated
WV 125	Flanesford Priory	Information Boards	4,534.00	Delegated
WV 126	Caradoc Estate	Meadow restoration	2,970.00	Panel
WV 128	Cowmeadow Farm	Historical Pond restoration	13,355.00	Panel
WV 130	Alfords Mill	Orchard restoration	14,729.73	Panel
WV 131	Caplor Farm	Pond restoration	7,093.07	Panel
WV 132	Eastwood Coppice	Pond creation	2,610.00	Panel
WV 134	Ballingham Court Farm	Silage Pit Floor	11,744.00	Panel
		TOTAL this period	149,044.60	

Ffermio Bro

Welsh Government's Ffermio Bro programme, focused on encouraging nature-friendly farming in Wales' National Parks and National Landscapes, has got off to a good start in its first year, both locally and nationally. The allocation for the Wye Valley National Landscape in 2025/26 is £95,000 for grants for farmers in the Welsh part of the National Landscape.

Chris Knight, the Ffermio Bro Officer has been providing advice and guidance to farmers and landowners and helping them apply to the programme for grants. The new Assessment Panel has met once and approved £33,262 of grants to the following 4 projects:

Number	Applicant	Project	Grant £	Approved
WVNL0001	Noddfa	Hedging & grazing infrastructure	£6,000.00	Panel
WVNL0002	Parva Wood	Fencing & Meadow restoration	£9,262.65	Panel
WVNL0003	Lower Gockett Farm	Hedging, fencing & pond creation	£7,479.00	Panel
WVNL0004	Little Penarth Farm	Hedging, fencing & leaky dams	£10,520.54	Panel
		TOTAL this period	£33,262.19	

Applications under £10,000 may be determined by the National Landscape Manager.

Sustainable Development Fund (SDF)

Welsh Government allocated £95,000 of SDF in 2025/26 for the Welsh part of the Wye Valley National Landscape. Programme funding must ring-fence 60% for projects that further the objectives of tackling the Biodiversity and Climate Emergencies. The total grants awarded this year amount to £67,210 which leaves £27,790 (29%) remaining.

The SDF Panel met in September and approved the following 3 applications:-

Code	Applicant	Project Title	SDF Grant	Approved
WV04 YR25W	Chepstow Boat Club	Pontoon enhancement	£5,000	Panel
WV06 YR25W	Wye Valley River Festival CIC	Daear Prin/Rare Earth Festival 2026 (Yr 1 of 2)	£12,500	Panel
WV07 YR25W	Dol Wen One Planet	Biochar training course (Yr 1 of 3)	£3,344	Panel
		TOTAL this period	£20,844.00	

Applications 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 £65,420 as of the last statement dated 30th September 2025. 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 determining grant allocations.

Background

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