

**UPDATES ON 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 approved grants for 13 projects totalling £93,600 since the last JAC, with near complete allocation of the £339,063 budget for 2025/26.
- The Ffermio Bro Assessment Panel approved 13 grants for £64,832 on behalf of Rural Payments Wales, allocating all the remaining available funding for this year totalling £99,450.
- The Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) Assessment Panel recently approved 3 projects allocating the remaining funds of the total £95,000 on behalf of Welsh Government.
- 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, Ffermio Bro and SDF grant allocations in 2026/27 have been confirmed by DEFRA and Welsh Government respectively.

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

Wye Valley National Landscape FiPL allocation for 25/26 is £339,063 including advice & guidance and administration. The Wye Valley FiPL Officer, Richie Alford, has hosted two FiPL Panel meetings since the last JAC and grants totalling £93,600 were awarded (see table below). The total grants awarded this year, including advice & guidance and administration, amount to £333,129 which leaves £6,000 (2%) remaining up to end of March 2026. Applications under £10,000 may be determined by the National Landscape Manager.

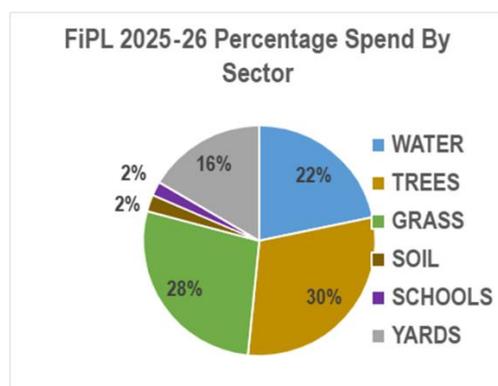
DEFRA have confirmed that the FiPL grants programme will be extended to March 2029. Next year, 2026/27, will have the same budget as 2025/26 and subsequent years are currently indicative allocations dependent on DEFRA business planning. However, this enables opportunities for more targeted and strategic planning and engagement.

WV 137	Hoarthorn Wetland	£ 8,212.96
	fencing out neighbouring pond (owned by FC), digging an attenuation pond, installing 2 small leaky dams, hedging around the pond and installation of concrete in the yard to better manage dirty water.	
WV 138	Moraston Agroforestry riparian buffer	£ 4,050.40
	Riparian tree planting	
WV 139	Coxbury Shelterbelt	£ 4,393.90
	planting a 170m shelterbelt providing excellent habitat and added wildlife connectivity around the farm	
WV 140	Hancocks Meadow	£ 5,764.90
	shelterbelt using fruit and nut trees to provide additional value for both nature and pollination	
WV 141	The Hyde Wetland creation	£ 27,200.00
	remove the old pipework and create scrapes, bunds and attenuation areas, reducing the speed of the waters flow and keeping it on the land, alleviating downstream problems.	
WV 145	Shingley Habitat Creation	£ 13,343.34
	422 metres of hedge planted, 25 old orchard trees pruned.	
WV 146	Buckstone Common Habitat Restoration	£ 6,000.00
	trailing goat grazing through Grazing Management, to control bracken and bramble encroachment on the Staunton Meend heathland.	
WV 147	Calcareous Grassland Restoration Buchanan Park	£ 7,920.00
	livestock handling facilities at Buchanan Fields, Coleford, to enable introduction of livestock to better manage calcareous grassland.	
WV 148	St Briavels Common Grazing Livestock facilities	£ 4,339.16
	Replacing 151m of stock fence and 3 gates, creating cattle handling facilities and a new pond as a water supply for stock to enable improved grazing of species rich neutral grassland.	
WV 149	Grazing Management Ltd	£ 1,654.16
	scrub control and habitat monitoring through goat hurdles, masterject kit and a drone further enabling extensive conservation grazing across the National Landscape	
WV 150	Hancocks Meadow sand martin Nesting box	£ 4,877.00
	sand martin nesting box to be placed above the river flood level	
WV 151	Ragmans Lane Farm Leaky dams	£ 1,845.56
	four leaky dams to slow the flow in a channel that funnels water directly into the concrete yard	
WV 153	Willowbank	£ 4,000.00
	Deer Fenced Willow Pasture	
<b>Total</b>		<b>£ 93,601.38</b>

## FiPL outcomes 2025/26

43 grants to 40 farmers – average grant £5,240

FiPL Project Sector Outcomes 25/26 (to Jan 26)		
Wildflower meadows created	27.5	hectares
Grazing farmer advice days	55	Days
Cattle NoFence Collar	60	Units
Goat Grazing Hurdles	100	Metres
School visits	10	Days
Trees planted	1863	trees
Hedges	772	metres
Fencing	1151	metres
Ponds	8	ponds
Leaky Dams	5	leaky dams
Concrete yard area	820	metres <sup>2</sup>



## Ffermio Bro

Welsh Government's Ffermio Bro programme has an allocation for the Wye Valley National Landscape in 2025/26 of £99,450 for grants for farmers in the Welsh part of the National Landscape.

The Wye Valley Ffermio Bro Officer, Chris Knight, has hosted three Local Assessment Panel meetings since the last JAC and grants totalling £64,832 were awarded (see table below). The total grants awarded this year, including advice and administration, commit the full allocation of £99,450. Applications under £10,000 may be determined by the National Landscape Manager.

Welsh Government have confirmed that the Ffermio Bro grants programme will continue to March 2028. Next year, 2026/27 the budget will be increased to £195,300. Subsequent years are currently indicative dependant on the Welsh Government elections.

Number	Applicant	Grant £
WVNL0005	Upper Meand Farm	£6,474.9
	Pond restoration, Scrape creation, 20 small leaky dams, Hedge planting, Hedge laying and fencing, 0.24ha of woodland management and fencing to restrict livestock access to woodland	
WVNL0006	Great House Farm	£5,591.04

	672m stock fencing to exclude livestock from the Angidy brook and protect existing hedgerow.	
WVNL0007	LLan Y Nant Farm new hedge	£5,380.80
WVNL0008	Keepers Lodge Farm Install fence to restrict stock access to a field of wet grassland, allowing the site to naturally regenerate.	£2,592.76
WVNL0009	The Meads 255m new hedge with fencing, separating 2 arable fields and connecting to exiting hedgerows and woodland beyond Also fruit trees to augment a small neglected orchard.	£8,835.35
WVNL0010	Village Farm 200m of Hedgelaying and fencing, 80m of hedge planting and fencing, 2 Standard Fruit trees, 2 soft wood gates and a stile in fence lines. Woodland glade creation	£6,861.84
WVNL0013	Lower Gockett Farm Fencing laid hedge and habitat enhancements	£1,994.40
WVNL0014	TY Mawr 200m Hedgelaying, including training, scrape creation for dual benefits of habitat creation and diverting highway surface water runoff, extension of an existing pond, planting 10 specimen trees and replacing 2 stiles with gates	£3,618.58
WVNL0016	The Tump Farm reinstating 370m of hedgerow removed in the 1950s, including hedgerow trees, providing connectivity between other remaining hedgerows	10,879.72
WVNL0019	Mill Farm fencing to separate a newly planted woodland, allowing livestock grazing whilst protecting the woodland and Angidy river beyond	£1,515.92
WVNL0022	Old Parc Farm Planting 105m Hedgerow	£3,968.50
WVNL0023	GWT The Wern 12m Dry Stone Wall Stabilisation and public access enhancements	£1,250.00
WVNL0024	Keepers Lodge B Fence off 240m Riparian corridor and woodland from stock	£5,868.56
	<b>TOTAL this period</b>	<b>£64,832.37</b>

### **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 ring-fences 60% for projects that further the objectives of tackling the Biodiversity and Climate Emergencies. Lucinda James, Wye Valley National Landscape Community Links Officer works with potential and successful applicants and the SDF Assessment Panel to achieve this objective. The total grants awarded by the SDF Assessment Panel since the last JAC equals £25,621.70 (see table below). This commits the full allocation for the year. Welsh Government have allocated a further £95,000 of SDF for 2026/27 in the Welsh part of the Wye Valley National Landscape. Applications under £3,000 are determined by the National Landscape Manager.

<b>Code</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>SDF Grant</b>
WV08 YR26W	Ty Mawr Farm, Old Lands.	Roots In – Knowledge Shed habitat restoration & regenerative farming.	£24,860.87
WV09 YR26W	Transition Monmouth	Wyesham Community Woodland Management Plan	£400.83
WV10 YR26W	St Michael's Church, Mitchel Troy	Drystone wall repairs	£360.00
		<b>TOTAL this period</b>	<b>£25,621.70</b>

**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 £65,521 as of the last statement dated 31<sup>st</sup> December 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/>.