

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

- A. endorses the recent allocations of FiPL, Ffermio Bro and SDF grants.
- B. Welcomes the new Wildlife Rich Habitat Fund allocation from DEFRA

Key Issues

- The Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) total allocation from DEFRA for the Wye Valley National Landscape in 2026/27 is £345,389, with similar indicative levels for 2027/28 and 2028/29.
- The FiPL Local Assessment Panel have approved grants for 5 projects totalling £89,981.50 in 2026/27 along with a further 5 projects assessed at the most recent Panel meeting with the final offers still being negotiated.
- DEFRA launched the Wildlife Rich Habitat Fund in May for the 3 years of 2026/27 to 2028/29 with Wye Valley National Landscape's allocation in 2026/27 being £80,000.
- Two projects have been supported to date through the Wildlife Rich Habitat Fund totalling £26,804.
- The Ffermio Bro total allocation from Welsh Government for the Wye Valley National Landscape in 2026/27 is £235,257 with a similar level for 2027/28.
- The Ffermio Bro Assessment Panel met on 1st July with 2 grant approvals being negotiated, so no formal grant offers have yet been made, but there is a healthy pipeline of prospective applications.
- The Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) Assessment Panel has approved 5 projects to date totalling £19,468 of the £95,000 allocated by 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.

Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL)

Wye Valley National Landscape FiPL allocation for 26/27 is £345,389 including advice & guidance and administration. DEFRA have indicated similar indicative levels for 2027/28 and 2028/29. The Wye Valley FiPL Officer, Richie Alford, has hosted two FiPL Panel meetings since the last JAC and grants totalling £89,981.50 awarded initially and a further 5 projects assessed at the most recent Panel meeting on 2nd July with the final offers still being negotiated (see table below). Applications under £10,000 may be determined by the National Landscape Manager.

WV 129	Clay Estate, Perrystone	£50,000.00
	Butchery unit (2 nd year of 2)	
WV A&G	Herefordshire Rural Hub	£20,000
	Farm Advice & Guidance collaborative service with Wye & Usk Foundation (WUF), Pastures for Life (Pfl), Herefordshire Meadows (HM) & Herefordshire Wildlife Trust (HWT).	
WV 160	Great Trewen Farm, Whitchurch	£6,766.40
	Yoghurt Pasteuriser to augment dairy processing and local sales	
WV 161	Ragmans Lane Farm, Lydbrook	£2,215.10
	Market Garden Regenerative Organic Infrastructure Improvements for Sustainable Market Garden Production	
WV 163	Model Farm, Hildersley	£11,000.00
	A2 Milk Vending machine to help with sales, particularly with farm shop currently closed due to Enterprise Park construction. A2 milk has a specialised market for people with a dairy intolerance.	
	TOTAL	£89,981.50
	<i>Projects approved on 2nd July: grant values to be finalised</i>	
WV 162	Warslow Farm, Checkley	TBC
	The Hedgerow Hut: establishment of an honesty box hut for walkers on the Mordiford Loop Walk	
WV 164	Much Fawley Farm	TBC
	Compost Loo for riverside walkers, canoeists and visitors to Much Fawley Chapel, to replace use of farm diversification Glamping facilities	
WV 165	Langstone Mill, Garren Brook	TBC
	Biosecurity, natural flood management and climate adaptation improvements for pedigree sheep enterprise	
WV 167	Grazing Management Ltd	TBC
	Livestock trailer; hurdles and portable shelter to facilitate handling of expanding goat herd for conservation grazing across the National Landscape	
WV 168	Alfords Mill, Woolhope	TBC
	Traditional orchard planting and wildflower meadow creation	

Wildlife Rich Habitat Fund

The Wildlife-Rich Habitat Fund was announced by Nature Minister Mary Creagh on 25th May, with £30 million, £10 million per financial year, from 2026 to 2029. The Wye Valley National Landscape is one of 36 of England's 44 Protected Landscapes participating in the first year. The Wildlife-Rich Habitat Fund is delivered through the existing Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme infrastructure, with every project prioritised in line with Protected Landscape Management Plans and Local Nature Recovery Strategies. The fund is from DEFRA's National Biodiversity Division and is separate from and does not affect the farming budget or the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme. But it forms part of the government's broader programme of action to restore nature, alongside the Environmental Improvement Plan, the Land Use Framework and new legislation to strengthen the purposes and powers of National Parks and National Landscapes.

Rhydicar Farm	£1,236.00
Establishment of a one-acre species rich grassland meadow	
Stowe Court	£25,567.60
Creation of wildflower rich meadows, woodland pasture, attenuation bunds to slow the flow of flood water across fields and planting of hedgerows and a shelterbelt for connectivity of habitats.	
TOTAL to date	£26,803.60

Ffermio Bro

Welsh Government's Ffermio Bro programme has an allocation for the Wye Valley National Landscape in 2026/27 of £195,312 for grants for farmers in the Welsh part of the National Landscape, along with £39,945 for administration, advice and guidance.

The Wye Valley National Landscape Ffermio Bro Local Assessment Panel met on 1st July however no formal grant offers have been made yet but are currently being negotiated. The Ffermio Bro Officer, Chris Knight, is working with numerous farmers and landowners on project proposals, including several pending applications in development.

Sustainable Development Fund (SDF)

Welsh Government allocated £95,000 of SDF in 2026/27 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 in 2026/27 equals £19,468.23 (see table below). Applications under £3,000 are determined by the National Landscape Manager.

Code	Applicant	Project Title	SDF Grant
WV02 YR26W	Wye Valley River Festival CIC	Rare Earth Festival 2026	£12,500.00

WV03 YR26W	Transition Monmouth	New Management Plan for Wyesham Community Woodland	£2,017.03
WV04 YR26W	Dôl-Wen One Planet	Biochar Training Course	£976.20
WV05 YR26W	Vey Straker	Signs of Connection – river crossing signs	£2,475.00
WV06 YR26W	Garthr, The Narth	Veteran Oak Pollarding	£1,500.00
		TOTAL this period	£19,468.23

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.

The HCF Wye Valley National Landscape Fund had a balance of £60,963.13 as of the last statement dated 31st March 2026. 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/> .