



## Farming in Protected Landscapes programme

# MALVERN HILLS NATIONAL LANDSCAPE JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**26 APRIL 2024**

## FARMING IN PROTECTED LANDSCAPES UPDATE

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### Recommendation

1. **The Committee is recommended to:**
  - a) **Note the report;**
  - b) **Raise and discuss any issues arising.**

### Background

2. Defra's Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme was launched in early July 2021. The programme forms part of the Agricultural Transition Plan (published on 30 November 2020), with funding available for all National Parks and AONBs across England.
3. On the 31 January 2023, DEFRA announced that the FiPL Scheme will be extended for an additional year, meaning that FiPL now runs until March 2025.

### Summary

4. Information on the Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/funding-for-farmers-in-protected-landscapes>
5. Guidance for applicants, tailored to the Malvern Hills AONB, can be found at: <https://www.malvernhillsaonb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Annex-F-Guidance-for-Applicants-211011.pdf>
6. Key points and developments regarding Farming in Protected Landscapes in the Malvern Hills AONB are as follows:

## Timing

7. FiPL is now entering the final year of the programme – 2024/25.

## Funding and expenditure

8. For **Year 1** of FiPL (2021 – 2022), the budget allocation was £90,000.45. £72,265.53 was spent on Projects, £15,425.08 was spent on Advice and guidance and £2,332.60 was spent on Admin, totalling £90,014.21, giving an overspend of £13.76.
9. For **Year 2** of FiPL (2022 – 2023), the allocated budget was originally £236,538. However, due to the increase in Countryside Stewardship rates of January 2023, the budget was extended to support the additional costs, giving a total budget of £243,739.19. At the close of the year, £208,134.33 was spent on projects, £29,680.95 was spent on Advice and Guidance and £5,063 was spent on Admin, giving an underspend of £860.91.
10. For **Year 3** of FiPL (2023 – 2024), the allocated budget was £317,130.59. Of this, a total of £258,783.15 was spent of FiPL projects, with £53,012.90 being spent of A&G and Admin, with an underspend of £5,334.54. It should be noted that a total of £47,096.69 worth of projects have been rolled into the 24/25 FY.
11. For **Year 4** (2024 – 2025), there is an allocated budget of £360,226. Of this, £147,960.46 has already been allocated, including the rolled over projects as detailed above.

## Staffing

12. Sash Warden remains the full time FiPL Officer with support off Karen Humphries, Paul Esrich and Wade Muggleton from the Worcestershire County Council Greenspace Team.

## Grant Assessment Panel

13. Oda Dijkershuis from the Environment Agency has also joined the panel; all other Panel members remain the same as reported on at the last JAC Meeting.
14. The panel have met a total of 18 times throughout the duration of the FiPL Scheme. The next panel meeting is scheduled for the 11 April 2024.

## Enquiries

15. Enquires for the final year are coming in, with confidence in spending the budget in the final year of the FiPL grant.

## Projects

16. The table on the following page details all projects approved, up to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

### Historic Building Restoration Grant

17. Defra recently announced additional funding specifically for Historic Building restoration projects. The FiPL Historic Building Restoration Grant (HBRG) amounts to £5 million for English National Parks and AONBs over the next financial year FY24/25, split with £4.5 million allocated to capital project delivery, and £500,000 allocated in additional revenue funding to support developing, advising, and managing approved projects (including provision of specialist advice).
18. This funding builds on the previous Historic Buildings Restoration Pilot in five National Parks managed by Historic England and Natural England, launched in 2018. The funding recognises the importance of historic buildings in our protected landscapes and for farmers and land managers. It is an excellent opportunity for FiPL to target restoration of historic buildings under the existing “Place” theme to enhance the special qualities of your own landscapes.
19. The Malvern Hills National Landscape has entered 4 Historic buildings for assessment, receiving full approval for the restoration of Hawthorns Barn at Bromesberrow Estate, with funding totally £201,436.60. If the remaining 3 building receive full approval, the total funding will be £577,059.00.

### County Council Contact Points

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Email: [worcestershirehub@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:worcestershirehub@worcestershire.gov.uk)

### Specific Contact Points for this report

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<b>Project Code</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Approval Date</b>	<b>Year 1 Spend</b>	<b>Year 2 Allocation</b>	<b>Year 3 Allocation</b>	<b>Year 4 Allocation</b>
MH001	Malvern Foothill Connections	MHT	23/09/2021	£11,321.80	/	/	/
MH002	Colwall Orchard Group Traditional Orchards for the Future Initiative (COG TOFI 2021/22)	COG	23/09/2021	£8,520.00	/	/	/
MH003	Colwall Orchard Group Improving equipment and facilities for people and nature	COG	23/09/2021	£12,760.46	£10,495.00	/	/
MH004	Baston Hall – Regenerative Grazing	Private	23/09/2021	£15,235.83	/	/	/
MH005	Garden House Orchard Restoration	Private	23/09/2021	£3,960.00	/	/	/
MH006	Hope End Park Conservation Management Plan	MH AONB	23/09/2021	£8,794.00	£12,556.00	/	/
MH007	Restoration of the last remaining Donkey Shed	MHT	09/12/2021	/	£14,456.00	/	/
MH008	Restoration of Lower Norgrove Orchard	Private	09/12/2021	/	£2,556.00	/	/
MH009	Species Rich Grassland Creation and Orchard Creation at the Halvins	Private	09/12/2021	£3,649.00	£3,138.40	/	/
MH010	Tup Paddock at Woodfield's Farm	Private	13/02/2022	/	£2,745.50	/	/
MH011	Conservation enhancement at Mason's Fields (The Purlieu)	Private	31/03/2022	/	£16,307.4	/	/
MH012	Conservation enhancement at Knell Farm	Private	26/09/2022	/	£2,896	£600	/
MH013	Brush Seed Harvester	MH AONB	02/02/2022	£8,087.44	/	/	/

MH014	COG TOFI 2022/23	COG	19/05/2022	/	£24,187.50	£1611.00	/
MH015	New House Orchard Restoration and expansion	Private	19/05/2022	/	£15,596.00	/	/
MH016	Woodland Track Creation at Mathon	Mathon Court	12/07/2023	/	/	£5,124.21	/
MH017	Eastnor Estates Woodshed Improvement	Eastnor Estates	28/07/2022	/	£17,391.00	£10,932.92	/
MH018	Increasing local meadow biodiversity for education and as a local seed bank	Private	16/08/2022	/	£1,820.00	£2,220.00	/
MH020	Lane End Meadow Restoration	Private	26/09/2022	/	£582	£742.50	/
MH021	Orchard Planting at Castlemorton	Private	12/01/2023	/	£256.16	/	/
MH022	Pond Restoration and Hedgerow Creation at Tundridge Stud	Private	03/11/2022	/	£1,728	£9,693.87	/
MH023	Pond and Orchard Creation at Crumpton Hill Farm	Private	28/09/2022	/	£5,899.50	/	/
MH024	All Saints Wood	MHT	18/11/2022	/	£5,434.70	£478	/
MH026	Hedge Laying at Cherry Green	Private	06/10/2022	/	£1,817.60	/	/
MH028	Hedgerow (Re)Creation at Lower Moors	Private	07/10/2022	/	£2,392.50	/	/
MH029	Woodland Management at Dove Barn	Private	18/11/2022	/	£5,688.95	/	/
MH030	Hedgerow creation at Wildgoose Hill Farm	Private	03/11/2022	/	£16,964.50	/	/
MH031	Dingwood Park (Re)Creation	Private	03/11/2022	/	£27,403.64	/	/
MH033	Hope End Park Restoration – Roger Allsop – Phase 1	Private	03/11/2022	/	£6,162	/	/
MH034	Tan House Hedgerow Improvements	Private	01/11/2022	/	£1,403.80	/	/
MH035	Shelter Belt Creation at the Town House	Private	18/11/2022	/	£4,969.80	/	/
MH036	Hedgerow creation at Colwall	Private	11/01/2023	/	£918.80	/	/

MH037	Hope End Restoration Phase 2	Private	12/07/2023	/	/	£6,038.00	/
MH038	Dingwood Park (Re)Creation – Phase 2, Ledbury	Private	20/04/2023	/	/	£38,160.68	/
MH039	Colwall Orchard Group (COG) Traditional Orchards for the Future Initiative	COG	12/07/2023	/	/	£39,743.09	£30,415.44
MH040	PA2 Implementation plan for Historic Building restoration	Bromesberrow Estate	19/03/2024	/	/	£2,203.20	/
MH041	Vineyard Expansion, Mathon	Mathon Court	12/07/2023	/	/	£4,208.86	£2,976.79
MH042	PA2 Implementation plan for Historic Build Restoration	Private	20/03/2024	/	/	£5,000.00	/
MH043	Malvern Hills AONB Meadows Project 2023	AONB	21/06/2023	/	/	£11,140.00	/
MH044	Evendine Lane Field Improvements	MHT	21/06/2023	/	/	£11,811.74	/
MH045	Conservation and education enhancements at The Elms	The ELM's school	12/07/2023	/	/	£8,597.44	/
MH046	Hedgerow planting and improvements for habitat connectivity at Lower Court	Lower Court	22/02/2024	/	/	/	£17,937.14
MH047	Hawthorns Farmyard Refurbishment and Permissive Access	Bromesberrow Estate	20/09/2023	/	/	£2,710.94	£10,018.00
MH048	Livestock Infrastructure and conservation enhancements at Colwall	Private	31/08/2023	/	/	£24,342.24	£11,130.30
MH049	Pastures for Profit in Protected Landscapes	Pastures for Life	31/08/2023	/	/	£10,259.70	£14,657.50
<i>MH050</i>	<i>PA2 to support building tenders and conservation management plan for the Granary, Massington</i>	<i>Eastnor Castle estates</i>	<i>11/04/2024</i>	<i>/</i>	<i>/</i>	<i>/</i>	<i>£4,750.00</i>
MH051	Orchard planting at Old Country Farm	Private	30/01/2024	/	/	£5,170.59	/

MH052	BASIS Reg Courses for Carbon and Sustainable Land Management	MH AONB / MHT	20/09/2023	/	/	£2,455.00	/
MH054	Woodland and Orchard Management at Dove Barn, Phase 2	Private	20/09/2023	/	/	£3,616.00	/
MH055	Wildgoose Hill Farm – Hedgerow Works	Private	22/11/2024	/	/	£21,597.89	/
MH056	Conservation enhancement and Forest School Facility improvements at the Downs School	The Downs School	17/01/2024	/	/	£5,059.62	/
MH057	Orchard gapping up and meadow infrastructure at the Hollands, Coombe Green	Private	01/11/2024	/	/	£2,064.00	/
MH058	Natural Flood Management and habitat creation at Goose Farm, Lulsley	Private	08/11/2024	/	/	£4,825.50	/
<i>MH059</i>	<i>HBRG – The Granary, Massington, Eastnor Estate</i>	<i>Eastnor</i>	<i>26/03/2024</i>	<i>/</i>	<i>/</i>	<i>/</i>	<i>£102,973.60 (HBRG)</i>
MH060	HBRG – Hawthorns Barn, Bromesberrow Estate	Bromesberrow Estate	27/03/2024	/	/	/	£201,436.00 (HBRG)
MH061	Natural Food Management – Leaky Dam Construction	Private	10/01/2024	/	/	/	£2,320.80
<i>MH063</i>	<i>HBRG - Old Country House Hop and Cider Kilns and Oast House</i>		<i>10/04/2024</i>	<i>/</i>	<i>/</i>	<i>/</i>	<i>£144,000.00 (HBRG)</i>
MH064	Hope End Park Restoration – Phase 2	Private	20/11/2024	/	/	£2,180.08	/
MH065	Orchard pruning at the Winnings	Private	14/12/2023	/	/	£3,625.00	£3,625.00
MH066	Website development and purchase of cactus guards at Baston Hall	Private	22/11/2024	/	/	£2,586.30	/

MH067	Orchard Restoration at Vinesend House	Private	20/11/2024	/	/	£2,340.00	/
<i>MH068</i>	<i>HBRG – Redlands Farmstead, Colwall</i>	<i>Private</i>	<i>10/04/2024</i>	<i>/</i>	<i>/</i>	<i>/</i>	<i>£128,650.00 (HBRG)</i>
MH069	Orchard creation and livestock infrastructure at Blackmore Farm Park Barn	Private	06/12/2024	/	/	£5,770.00	/
MH070	Deer high seats for woodland management at Ravenshill Wood	Private	11/12/2023	/	/	£530.00	/
MH071	Equipment to support woodland management at Old Colwall House	Private	16/01/2024	/	/	£1,014.09	/
MH072	Upgrading the Malvern Hills Trust Equipment	Malvern Hills Trust	22/02/2024	/	/	£16,295.48	/
<i>MH073</i>	<i>Restoration of Rose Farm Orchard</i>	<i>Netherley Estate</i>	<i>11/04/2024</i>	<i>/</i>	<i>/</i>	<i>/</i>	<i>£21,005.20</i>
MH074	Hedgerow works at Woodfields Farm	Private	22/02/2024	/	/	£8,161.20	/
MH075	Fencing of Oyster Hill Woodland, Hope End Park	Private	22/02/2024	/	/	£4,530.08	/
<i>MH077</i>	<i>Dingwood Park Re-creation, Phase 3</i>	<i>Dingwood Park Farm</i>	<i>11/04/2024</i>	<i>/</i>	<i>/</i>	<i>/</i>	<i>£22,187.50</i>
<i>MH078</i>	<i>Electric fencing for conservation and footpath improvements</i>	<i>Bromesberrow Estate</i>	<i>11/04/2024</i>	<i>/</i>	<i>/</i>	<i>/</i>	<i>£2,717.00</i>
<i>MH080</i>	<i>Species rich grassland creation restoration and expansion, and orchard creation</i>	<i>Private</i>	<i>11/04/2024</i>	<i>/</i>	<i>/</i>	<i>/</i>	<i>£23,353.26</i>
MH081	Foot path improvement gate at Heath Mill Farm	Private	20/02/2024	/	/	/	£342.00

*Projects in italic and highlighted are for assessment in coming panel meetings.*