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Farming in Protected Landscapes

Working in partnership with farmers and land managers to look after our landscapes together



Introduction

Defra is offering funding for projects in England's Protected Landscapes through the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme. It is for one-off projects and is not an agri-environment scheme. The programme is time limited: it opened in July 2021 and is due to end in March 2024.

Farming in Protected Landscapes is a national programme running in each National Park and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in England and is administered locally by the relevant National Park Authority or AONB team.

Funding is available for projects that reflect at least one of the four Farming in Protected Landscapes programme themes:

-  Support **NATURE** recovery
-  Mitigate the impacts of **CLIMATE CHANGE**
-  Provide opportunities for **PEOPLE** to discover, enjoy and understand the landscape and its cultural heritage
-  Protect or improve the quality and character of the **PLACE**

Projects also must help to deliver priorities identified in the National Park or AONB Management Plans.

Local protected landscape teams worked closely with Defra to design the programme. This collaborative work continues so that improvements to the programme can be made on an ongoing basis.



Robinson Place, Lake District
© Rob Fraser

Who can apply?

The programme is open to farmers and land managers. It is focused, as the name suggests, on farming within a protected landscape.

Applicants must manage all the land included in the application and have control of all the activities they would like to undertake, or have written consent from all parties who have this management and control.

Other organisations and individuals can apply, if it's in collaboration with a farmer or land manager, or supports a farmer or group of farmers.

Common land is eligible for support. Landowners with sole rights, or a group of commoners acting together, are able to apply.

Carrying out a project through this programme should not affect the ability to enter the new environmental land management schemes. The Farming in Protected Landscapes programme can help farmers and land managers get in the best position to take advantage of the new environmental land management schemes.

To apply for a Farming in Protected Landscapes grant or for more details please contact your local National Park or AONB team.

Find information on all of Defra's grants and schemes by searching for 'funding for farmers' on GOV.UK.

Farming in Protected Landscapes programme facts

203

projects to reduce flood risk have been funded

1,831

farmers are now working with Protected Landscape bodies via programme funded projects

25

The programme has created 25 new farm clusters and helped support 62 existing ones

1,000

More than 1,000 projects have been approved for funding so far

What farmers tell us they like about the programme

- It's easy to apply for.
- **Someone to speak to.** Our local advice and support is at the heart of the programme. It means we work with applicants to give clear advice on eligibility enabling projects to happen.
- **It's flexible.** Funding is not limited to a set of pre-determined project criteria or prescriptions. Farming in Protected Landscapes provides funding for projects. Applicants design their own project within the simple guidance provided.
- Grant agreements can include both revenue and capital payments.
- **Only one application process.** Because Farming in Protected Landscapes integrates four priority themes: nature, climate, people and place, applicants only have to apply to one process even though the project may have different elements.
- It supports **innovative projects.** Because we work with applicants and the programme is not limited to a set of prescriptions we are able to encourage and support more creative ideas. This means it has a better 'reach' than many other grant and agri-environment schemes.
- **Quick decisions.** Grants under £5,000 can be determined by a senior member of the Protected Landscapes Team.
- **Local decisions.** Local assessment panels consider all applications over £5,000. They are made up of the farming and land management community as well as environmental NGOs and statutory bodies.
- It can help **make businesses more resilient and ready** for the new schemes in 2024. Farmers and land managers can explore a different approach or build on existing environmental delivery.
- It helps farmers and land managers understand the relevance of the National Park and AONB Management Plans. This is because Farming in Protected Landscapes funding helps deliver the plans, combining national and local priorities.
- It provides a learning opportunity. Farmers and land managers get to hear from their peers about successful projects.

"It was good to see the variety of projects the programme covers"

"It was great to speak to someone locally and not spend time waiting on a phone line"

"I was worried about the Local Assessment Panel but it was good to have farmers helping to make decisions"

"The officer helped me develop the project – thinking of things I had not considered"

A man in a brown sweater and dark trousers is herding a group of black and white cows through a narrow path between stone walls. The landscape is green and hilly, with a stone building visible in the background.

CASE STUDIES

At work: Farming in Protected Landscapes

Hill Top Farm, Malham
© Stephen Garnett

Darley Beck Curlew Project



Nidderdale AONB

This project is made up of adjoining land parcels covering 400 hectares over eleven farm holdings.

The lead farmer explained to his local AONB team that he had noticed a reduction in curlew chicks fledging.

The team and the farmer worked alongside ecologists and other advisors. Together they developed a project designed to increase the breeding success of the curlews on grassland farms in the area.

The project aims to identify nest sites on each parcel of land and instigate the targeted actions that can be taken to protect them. Twenty volunteers will monitor breeding curlew and assess the benefits of the project.

Future work is envisaged to include scrape creation and later cutting practices.



NATURE Curlews are a priority species; half the breeding population has been lost over the last 25 years.



PEOPLE Twenty volunteers have been trained to monitor curlew.



Darley Beck Curlew Project, Nidderdale AONB
© Paul Skirrow



Darley Beck Curlew Project, Nidderdale AONB
© Paul Skirrow



Hedge and fencing repair, livestock farm
© Isle of Wight AONB Partnership

Livestock Farm

Isle of Wight AONB

This project sought to lay 105m of hedge within this small 80 hectare farm. This combined this traditional practice with a training exercise for the next generation of craftsmen.

It fits with the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme themes of climate, nature and people.



Awarded
£3,720

Pitt Farm Orchard, Dorset AONB
© Rachel Janes

"We are all very excited to have the orchard back with many of the varieties we remember as children. We are also very grateful for the help we received from everyone on the planting day."

Pitt Farm Orchard



Dorset AONB

This small (46 hectare) family run sheep and beef farm had not previously taken part in any government agri-environment schemes.

The farmer was keen to reinstate an orchard at the farm which had been removed when he was a child and grassed over.

The farmer discussed his ideas with the AONB team and completed a Farming in Protected Landscapes application with their support.

In addition, the partnership between the farmer and the Protected Landscapes staff meant that the orchard was able to acquire a further 20 trees from a nearby estate, at a reasonable price.

The project also met many AONB management plan aims.



NATURE Conserving traditional apple varieties and creating habitat.



CLIMATE The trees are storing / sequestering more carbon.



PEOPLE There is greater public engagement as volunteers planted the trees.



PLACE Re-establishing a key landscape feature.

Simon Martin Farms

South Downs National Park

The aim of this project is to produce, process and sell milk locally and to educate people.

The grant allowed for installation of pasteurising facilities on the 286 hectare farm and a milk vending machine outside the village shop. An information panel has been produced to tell the story of how the milk gets to the shop, 3 hours after milking.

It fits with the programme themes of climate, nature, place and people.



Milk vending machine in-situ outside Meonstoke Village Stores, South Downs National Park
© Sophie Brown

Awarded
£15,948

Nibthwaite Grange Farm



Lake District National Park

Nibthwaite Grange Farm have already diversified their traditional beef and sheep farm and they saw a further opportunity in the wool on the farm.

Wool used to be an important part of the Lake District economy, but that's not the case now. Farmers get very little money for the wool. This Farming in Protected Landscapes funded project sought to change this.

The farmer and the local National Park team worked together on the application. She will make 13 new tweeds and cloths over 3 years, using wool sourced from the 13 Lake District valleys. They will also repurpose a traditional barn to provide storage.

Three tweeds are currently in production. For these tweeds farmers have received above market value for their wool.



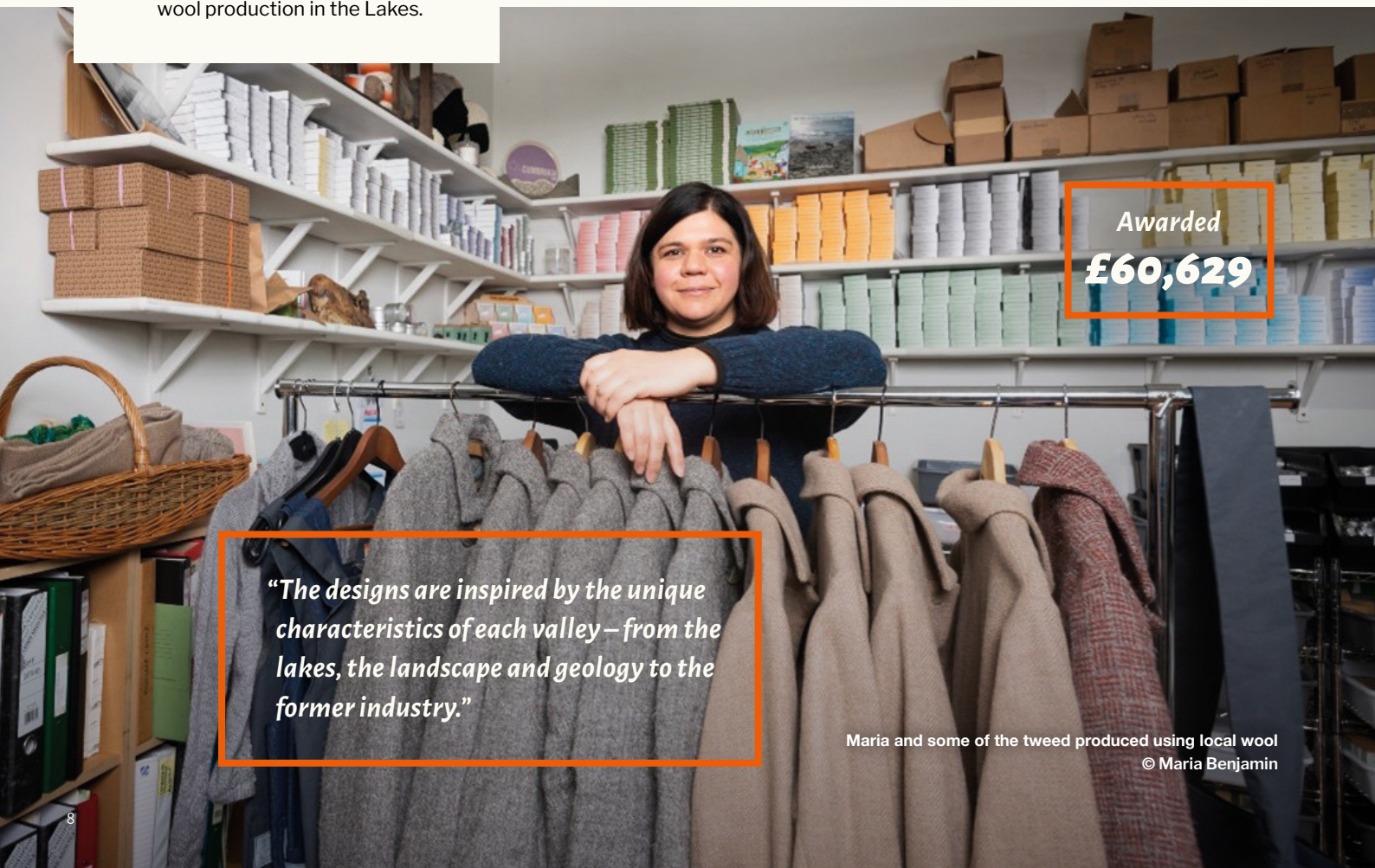
PEOPLE Farmers get a good price for their wool plus 10% of the profit from sales.



PLACE People are connected to the history and culture of wool production in the Lakes.



Farmer James Rebanks providing wool to Nibthwaite Farm to be used for tweed
© Maria Benjamin



Awarded
£60,629

“The designs are inspired by the unique characteristics of each valley – from the lakes, the landscape and geology to the former industry.”

Maria and some of the tweed produced using local wool
© Maria Benjamin



Townfoot Farm beck restoration



North Pennines AONB

This 600 hectare working farm has a 230 metre stretch of beck which has previously been straightened and highly modified. This greatly increased the speed of the water flow. In addition there has been a loss of flood plain which impacts flood management and biodiversity.

The Environment Agency have identified a community downstream as at risk of flooding and this risk is predicted to become more severe with climate change.

This project, delivered by the Eden Rivers Trust (ERT) restored the river to follow its old route, increasing storage capacity, reducing flood risk and increasing biodiversity. The ERT engaged geomorphologists, fish rescue consultants, the local council and contractors.

The landowner was involved in every stage of design and delivery and will be key to managing this through grazing and monitoring biodiversity.



NATURE Creates wildlife habitat, refuge and fish spawning areas. Ideal conditions for lapwing birds as well as bats.



CLIMATE Reduces flood risk and increases climate change resilience.



PLACE Re-establishing a key landscape feature.



Jeans Family Farm

Tamar Valley AONB

On their 96 hectares, these farmers used Farming in Protected Landscapes funding to create a farm nature trail and education shelters. In addition they restored their cherry orchard and planted nectar and pollinator strips.

It fits with the Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme themes of climate, nature, people and place.

Awarded
£22,000



Jeans Farm expanding visitor area alongside cherry orchard and alpacas
© Alice Lewthwaite, Tamar Valley AONB



Minninglow Grange

Peak District National Park

The upland family farm had been managed outside agri-environment schemes since 2018. Working with the local National Park team, numerous projects were identified which could meet the aims of climate, nature, people and place.

This includes creating a new permissive path, restoring a hay meadow, planting trees, restoring a scheduled lime kiln and protecting a great crested newt pond.

Awarded
£13,700

Minninglow Grange, Peak District National Park
© Peak District National Park Authority



For more information or to apply to Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme please contact your local National Park or AONB team.

Contact details for all National Parks in England can be found at:
<https://www.nationalparksengland.org.uk>

Contact details for all AONBs in England can be found at:
National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
www.landscapesforlife.org.uk

Details about Farming in Protected Landscapes can also be found at
www.gov.uk/guidance/funding-for-farmers-in-protected-landscapes

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