



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



**Cotswolds**  
National  
Landscape



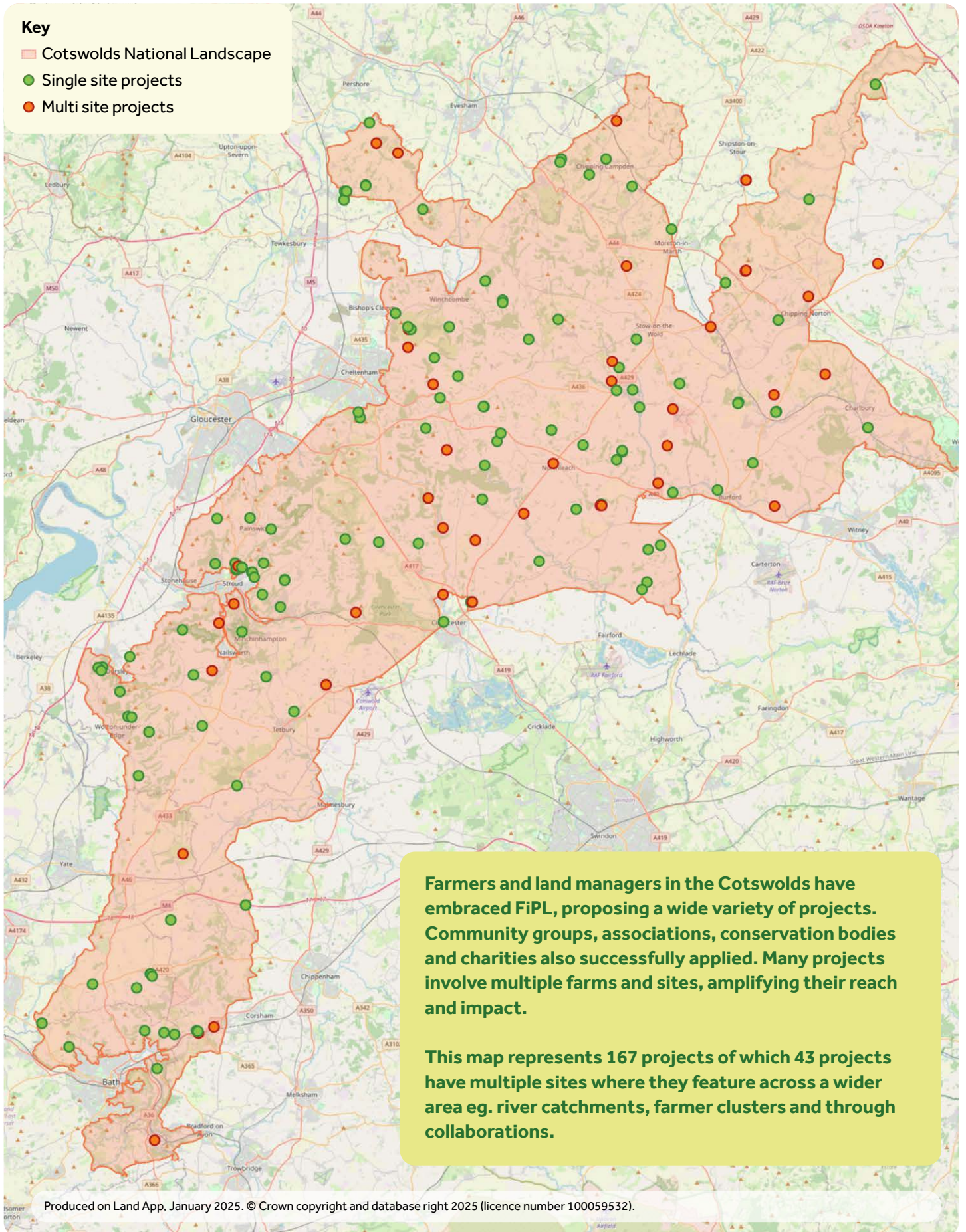
**Farming in Protected Landscapes**  
Cotswolds programme 2021-2025



# This is a story about building resilience

## Key

- Cotswolds National Landscape
- Single site projects
- Multi site projects



Front cover: Campden House Estate wetlands project. Tom Smith



# Foreword

Since the launch of Defra's Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme in July 2021, over £4.5 million has been allocated to 167 projects across the Cotswolds. These projects exemplify the programme's commitment to supporting sustainable and diverse farming practices, benefiting the environment, addressing climate challenges, promoting nature recovery and engaging all within our communities.



Squashed Robot

Nick Bumford.

The farming community's enthusiastic participation has been inspiring, with hundreds of enquiries from a range of farm types, sizes and locations across the Cotswolds. This engagement has not only fostered innovative ideas but also strengthened the relationship between the Cotswolds National Landscape and the farming community.

The Local Assessment Panel has been central to FiPL's success, meeting regularly to evaluate applications against the programme's goals. Guided by a robust scoring system and reports from FiPL Officers, the Panel ensured fairness and consistency while embracing the unique

This collective effort has empowered farmers, land managers, conservationists, local groups, associations and charities to succeed and thrive, building a more resilient and beautiful landscape and legacy.

characteristics of each project. The diverse, multi-skilled expertise and experience of the Panel members – from a broad career pool of farming and environmental stewardship to policy and local historical knowledge – has been invaluable in shaping informed and impactful decisions, with the hope of lasting change.

Farmers and land managers have praised the programme's flexibility, efficient local administration and the support provided by FiPL Officers throughout the application process. The breadth and creativity of the projects we reviewed have been astounding, addressing key themes of climate, nature, people and place.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Local Assessment Panel members and the FiPL team at Cotswolds National Landscape for their dedication and expertise. This collective effort has empowered farmers, land managers, conservationists, local groups, organisations, associations and charities to succeed and thrive, building a more resilient and beautiful landscape and legacy.

This report offers a glimpse into the diverse and remarkable projects supported by FiPL, highlighting their transformative potential. At the time of writing, the FiPL Panel approved 167 projects out of 188 presented for assessment, with 108 projects now complete and 59 still in progress (to December 2024). For more information and case studies, visit our website and social media channels.

## Nick Bumford

*Local Assessment Panel Chair*



Local Assessment Panel, September 2024.



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## Introduction

The Defra Farming in Protected Landscapes programme launched in July 2021, offering grants of up to £250,000 for farmers and land managers in England's National Parks and National Landscapes. These grants were to support one-off projects aligned with protected landscape priorities under four themes: climate, nature, people, and place.

Funded projects needed to deliver a measurable outcome under at least one theme, though many deliver multiple outcomes across all four themes:

- Support **nature** recovery – more, bigger, better and connected habitats.
- Mitigate the impacts of **climate** change and make the landscape more resilient.
- Offer opportunities for **people** to enjoy, explore and learn about the landscape.
- Protect or improve the quality and character of the landscape or **place**.

By December 2024, 167 projects have been funded with £4.5 million in grants across the Cotswolds National Landscape – one of England's largest protected landscapes.

Initially set to end in March 2024, the programme was extended by a year due to its success and popularity. More time was allowed for additional projects and an evaluation of what worked well, so that this could be embedded into other schemes. At the time of writing, the programme is due to close in March 2025 but a further extension could be possible.

FiPL was created by Defra in collaboration with staff from National Landscapes and National Parks across England.

## Origins and purpose

FiPL was created by Defra in collaboration with staff from National Landscapes and National Parks across England. The funding is provided by Defra and administered locally by Protected Landscape organisations. It was introduced as part of the Agricultural Transition Plan (ATP), which shifts public funding from land-based subsidies to payments tied to delivering environmental and public benefits. This approach, known as 'public money for public goods', underpins the new Environmental Land Management (ELM) schemes.

The programme's objectives support the government's broader 25-Year Environment Plan, emphasising sustainable land management and balancing food production with environmental goals. FiPL has been informed by the government's net zero and nature recovery policies, as well as local plans including the Cotswolds National Landscape's Management Plan, Nature Recovery Plan, and Climate Change Strategy.

FiPL has complemented other Defra grant programmes and agri-environment schemes, like the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI), Countryside Stewardship, and the England Woodland Creation Offer. It has been designed to work alongside these schemes and fill gaps by fostering innovative, ambitious ideas and addressing the unique challenges and opportunities associated with protected landscapes.

**Over 700**

farmers and land managers are associated with FiPL in the Cotswolds.



## Programme delivery

FiPL has been delivered through a flexible, farmer-focused approach. FiPL Officers have provided support throughout the application process, usually beginning with a farm visit to identify needs and explore project opportunities. This tailored approach has built trust and confidence from the ground up, before a formal grant request is developed, and has helped resolve any issues that may arise while supported projects are being delivered.

Applications have been reviewed by a Local Assessment Panel comprising farmers, NGOs, CNL representatives, and other stakeholders with relevant expertise and experience. Meeting every six to eight weeks, the Panel has made funding decisions based on their assessment of a project's measurable outcomes, deliverability, value for money and legacy.

FiPL's flexibility has allowed it to support farms of all sizes, from new-entrants and small family holdings to large estates and multi-farm schemes.

Grant values vary significantly, funding everything from small equipment purchases to large-scale collaborative initiatives. Farmers have often contributed private investment alongside FiPL funding, with few projects receiving 100% funding. This shared public-private investment has strengthened the programme's impact.



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FiPL Officer meeting on-site to discuss FiPL project.

**68 farm businesses**  
have increased their resilience  
through FiPL.

## Summary of trends and achievements

FiPL-funded projects in the Cotswolds highlight several key trends:

- **Conservation and habitat restoration**
- **Regenerative agriculture and local food**
- **Education and community engagement**
- **Accessibility**
- **Innovation and collaboration.**

Economic resilience is often combined with ecological goals, with initiatives like on-farm processing and direct sales creating new revenue streams while supporting sustainable practices. Built heritage is another important theme, with projects conserving special features and cultural landmarks within the landscape, such as dry stone walls, bridges and historic barns.

The case studies and examples which follow take a closer look at some of the trends and themes revealed by FiPL in the Cotswolds. They are a celebration of the farming community and its successful response to the FiPL programme.

Please note that this report includes some provisional data from projects that were ongoing at the time of writing (December 2024).



Russell Sach

Members of the North East Cotswolds Farmer Cluster.

# Emergent trends and case studies

## Emergent trend

### Regenerative agriculture

Regenerative agriculture is a transformative approach to farming that prioritises restoring soil health, biodiversity and ecosystem services as the foundation of productive and resilient food systems and landscapes.

For Defra, regenerative agriculture is integral to achieving objectives under the Net Zero Strategy, 25 Year Environment Plan and the transition to Environmental Land Management (ELM) schemes. It addresses soil degradation, biodiversity loss and climate change, ensuring farmers remain stewards of both productive land and functional landscapes. In the Cotswolds, regenerative approaches align the need for agricultural productivity with the aim of conserving the region's iconic habitats and natural beauty.

Through FiPL, CNL has supported numerous projects that focus on the development and implementation of regenerative agricultural practices. They span a wide variety of different requirements, from equipment and infrastructure to education and routes to market:

- **Broadfield Farm: Bokashi Composting:** Implements a composting system that improves soil fertility and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Bruern Farms: Resilient Farm Strategy:** Enables production and direct sales of regeneratively farmed flour and meats, increasing economic resilience.
- **Cotswold Organic Growers: Polycrop Seed Drill:** Enables multiple crops to be sown and grown together, enhancing soil health and biodiversity.
- **Whittington Lodge Farm: Sainfoin Centre for Regenerative Agriculture:** Provides an events space and educational hub on a regenerative demonstration farm.



Bruern Farms locally produced and milled flour, sold directly at Bruern Farm shop.

## 16 projects

improving understanding of carbon storage, emissions, and climate change.

Collaboration and evidence building also play a vital role. The **North East Cotswolds Farmer Cluster's (NEFC) Soil Carbon Baseline Project** trialled innovative soil surveying techniques across 36 farms, generating data and encouraging shared learning on carbon storage and sequestration potential. Similarly, the **CNL's Regenerative Agriculture Accelerator Programme (RAAP)** brought together 25 farmers and advisors for an intensive 12-month programme of workshops, farm tours, and peer-to-peer learning, promoting adoption through farmer-led engagement.

By combining practical interventions, collaboration, education, and new enterprises, FiPL has helped drive the uptake of regenerative agriculture in the Cotswolds. These efforts ensure farming supports environmental restoration while remaining resilient, profitable, and connected to the region's natural and cultural heritage.

In the Cotswolds, regenerative approaches align the need for agricultural productivity with the aim of conserving the region's iconic habitats and natural beauty.



Debbie Wilkins

Regen pioneer Allen Williams leading a farm tour as part of the RAAP.



## Sandy Hill Farm

### Installing mob-grazing infrastructure

Sherborne, Cheltenham

Grant awarded: £4,874

Total project value: £7,094

Project duration: October 2022 - March 2024



Matt Elliott

Water pipe infrastructure on the farm.

### Introduction

Matt and Laura Elliott, tenant farmers on the National Trust's Sherborne Park Estate, are pioneering regenerative farming practices that combine tradition and new technology. With 60 pedigree Hereford cattle grazing on 110 acres of south-facing pasture, their farm is a model of low-input, nature-friendly agriculture. Certified by Pasture for Life for their 100% grass-fed beef, they market their produce locally while prioritising soil health and biodiversity.

The Elliotts' approach exemplifies farming stewardship while respecting nature and climate. Managing livestock and maintaining adequate supplies of forage while building soil health and biodiversity in their pastures is a priority on the farm. Carefully moving the cattle across paddocks, they have built resilience into their farming system using FiPL grants to invest in infrastructure and become less dependent on mains water supply.

### Infrastructure upgrades for sustainability

In 2021, Matt applied for a FiPL grant to implement infrastructure upgrades. The project included installing a gravity-fed water pipe system from a storage tank fed by a Victorian well and establishing a mains-powered electric fencing network.

The water system now supplies 1.5km of pipework, providing natural, untreated water to grazing paddocks, laying hens, and a polytunnel. By reducing reliance on processed mains water, the farm cuts costs and conserves valuable resources better suited for human use. The electric fencing system, energised from a central barn, streamlines daily operations and helps to preserve soil health and poaching in localised areas.

"It has made the essential things that we do easier to do, we are building the health of soils and improving species diversity in our fields."

### Transformative benefits

As Matt notes, "It has made life fantastically easier and more versatile for mob-grazing." The system also reduces the need for frequent vehicle trips, preserving soil integrity during wet months.

In environmental terms, the reliance on natural water sources aligns perfectly with sustainability goals. "We use about 90% of our water from natural sources," says Matt, highlighting the farm's reduced environmental footprint.

### A simple approach for sustainable practices

Matt and Laura's journey reflects an intentional commitment to ecological and operational resilience. The FiPL grant has empowered them to implement changes that would have been financially challenging otherwise, enabling their farm to thrive sustainably.

The Sandy Hill Farm project shows how grant funded support and innovative practices can drive high impact for local business and the environment.



Tee Smart

Matt Elliott of Sandy Hill Farm.

Emergent trend

Local food

FiPL has supported over 25 projects that strengthen local food supply in the Cotswolds, promoting nature-friendly farming, farm diversification, and community connections.

These initiatives deliver economic, environmental, and social benefits, helping rural areas thrive.

Market gardening has emerged as a strong trend, meeting growing demand for locally produced fruit and vegetables. FiPL funding has helped overcome high setup costs to unlock opportunities at several sites. For example, Homegrown at Hampen launched a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) scheme in Lower Hampen, connecting local households to seasonal, sustainably grown produce.

At Hayles Fruit Farm, funding for apple juice production equipment safeguarded the viability of top fruit production at a historic orchard with public access. Near Moreton-in Marsh, Dorn Farm's Farm Shop and Accessibility Improvements involved installing vending machines and signage along a farm trail, linking consumers directly to home-reared meats and the landscape that produced it. Similarly, at Lower Swell, Fir Farm's Dairy Processing Project funded a milk vending machine and ice cream-making facilities, showcasing regenerative dairy products while diversifying farm incomes.

These projects and others demonstrate how FiPL fosters resilient local food networks, empowering communities, enhancing environmental sustainability, and conserving the Cotswolds' heritage as a farmed landscape.

Market gardening has emerged as a strong trend, meeting growing demand for locally produced fruit and vegetables.



Community Supported Agriculture scheme in Lower Hampen.

Squashed Robot

FiPL Hedgerows planted:

8,543m

Existing Hedgerows restored:

3,727m

100 fruit and nut trees were planted in a silvopasture system combining grazing with tree cover, enhancing soil health and carbon storage, as well as providing produce for a farm shop.

Emergent trend

Trees and hedges

While other Defra schemes are more suited to woodland creation, FiPL has funded numerous projects to enhance tree and hedgerow coverage in the Cotswolds. Planting trees and hedgerows contributes towards biodiversity, flood risk management, carbon sequestration, resilient farming and the conservation of landscape character.

Hedgerow planting and restoration have been key priorities. At Painswick House, new hedgerows were planted while existing ones were rejuvenated, improving wildlife corridors and conserving historic field boundaries in Painswick.





*Trees planted at Greystone Farm near Blockley.*

FiPL has also supported agroforestry and tree planting on farms, with 13,000 trees planted. The **Optimal Shelterbelts Project** established experimental tree belts across multiple sites in the northern Cotswolds. This project researched potential benefits for wind erosion, crop protection and wildlife.

At **Greystone Farm** near Blockley, 100 fruit and nut trees were planted in a silvopasture system combining grazing with tree cover, enhancing soil health and carbon storage, as well as providing produce for a farm shop on site.

Additionally, the **Tree Nursery** being developed by Michael Hartnell Nurseries Ltd will offer facilities for propagating native, locally adapted tree species, supporting landscape restoration and climate mitigation projects while reducing reliance on external suppliers. Projects like Warwickshire Walnuts' course, **'How to Grow English Walnuts for Profit'**, explored the potential of walnut production in agroforestry systems, combining economic and environmental benefits.

Together, these initiatives highlight FiPL's role in restoring traditional landscapes, fostering biodiversity and promoting sustainable farming practices involving priority habitats and iconic features such as dry stone walls in the Cotswolds.



## Emergent trend

### Rivers and wetlands

People have used FiPL in diverse ways to support better catchment management, river restoration, and wetland enhancement in the Cotswolds. Over 50 projects include elements that support these outcomes, such as improving soil health and planting hedges, and many have focused primarily on rivers and wetlands. These range from small interventions to major schemes, collectively addressing challenges such as water quality, biodiversity loss and flood resilience, aligning with national and local priorities.

For example, **Ruscombe Farm's Resilient Farm and Upstream Habitat** project included the restoration of locally rare fen habitat and the

installation of 20 leaky dams to help slow the flow and reduce the impact of flooding during high rainfall events in the Stroud area. Near Chipping Norton, the Evenlode Catchment Partnership's ambitious **Cornwell Estate River Restoration** project enhanced 17 hectares of riparian and wetland habitat, including the creation of reedbeds and new river channels, improving water quality and habitat connectivity.

Through these initiatives, FiPL has played a key role in restoring and managing rivers and wetlands while promoting sustainable land use. These efforts aim to deliver lasting benefits for biodiversity, farmers and communities, contributing to the resilience of the Cotswolds landscape.

## Case study 2

### Campden House Estate

*River restoration, wetland creation and natural flood management*

**Grant awarded: £185,890**

**Total project value: £225,305**

The Campden House Estate wetlands project highlights an ambition that tackles 21st century issues through progressive partnership. Situated just outside the town of Chipping Campden, this project combines innovative wetland creation, natural flood management and biodiversity enhancement.

The estate's owner, Tom Smith, has embraced regenerative agriculture, introducing diverse habitats like species-rich grasslands, wood pasture and re-created orchards across 65 hectares in 2023.



Tom Smith

This project was funded by the Environment Agency, self-funding, alongside a FiPL grant of £185,890. The ambitious project can mitigate flooding in the town, that has been welcomed by residents. Flooding occurred in the town in summer 2007, after a particularly heavy rainfall event.

By restoring an historic 1930s bathing lake into a vibrant wetland, the estate has reimaged a narrow, eroded part of the River Cam into a thriving ecosystem.

Interventions, such as using reeds and shrubs for bio-siltation filters, as well as leaky dams and weirs, have reduced the speed of water flow and erosion. This has fostered habitats for rare species like the white clawed crayfish that has been identified further upstream. The majority of the works were carried out between December 2023 – October 2024 with some works still in progress.

By October 2024, drone footage revealed the wetlands' impressive capacity to store significant amounts of rainwater, while nurturing biodiversity. The site has already welcomed new species (kingfisher, dragonflies, ducks, greenshanks and other wading birds), affirming its importance as a haven for wildlife.

Tom Smith describes his vision for the future of the valley, he said: "Ten years from now, I would love to see a hive of insects, birds and wildlife teeming across the valley and farm."



By restoring an historic 1930s bathing lake into a vibrant wetland and constructing attenuation ponds, the estate has reimagined a previously narrow and eroded channel of the River Cam into a thriving ecosystem.



Tom Smith, Campden House Estate

*Attenuation ponds that slow the flow on the River Cam.*





Simon Smith

Duke of Burgundy butterfly.

Emergent trend

**Wildflower grasslands**

Species-rich grasslands and floodplain meadows are among the most biodiverse habitats in the UK, supporting an array of flora and fauna, including rare orchids, wildflowers, butterflies, and ground-nesting birds. In the Cotswolds, these habitats are foundational to the area's ecological richness and character, shaped by its limestone geology and historical land management practices.

The CNL's Glorious Cotswolds Grassland team have used FiPL to expand their programme of grassland restoration and management throughout the Cotswolds.

These habitats are increasingly important to Defra as part of national nature recovery targets. They are also central to the CNL's Nature Recovery Plan and the Big Chalk initiative, which identify the restoration and creation of these habitats as essential for reversing biodiversity loss and creating ecological networks across southern England. Despite their significance, these habitats have suffered significant decline over many decades due to agricultural intensification, development and poor management.



Pip Green

View from Stinchcombe Hill towards the Severn Estuary.

Through FiPL, over 50 projects aim to benefit wildflower grasslands in a wide variety of ways. Here are just a few examples:

- **Conservation Grazing at Woodchester Park:** Improves the grazing system with installation of livestock handling facilities and other infrastructure.
- **Minchinhampton Commoners Robotic Flail:** Enables management of encroaching scrub on difficult terrain, conserving important grassland habitat.
- **Stinchcombe Hill Trust Feasibility Study:** Develops ambitious plans to bring complex but significant SSSI site into better long-term management.
- **Thorndale Enhancement Project:** Restores 17 hectares of priority habitat, improving connectivity for species such as the Duke of Burgundy butterfly.



McConnell Ltd

All-terrain machine used by Minchinhampton Commoner group.

As well as benefitting many individual sites, several projects have also delivered at scale. The CNL's Glorious Cotswolds Grassland team have used FiPL to expand their programme of grassland restoration and management throughout the Cotswolds.

These projects involve farmers, land managers, environmental charities, community groups and many others, often working together to deliver for these vital habitats. They promote sustainable grazing, increasing species-rich habitats and connect fragmented ecosystems. They also demonstrate the critical role that livestock management and farmer collaboration play in achieving long-term conservation goals while maintaining the Cotswolds' iconic landscape.



### Emergent trend

## Innovation, collaboration and scalability

FiPL has advanced many collaborative initiatives in the Cotswolds, tackling issues such as biodiversity loss, climate change, and food system resilience. By supporting projects which involve farmers and other local stakeholders working together, FiPL aligns with national and local priorities emphasising the need for coordinated, landscape-scale action.

Farmer clusters have emerged as increasingly important vehicles for farmer-led collaboration.

For example, farming and wildlife charity **FWAG South West's Collaboration for Climate Action** mapped natural capital across 60 farms in the Upper Thames catchment, identifying opportunities for biodiversity enhancement, soil health improvements, and flood mitigation.

Farmer clusters have emerged as increasingly important vehicles for farmer-led collaboration. FiPL helped the **North East Cotswolds Farmer Cluster (NEFC)** establish itself in 2021. It now includes over 160 farms covering 50,000 hectares and has delivered several FiPL projects. One example is the **Landscape Deer Census and Venison Supply Chain Survey**, which conducted deer population surveys over 10,000 hectares using drones and assessed local venison supply chains to improve sustainable deer management. FiPL also supported the establishment of the **South Cotswolds Fosse Farmer Cluster**, which already includes over 50 farms exploring opportunities in the south of the region.

### Emergent trend

## Access, education and inclusion

FiPL has improved access to the countryside, promoted outdoor education, and supported inclusivity and wellbeing across the Cotswolds. These projects align with the government's goals to connect more people, particularly under-represented groups, with nature and foster understanding of sustainable land management, as also reflected in the CNL Management Plan.

**24 projects**  
improve inclusion.



Helen Wade

Visitor hub and accessible compost WC at Eastleach Downs Organic Farm.

Examples include the **Eastleach Downs Accessible Trail**, which created a fully accessible farm trail and 'welfare hub' for people with reduced mobility.

The **Landscapes of the Lark Festival** engaged over 2,000 participants in the Stroud area with commons management and habitat conservation through citizen science and arts activities. Several farms have also received funding to host educational visits for schools and other groups.

Charity Jamie's Farm secured our single biggest award to redevelop a recently acquired farm near Bath (**Helping develop a new Jamie's Farm**). This will enable them to expand their unique residential programme for 450 disadvantaged children and young people (per year) at risk of social and school exclusion. The programme takes place on a working farm, changing attitudes and helping children to thrive academically, socially and emotionally.

**71 primary schools**  
learning about the natural world  
through FiPL-supported projects.





Sheltered areas provide access to the rare breeds on the farm.

### Case study 3

## Cotswold Farm Park

**Championing accessibility and inclusion for all visitors**

**Guiting Power, Cheltenham**

**Grant awarded: £115,157**

**Total project value: £245,062**

**Project duration: October 2022 - March 2024**

### Introduction

Since its founding in 1971, Cotswold Farm Park visitor attraction has embodied a vision of preserving rare breeds while educating the public about farming's unique role in shaping our landscapes. Now managed by Adam Henson and Duncan Andrews, the park continues to evolve, embracing a mission to enhance inclusivity and ensure that everyone, regardless of ability, can enjoy its diverse offerings.

The park has taken significant steps forwards in offering an accessible visitor attraction with the assistance of a FiPL grant. One of FiPL's many aims is to connect *all* people with landscapes and cultural heritage, no matter what abilities people may have, aligning perfectly with the park's vision.

The park improvements have sparked a 51% rise in advance carer tickets.



One of the raised walkways installed in the farm park.

### Making the vision a reality

Despite its popularity with visitors, the park recognised that visitors with disabilities or children with special educational needs faced barriers that limited their ability to fully explore and experience the park. Listening closely to feedback, Duncan and his team set out to transform the space. Park staff and leaders also wanted to see the diversity of UK society more fully represented in their visitor numbers.

Guided by a commitment to inclusivity, the team designed and implemented features tailored to the diverse needs of visitors. New wide walkways, completed in early 2023, now encircle the park, providing easy access for mobility aids and strollers. Visitors can get closer to rare breed animals, explore improved interpretative displays, and enjoy enhanced shelter points along the paths.

### Rise in visitor numbers

FiPL grant funding also enabled the introduction of on-site mobility scooters, or 'trampers', ensuring that disabled visitors can explore the park with ease. Since their launch, the scooters were used 29 times in the first year. The park improvements have sparked a 51% rise in advance carer tickets from 2022/23 – 2023/24, reflecting a growing number of disabled visitors who can now access and enjoy the park.

### Culture change

The park is fostering a culture of awareness and continuous improvement. Staff undergo year-round training to better understand the needs of disabled visitors, those with impairments and children with special educational needs. This proactive approach has created an environment where all feel welcomed and valued.

Cotswold Farm Park stands as a testament to what can be achieved when empathy, commitment and determination meet. Cotswold Farm Park are not only reshaping their space, but inspiring others to follow their lead.



# What does the future hold?

## What is next after Farming in Protected Landscapes grant funding?

Farmers and land managers play a critical role in conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the Cotswolds.

FiPL has proved to be more than just a successful grant programme supporting a wide and varied portfolio of amazing projects. The programme has enabled farmer-led engagement with locally informed advice tailored to unique needs and circumstances.

FiPL has helped develop and implement plans that farmers genuinely support and feel capable of sustaining. Unique partnerships have been fostered to build these successful projects, developing trust and understanding of shared objectives.

The Cotswolds National Landscape is a landscape created by farming. Farmers and land managers play a critical role in conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the Cotswolds. Working together with others, they deliver nature recovery, can mitigate climate change and help the public explore and enjoy the countryside.

Although FiPL grants are due to cease at the end of March 2025, our ambition is to provide effective advice and guidance offering a holistic approach to land management. Our aspiration is to continue working closely with farmers and land managers. FiPL has demonstrated just how much they value having a local source of advice

and guidance – someone who will visit the farm with an open mind and discuss a diverse range needs and interests, aiming to find the common ground and facilitate access to resources for projects that align personal and business goals with local priorities for climate, nature, people, and place.

Equally, we place great value on being able to engage with farmers and land managers at this level. It creates space for a dialogue that offers us a much deeper understanding of the contexts we're operating in, enabling us to target resources effectively and spot opportunities for collaboration and delivery at scale. We want to empower farmers and land managers – and we want them to empower us – to make informed decisions and plans that support a diverse range of shared objectives, seeking the best outcomes when these things are considered 'in the round'.

By working together in this way, we can help each other navigate the complex challenges of our time and make the most of opportunities to deliver meaningful and lasting change throughout the Cotswolds.

We hope you have been inspired by FiPL and we will continue to share what we learn from the programme and build on its success.

For more information:  
[farming@cotswolds-nl.org.uk](mailto:farming@cotswolds-nl.org.uk)



Rebuilt Cotswold stone wall at Compton Abdale.

## Our thanks

Our thanks go to all our FiPL partners for their applications and co-funders for delivering such a wide range of innovative and ambitious projects often in very challenging circumstances. Our thanks too to the Local Assessment Panel for their time and expertise.





Squashed Robot

Homegrown at Hampen.



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## Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme

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