

Q&A Dorset and Cranborne Chase FiPL Webinar 3rd of October 2023

Project eligibility

Q1. What are the four FiPL themes?

A1.

Climate

- more carbon is stored, sequestered or both.
- flood risk has been reduced.
- better understanding among farmers, land managers and the public as to what different habitats and land uses can deliver for carbon storage and reduced carbon emissions.
- the landscape is more resilient to climate change.

Nature

- there is a greater area of wildlife-rich habitat.
- there is greater connectivity between habitats.
- existing habitat is better managed for biodiversity.
- there is an increase in biodiversity.

People outcomes

- more opportunities for people to explore, enjoy and understand the landscape.
- more opportunities for more diverse audiences to explore, enjoy and understand the landscape.
- greater public engagement in land management, for example through volunteering

Place outcomes

- the quality and character of the landscape is reinforced or enhanced.
- historic structures and features are conserved, enhanced, or interpreted more effectively.
- there is an increase in the resilience of nature-friendly sustainable farm businesses, which contributes to a more thriving local economy.

Q2. What mechanisms are there for ongoing land compensation payments, e.g., giving up space to use as regularly wet floodplain? Not having the compensation mechanism in place could be an issue for getting landowner agreement potentially within the timescale for available (capital) funding?

A2.

The FiPL programme is a short-term and might not be the best option for longer-term undertakings. For ongoing land compensation payments, it may be more suitable to prioritise longer term funding schemes, such as Countryside Stewardship

Q3. Are there any specific projects that FiPL would like to see more of? Potentially looking at habitats that have been missed up to now.

A3.

There are no habitat-specific projects that we would like to see come forward, as we have a wide-ranging suite already. More generally, farmer led projects are important for FiPL as are innovative soil health projects. Multiple benefit projects also score well, delivering for nature and climate as well as people and place.

Q4. Will FiPL fund replica projects? Such as the water quality monitoring by the Wyllye group. Can this be replicated by other cluster groups to apply?

A4.

Replica projects have been previously funded, so in theory they can be funded. Guidance has been updated, so it's important to understand that just because it has been funded in the past, it may not be funded now, or at the same intervention rate. However, FiPL invite any discussion regarding replica projects.

Q5. Have FiPL funded or would FiPL fund no-fence collars where grazing management is currently difficult?

A5.

Cranborne Chase have funded one project involving no-fence collars. The main two criteria are 1. It can only support for native breed cattle and on younger stock between 12-36 months, and 2. the management needs to be on SSSI habitat or to be proven that it is a priority habitat. FiPL would support applications for such projects, however they must fit the criteria. It would be best to make contact with your FiPL Officer ahead of developing a NoFence collar FiPL application.

Q6. Can desilting ponds or lakes be considered?

A6.

It can be considered and is technically eligible through the FiPL programme. We would require evidence that the works will meet climate and nature outcome and that it is value for money. Priority ponds or priority habitats have been proven as more straightforward projects as it is easier to justify the positive outcome.

[Applicant eligibility](#)

Q7. Can contractors apply for FiPL funding? E.g., if they wanted to purchase a piece of machinery that supports a system change e.g., a mechanical weeder.

A7.

Having the contractor hold the item, can be a way of funding that through FiPL. Cranborne Chase FiPL have funded mobile sawmill to manage small woodlands. It allowed better access and management of small and hard to reach woodlands. There are requirements for machinery purchase 1. evidence of need and support from/collaboration with multiple land managers and 2. evidence it will meet the FiPL priorities. There may be additional restrictions about use and chargeout rates for the duration of the FiPL programme.

Q8. If the project is commercially beneficial to the applicant do they still get 100% of the costs or would it be a proportion?

A8.

If a project is completely commercially beneficial to the applicant, the intervention rate from FiPL would be at 40%. If the project has other benefits, e.g., nature, climate, etc., the intervention rate can be increased. FiPL encourage all applicants and/or advisers to get in touch to discuss their project(s) when in doubt.

National policy and future of FiPL

Q9. Could FiPL funding be used as partnership funding towards recent NFM initiative announcement (£25M) and DRRoP provided requirements are met?

A9.

It's our understanding that if the match funding comes from Defra, then it can't be used as match funding for FiPL. But, specifically, the list in the NFM fund guidance seems like similar Defra-origin funds can be used as partnership funding, and we will clarify with Defra.