

# Farming in Protected Landscapes

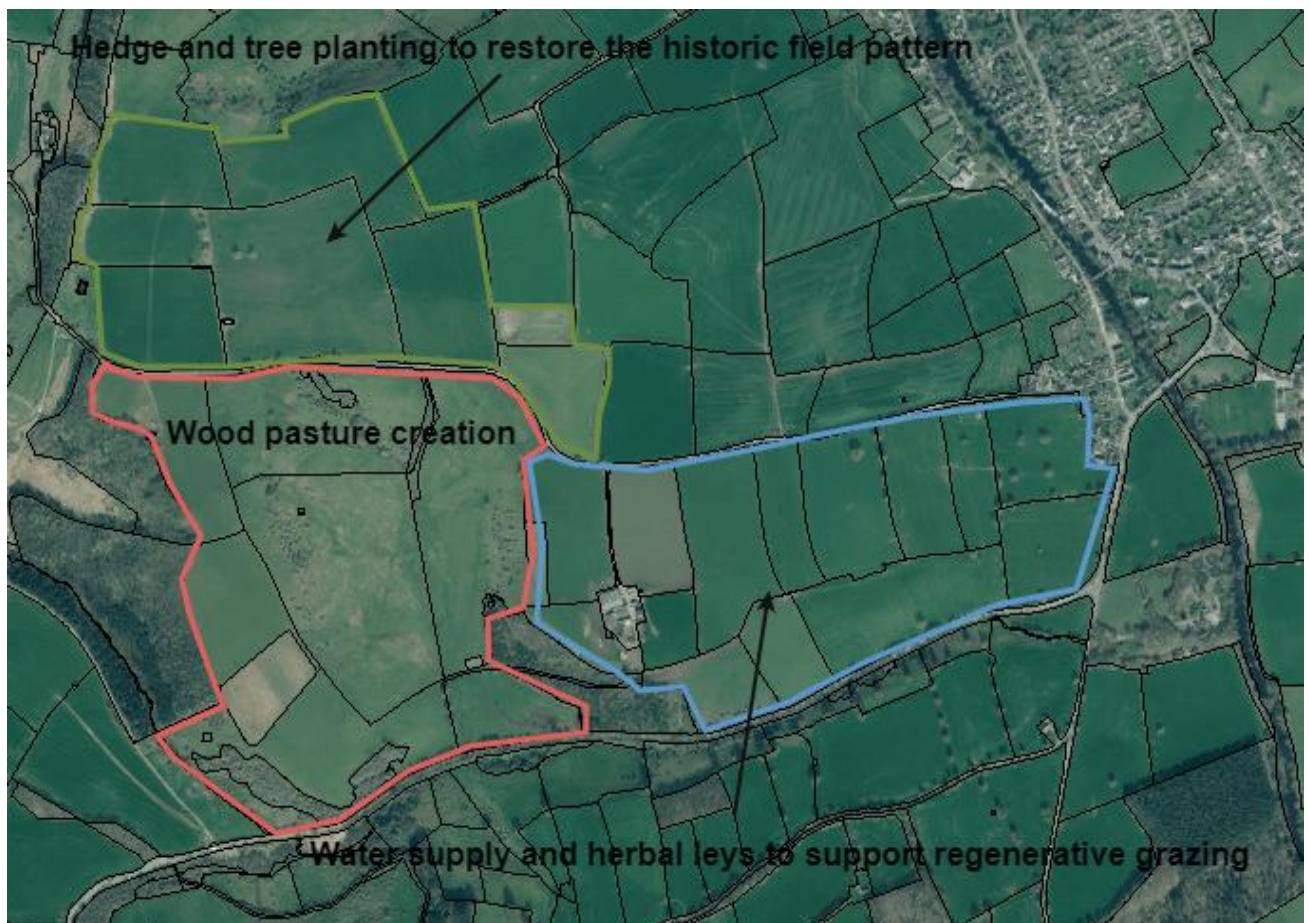
## Appendix 4 - Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) Project Examples

This Appendix provides a range of FiPL project examples to demonstrate how the programme has been used to deliver FiPL Themes and Outcomes and Peak District National Park Management Plan (NPMP) Aims and Objectives.

These are only a few examples from more than 300 agreements, all of which are unique and making valuable contributions to the National Park and the wider environment.

### **1. Supporting the transition to a nature friendly sustainable holding in the Dark Peak**

Bubnell Cliff Farm is a 130 ha Chatsworth owned holding on the outskirts of Baslow which has been managed by the Mills family for 40 years originally as a dairy farm, and more recently as an intensive farm focussed on a commercial beef suckler herd. Now in the hands of the younger generation the farm produces almost exclusively Longhorn beef sold directly to the public. The focus on 33% of the holding is nature, matching the Governments ambition for 30 by 30, whilst regenerative farming techniques are used on the remaining 67%.



Aerial photograph of Bubnell Cliff Farm showing the three farming zones.

FiPL is supporting this transition through the following projects:

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- Hedgerow creation/restoration and field boundary trees delivering for nature whilst ensuring the restoration and maintenance of the historic field pattern.

This also enables rotational grazing which is also facilitated through financial support for the field water supply.

A cultural heritage feature thought to be an ash house is part of this high-quality landscape and has been restored through FiPL.



Photograph of hedgerow planting at Bubnell Cliff Farm

- Herbal ley establishment to diversify the grassland swards delivering habitat for invertebrates, enhanced soil health and a reduction in artificial fertilisers. Herbal leys and legume rich grasslands are now supported through an Environmental Land Management (ELM Sustainable Farm Incentive (SFI) agreement where appropriate.
- Jump starting wood-pasture creation over 45 ha of the holding where the land is managed year-round with a very low stocking density designed to deliver a tussocky sward of value to invertebrates, birds and small mammals whilst enhancing and extending areas of species rich grassland. This is now supported through a Countryside Stewardship (CS) Higher Tier (HT) agreement. Tree planting in small groups and as individual trees adds structural diversity building on the very small existing ravine woodlands on the site and protecting the existing veteran tree interest.
- Restoration of a traditional farmyard barn to support the provision of an on-farm butchery. This is critical to the direct sales element of the business. FiPL is also likely to be asked to support the creation of a website dedicated to the environment of the farm, the ethos of the business and used to promote the beef products.

Activity	FiPL Themes	NPMP Objectives
Hedgerows and Trees	Climate, Nature & Place	Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6
Restoration of the ash House	Place	Objective 5
Regenerative Farming through rotational grazing and herbal leys	Climate & Nature	Objectives 1, 2, 4 & 11
Wood pasture creation	Climate, Nature & Place	Objectives 1, 2, 4 & 6
Restoration of traditional farmyard barn and development of an associated on-site butchery	Place	Objectives 5 & 11

Please see [Peak District National Park Management Plan 2023 - 2028](#) for aims & objectives referred to in the table above.



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## 2. Delivering for Nature Recovery in the White Peak

The Lawton Report 'Making Space for Nature' concluded that the White Peak National Character Area (NCA) has the highest levels of habitat fragmentation within any of England's National Parks as the SSSI/SAC dales are separated by a plateau managed intensively for dairy, beef and sheep farming. The ambition to bring nature out of the dales onto the dale-tops has been and continues to be central to a succession of strategies, designed to link and extend the dales across the plateau. The FiPL programme has made a significant contribution to this, building on the White Peak Trials with respect to regenerative farming, demonstrating how trees can be incorporated into the landscape and through the restoration of grasslands and ponds.

This is being delivered through a suite of agreements on White Peak holdings that increase structural diversity in the landscape and aim to extend and link high quality habitats so directly delivering core elements of the Nature Recovery Plan.

At Pictor Hall Farm FiPL is funding the first phase of tree and hedge planting identified in a comprehensive plan to deliver a low input, high welfare dairy business in an agroforestry system, extending the woodlands in the Wye valley up onto the plateau at Green Fairfield. Here FiPL is also funding a cultural heritage appraisal to ensure that the proposals enhance the traditional Parkland alongside delivering for Nature.



Photograph of landscape at Pictor Hall Farm

The high nature interest of Longstone edge is being extended onto the farmland below through the planting of approx. 250 trees on 2 farms along field boundaries and in low input fields to mitigate for ash dieback and diversify the landscape and natural habitats. FiPL has also contributed to the White Peak trials monitoring programme with respect to the herbal leys on both farms and has funded capital works associated with hay meadow restoration directly under Longstone Edge and closer to the village.



Photograph of restored dewpond

Capital works on 30 ponds in the White Peak have been funded. Ponds which reinforce or extend the network of ponds of value for great crested newts and most often in association with other high-quality habitats have been targeted.

The majority of these projects have involved restoration of a dry pond through repair or the construction of a new liner and several have involved the Peak Park Conservation Volunteers. At Paradise Farm ponds and flower-rich hay meadows (where FiPL has funded monitoring assessments) are core to the programme of educational visits set up through the programme.

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Various farms are planting woody corridors or hedges to link habitats and increase holding biosecurity. On Alsop Moor and above Lathkill dale, work to enhance a limekiln and a scheduled barrow respectively are happening alongside the planting. Derbyshire Dry Stone Walling Association volunteers were involved in the limekiln restoration. The farmer has also embraced new permissive access establishing a new footpath through the daleside, hay meadows and lead rakes where walkers can experience the best of the White Peak habitats and views.



Photograph of limekiln restoration at Alsop Moor

Activity	FiPL Themes	NPMP Objectives
Tree and hedge planting	Climate, Nature, Place	Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6
Parkland appraisal	Place	Objectives 5 & 6
Support for regenerative agriculture through the herbal ley establishment	Climate, Nature	Objectives 1, 2, 4 & 11
Hay meadow restoration	Climate, Nature, Place	Objectives 1, 2, 4 & 6
Pond restoration	Climate, Nature, Place	Objectives 4, 5 & 6
Educational access	People	Objectives 8 & 9
New permissive access	People	Objective 9
Maintenance and restoration of cultural heritage features	Place	Objective 5
Volunteer involvement	People	Objectives 8 & 9

Please see [Peak District National Park Management Plan 2023 - 2028](#) for aims & objectives referred to in the table above

### 3. Delivering in the River Dove Catchment in the South West Peak

A collection of agreements in the headwaters of the Dove Catchment is of value to FIPL and the NPMP aims both as standalone agreements and collectively as together they deliver added benefits critical to the delivery of the Dove Catchment Partnership objectives.

The Dove Catchment Partnership embraces a range of organisations all with an interest in improving the condition of the river and its catchment for biodiversity, water quality and people.

At Hillsdale Hall Farm near Butterton failing field drains have been opened up to create open ditches/streams. This slows down the water flow into the river whilst providing wildlife habitat. These works have been complemented by tree planting and grassland restoration using green hay as a seed source.



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Map of Hillsdale Farm FiPL Project

Projects at Under Whitle and the outskirts of Hartington deliver directly for water quality through the provision of alternative cattle water supplies. At Under Whitle this is provided by a solar powered water pump.



Photograph of solar powered water pump

At Upper Whitle run-off into the streams has been impeded by planting and restoring a number of hedgerows with associated benefits for nature, climate and the landscape.

The renewal of concrete yards at five farms has reduced dirty water entering the river system.

Support for low or most frequently, no input grassland management and hay meadow restoration has been put in place on numerous holdings some of these close to or adjacent to SSSIs such as at Swallowmoss. The catchment benefits from a reduction in fertilisers and pesticides whilst the grasslands provide a buffer to the SSSI and management extends the associated wildflower interest.

The control of invasive species in the catchment – primarily Himalayan balsam, but also New Zealand pygmyweed has been funded. This is a core objective for the Catchment Partnership.



Photograph of permissive route to desired viewpoint

Projects have also delivered for people outcomes. FiPL has funded new permissive paths at Sheen Hill and Under Whitle where it is also supporting a community-led archaeology project.

Educational access is supported at Lower Hurst, which provides organic, grass-fed meat to Derbyshire Schools. FiPL has funded new low energy freezers for their butchery.

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Many of the projects in this area continue the themes and ambitions of the South-West Peak Landscape Partnership programme, A Heritage Lottery Funded Project hosted by the PDNPA which ended in 2021.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>FiPL Themes</b>	<b>NPMP Objectives</b>
Provision of alternative water supplies	Nature	Objectives 3 & 4
Tree and hedge planting	Climate, Nature, Place	Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6
Renewal of concrete yards	Nature	Objectives 3 & 4
Creation of wetlands	Nature	Objectives 3 & 4
Grassland maintenance & restoration	Climate, Nature, Place	Objectives 1, 2, 4 & 6
Pond restoration	Climate, Nature, Place	Objectives 4, 5 & 6
Educational access	People	Objectives 8 & 9
New permissive access	People	Objective 9
Community Archaeology Project	Place	Objective 5
Volunteer involvement	People	Objectives 8 & 9
Support for the butchery business	Place	Objective 11

Please see [Peak District National Park Management Plan 2023 - 2028](#) for aims & objectives referred to in the table above