

Case Studies

-  Supports nature recovery
-  Mitigates the impacts of climate change
-  Opportunities for people to enjoy, discover and understand the landscape and its cultural heritage
-  Protect or improve the quality/character of the place



PEAK FARMER'S GROUP



There is little history of Farmer Facilitation groups or collaborative working amongst the majority of White Peak farms. This newly established farmer-led group aims to change this with the help of a £48,000 grant from the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme.

Nearly 130 farmers have become members in the first three months, three events have been held and two newsletters have been produced. The events have included sessions on 'Understanding your soil', herbal leys and grassland management, and ruminant feeding. The next event focusses on educational access. It is expected that there will be enhanced delivery of many of the outcomes of the programme, with some ideas developing into individual and collaborative FiPL applications.



WINCLE GRANGE: SUPPORTING NEW IDEAS FOR THE PEAK DISTRICT



FiPL is supporting the development of a farm-wide agro-forestry scheme through:

- Funding for baseline environmental monitoring to assess the impacts on biodiversity and soils
- Facilitating greater understanding of the archaeological features to ensure their protection
- Grant-aid for the water supply to enable rotational grazing in-between the lines of trees
- Hedge creation to ensure the continuity of the historic boundaries on the holding.

Volunteers have been involved in the hedge planting meaning that all four themes are being delivered. This is the first agro-forestry proposal in the Peak District and further support is under discussion for the butchering and marketing of the grazing animals.

BUBNELL CLIFF FARM: A WELL-ROUNDED PROJECT



A new generation of farmer here is transforming the landscape of the farm with a series of agreements from FiPL. In-field trees and new hedges have been planted on the line of historic boundaries, grant aid has been provided for herbal leys and rotational grazing, a unique 'Ash House' is being restored, and funding has been provided for the development of wood pasture over 45 ha linking areas of ancient woodland.

Future plans include Open Farm Sunday and other interpretation to explain the farming system and the benefits for the environment.

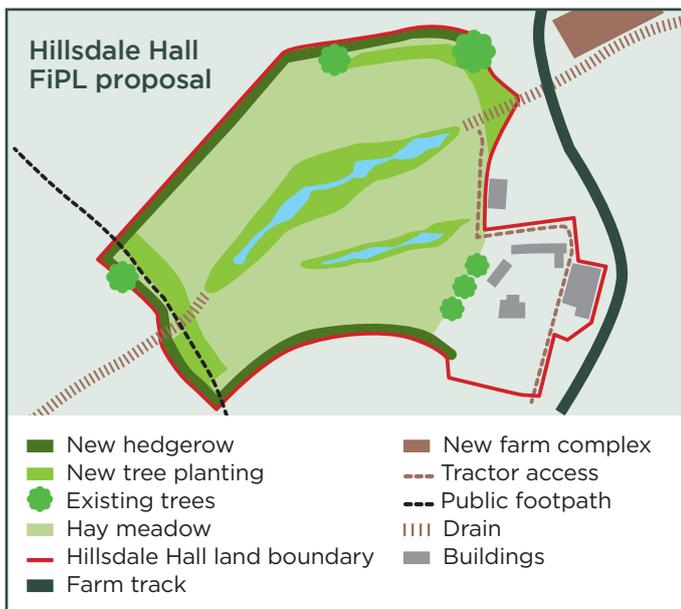
HILLSDALE HALL: FIPL AS THE ONLY FUNDING OPTION



FiPL is being used to transform this 3.1 ha holdings which is too small to qualify for Higher Tier Countryside Stewardship, through:

- Creation of wetland habitats through modification of the drainage system. This will provide for a varied range of wildlife alongside reducing the speed of water flowing downhill into the river below
- The addition of species rich green hay, providing opportunities for wild flowers to establish. FiPL is also supporting the management of the hay meadow prior to the start of ELMs
- Tree planting and hedgerow planting, adding to the habitat value of the site and also sequestering carbon

A public footpath runs through the site and will give the public access to this substantially enriched landscape. We hope to use this example to encourage other smallholders to similarly deliver the FiPL themes.



OK CONNECT: A NATURE/BIODIVERSITY PROJECT



OK Connect (Owl and Kestrel Connect) is a not-for-profit environmental group of volunteers dedicated to taking action for nature at a landscape scale. The group is a collaboration between local naturalists and farmers to enable fellow farmers to do more for wildlife with an initial focus on the lack of nesting sites for barn owls and kestrels – in part due to ash die-back. The project has seen great uptake, with the first year's boxes already allocated to over 30 landowners who have signed up.

OK Connect also work with farmers/landowners to encourage the creation of wildlife rich foraging habitats and signpost them to relevant organisations who can provide farm advice, in addition to a dedicated group of volunteers to provide training on erecting and monitoring boxes.



ACCESS PROJECTS



FiPL has funded six new permissive paths enabling access to flower-rich hay meadows and mining sites at Sheldon and Sough Top near Taddington, an old sand-pit site at Minninglow, access land above Castleton and creating an important link to Lathkill Dale National Nature Reserve. Surfacing on the bridlepath above Ladybower has enhanced access for families on bikes and the route to Thor's cave in the Manifold Valley is due to be restored. FiPL is also funding advice to farmers on developing educational access in addition to visits for schools and youth groups at two farms, one of these being a new venture.

