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| <b>Committee and Date</b><br>Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership<br><br>8 <sup>th</sup> November 2022 | <b>Item</b><br><br><b>7</b> |
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## FARMING IN PROTECTED LANDSCAPES - SHOWCASE OF PROJECT ACTIVITY

**Responsible Officer** Phil Holden, AONB Partnership Manager  
e-mail: [phil.holden@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:phil.holden@shropshire.gov.uk) Tel: 01743 254741

### Summary

This paper provides some summary information about the programme, in support of the presentation which will be made at the meeting by Alison Jones.

### Recommendation

The Partnership is recommended to note the information provided.

### Background

We are now about two thirds through year 2, so slightly beyond the mid-point of the three year programme. To date we have had 40 applications – with 33 approved, six declined and one withdrawn. We have quite a large grant budget of £814,981 in 2022/23 due to reprofiling from Year 1, and applications coming in are not likely to be sufficient to spend all of this, however we currently project spend of around 75% of the grant budget. We have two further panels planned on 9<sup>th</sup> Nov and 14<sup>th</sup> Dec and projects coming forward at these panels will determine final spend for this Financial Year. The grant budget for 2023-24 is £691,142.

The Local Assessment Panel meetings are held approximately every 6 weeks. Alison Jones and other members of the team continue to work closely with landowners to develop projects. In some cases this means giving quite substantial support to applicants to ensure that strong applications can be made. We have promoted the programme at the Rea Brook Community Event in May and an NFU event at Clee Downton in June, and in regular AONB promotional activity. We are currently working closely with NFU and CLA on further promotion.

We hosted the FiPL Defra team on a visit to the Shropshire Hills AONB on 29<sup>th</sup> September. Summaries of the projects that have been awarded a grant are available at <https://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/help-to-look-after/farming-in-protected-landscapes/farming-in-protected-landscapes-projects>.

#### List of Background Papers

Further information at <https://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/help-to-look-after/farming-in-protected-landscapes>.

#### Human Rights Act Appraisal

The information in this report is compatible with the Human Rights Act 1998.

**Environmental Appraisal**

The recommendation in this paper will contribute to the conservation of protected landscapes.

**Risk Management Appraisal**

Risk management has been appraised as part of the considerations of this report.

**Community / Consultations Appraisal**

The topics raised in this paper have been the subject of earlier consultations with Partnership members.

**Appendices**

None