

## Guidelines for 26/27 FiPL applications in the South Downs National Park

The following guidance can be used to support the development of expressions of interest (Eoi) for 26/27 FiPL projects in the South Downs National Park (SDNP).

- Projects will clearly need to deliver against at least one of the nature, climate, people and place objectives.
- Projects will only be considered if they are within the National Park boundary.
- Priority will be given to new FiPL applicants. This does not exclude previous applicants from applying but may mean that their applications will be developed later into the programme.
- In accordance with the Defra National Framework, after an applicant has submitted more than five applications over the course of the programme, the sixth and any further applications must be scrutinised at the Local Assessment Panel, whatever their value.
- Where projects contain actions that can be delivered through other Defra funding sources e.g. Capital Grants Scheme, Farming and Equipment Technology Fund (FETF), we encourage applicants to consider these routes before applying to FiPL.

In addition to the points above, the table below lists guidelines for projects containing specific actions:

<b>Action</b>	<b>Guidelines</b>
Buildings	Projects including the renovation or reuse of buildings will be considered where they deliver outcomes for the local economy, historical/cultural significance and/or education.
Diversification	Diversification projects must clearly and significantly deliver more than one FiPL objective.
Fencing	Fencing projects will only be considered where the applicant is unable to secure funding through other routes e.g. CS Capital Grant Scheme and the project improves management of a priority habitat e.g. chalk grassland.
Hedgerows	Hedgerow projects will only be considered where the applicant is unable to secure funding through other routes e.g. CS Capital Grant Scheme and the hedge management improves habitat connectivity. The use of cultural skills, such as hedge laying, will be considered favourably.
Ponds	Pond projects will only be considered where the applicant is unable to secure funding through other routes e.g. CS Capital Grants Scheme and the project is delivering cultural heritage or priority habitat objectives or is part of a wider network of connected habitats e.g. wetlands.
Scrub	Scrub management projects will only be considered where the applicant is unable to secure funding through other routes e.g. CS Capital Grant Scheme and the work will benefit priority habitats e.g. chalk grassland.
Water Supply	Projects to improve or introduce a livestock water supply will only be considered where the applicant is unable to secure funding through other routes e.g. CS Capital Grant Scheme and where implementation will improve management of priority habitats e.g. chalk grassland.
Machinery	Projects including the purchase of machinery will only be considered where:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The item requested passes the Defra ‘Decision Tree’.</li> <li>• The item requested is not used for managing CS options (which are therefore already receiving grant aid).</li> <li>• The machinery funded clearly and significantly delivers more than one FiPL outcome.</li> </ul> <p>If these criteria are met, making the machine available to others who could benefit will be looked upon favourably.</p>
Revenue options e.g. CS Options	Projects involving CS revenue options will not be considered unless there is a clear reason why the options cannot be obtained through Defra land management schemes e.g. notification from NE, and the longer-term funding and management support of the site is clear.
Mapping/Research	<p>Projects involving mapping of sites and research will only be considered where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects deliver at a landscape scale and facilitate cooperation.</li> <li>• Data can be shared/used more widely.</li> <li>• There is a clear outcome, that delivers FiPL outcomes, for the data gathered.</li> </ul>