

Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL)

Information & guidance for applications for deer management infrastructure, equipment and training

Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths and Dedham Vale National Landscapes

Are You in Our Area?

This grant programme can only fund projects and activities within or immediately adjacent to the two National Landscapes referred to above. To check whether your land falls within these boundaries, please check this link which shows boundaries of both of our National Landscapes [Boundary Map – Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape](#). The two areas can also be seen on Google Maps, shaded a little darker green.

Our priority is to fund deer management activity **within** these National Landscapes, and priority will therefore be given to applicants who can demonstrate that they shoot deer within these boundaries. However, if you are involved in deer control **immediately outside** the boundaries, it would still be worth making an application.

What Can Be Funded?

We can consider applications for equipment and infrastructure to support deer management, including (but not limited to):

- Chillers (mobile/trailer-mounted or permanently installed)
- Processing units and larders
- High seats
- Extraction and carcass handling equipment
- Night shooting equipment
- Relevant training

Important: We cannot fund the purchase of second-hand machinery or equipment. All items purchased must be new.

Collaboration

Priority will be given to applications which demonstrate collaboration with neighbouring farms / estates / landowners and other stalkers. We will look more favourably at projects where a chiller (or other equipment) will be used by more than one party.

You are invited to submit maps (showing multiple holdings which will benefit from the equipment) and letters of support (from other stalkers / deer managers and landowners) to show this.

How Much Can We Fund?

The FiPL programme cannot fund 100% of project costs. The intervention rates (maximum grant payment) are as follows:

- **Trailer-mounted (mobile) chillers:** Funding will be offered on the same basis as the Farming Equipment and Technology Fund (FETF), for equivalent chiller trailers. You can find specifications and payment rates here [Productivity items and specifications - Farming Equipment and Technology Fund \(FETF\) 2026 \(Closed\) - GOV.UK](#) (scroll down to FETF423 & FETF424)
- **Other eligible equipment (e.g. permanently installed chillers, high seats, larders):** The maximum intervention rate is **80%** of eligible costs.

Important: Even if your application is approved, there is no guarantee that the full maximum rate will be awarded. The assessment panel or National Landscape Manager may reduce the award to 60% or 70% — or potentially lower — depending on the overall programme budget and the merits of applications received. The final decision rests with the panel or National Landscape Manager.

Costs Spreadsheet

The attached costs spreadsheet must be completed as it will form the basis of your claim. Every item you intend to purchase should be listed with exact costs, supported by written quotes or screengrab confirmations of pricing. **Please fill in as much as you can; I am happy to assist with anything you are unsure about.**

All items and activities on your cost spreadsheet must clearly relate to the project description in your application form – if the link isn't obvious or the item isn't referred to in your application form, explain it.

Quotes

- **Items costing £5,000 (including VAT) or less:** one quote required.
- **Items costing more than £5,000 (including VAT):** three comparable quotes required. The grant award will be based on the lowest quote received.

How to Apply

Attached to this email is an application form which has been partially pre-completed for the purposes of deer management infrastructure funding. Please amend and complete the sections **highlighted in yellow**. None of the other pre-completed text requires amendment, but please feel free to add additional detail where you think it would be helpful.

We have partially pre-filled the form to make the application process easier for individual applicants. However, you are not under any obligation to use the pre-filled text in the application – please feel free to delete and fill it in with your own words (ensuring you provide the information requested) if you prefer.

When you save a copy of this document, please replace '[Name]' in the document name, with your own name.

Also attached is a Guidance for Applicants document, which you should read alongside the application form as you complete it.

What to Include With, and How to Submit Your Application

A completed application must consist of the following:

- Your completed application form (attached)
- Your completed costs spreadsheet (attached)
- Quote(s) for the equipment you are seeking to purchase or the training you are seeking to undertake (see Quotes section above)
- Letters of support from the landowners over whose land you shoot deer and other stalkers who / deer managers who will benefit from the use of this equipment — these can be a signed letter (scanned PDF) or a supporting email
- Map or maps showing where you shoot, the location of any proposed new equipment, and the land (farms / estates etc) which will benefit from this new equipment.
- A completed Not Registered for VAT form, if applicable (attached)

Completed applications should be returned by email to both alex.dinsdale@suffolkandessexnlk.org.uk and lynn.eldrett@suffolkandessex-nl.org.uk

- Application form must be in Word.doc format and costs spreadsheet in Excel .xls format - no .pdfs please.
- All application documents, including quotes, maps and other documents must be submitted at the same time - even if you're previously sent them to us separately. Ideally all application documents should be submitted in one email.
- Photographs / maps / quotes must be sent as attachments rather than pasted into the main body of the email or added into the application form.

Deadlines

The absolute final deadline for receipt of a completed application (of £10K or more) is two weeks before the relevant panel meeting. Our next two panel meetings are planned for Tuesday 21st of July and Tuesday 22nd of September, **so completed applications must be received by Tuesday 7th July or Tuesday 8th of September.**

Applications for sums of less than £10,000 will be considered on an ad-hoc basis, as and when received.

The sooner we receive your application, the better. Please send us a draft as soon as it is ready — we are happy to review it and answer any queries before you submit formally.

How Applications Are Assessed

The FiPL programme is a competitive grant scheme. Applications are assessed as follows:

- **Applications over £10,000:** considered by the FiPL Local Assessment Panel, which meets four times a year.
- **Applications of £10,000 or less:** considered by the National Landscape Manager on an ongoing basis as applications are received.

Important: Receipt of a completed application is not a guarantee that a grant will be awarded. The decision rests with the panel or National Landscape Manager.

How Claims Are Settled

Please be aware that claims are settled retrospectively. This means you must fund your purchases yourself in the first instance, and we will reimburse you once the equipment has been received and the claim has been submitted and approved.

Claims can only be settled once we have received:

- An invoice for the item(s) purchased, and
- Proof of payment — normally a copy of a bank statement confirming that the invoice has been paid.

If your application is approved, we will contact you to discuss the claims process and to obtain your bank details for payment. **All equipment must be purchased and received by 28 February 2027.** However, FiPL runs into 2029 so we can fund projects over the following two financial years provided you make it clear via the application form and costs spreadsheet.

Data collection

We are in the early stages of planning a possible strategic deer management initiative and data collection will be an important element of that. This might include asking stalkers and others to use a smartphone app to record sightings and locations of live and shot deer. Your support with this would be much appreciated and we will be in touch with you in due course about it.