



Tirweddau
Cymru
Landscapes
Wales



Ariennir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
Funded by
Welsh Government

IMPACT REPORT
FFERMIO BRO
2025-26



Ministerial Foreword

I am proud to present this report on Ffermio Bro—an important part of our work to build a more resilient, sustainable Wales, where our farmers, communities and natural environment all thrive together.

Through Ffermio Bro, we are delivering practical change on the issues that matter most: restoring nature, improving water quality, and helping communities respond to the growing impacts of climate change—while backing Welsh farming as the foundation of our rural economy.

Our National Parks and National Landscapes are living, working landscapes, sustained over generations by farming, culture and community. Protecting and enhancing these places depends on working in partnership with those who know them best. Ffermio Bro reflects our commitment to that approach, bringing together farmers, communities and local expertise to deliver locally-led, ambitious projects with national impact.

The scheme is already delivering real results—restoring hedgerows, meadows and woodlands, protecting our rivers, and strengthening the ecological health and character of these landscapes. These actions are not only good for nature—they also make farm businesses more resilient and sustainable, supporting healthier soils, better water management, reduced risk and stronger long-term productivity.

The strong response from farmers demonstrates the value of this approach. In its first year, Ffermio Bro supported 56 projects across 200 farms. This is just the beginning. With an increased budget, we are scaling up delivery—supporting more ambitious, landscape-scale projects that provide lasting benefits for nature, climate and rural communities across Wales.

We are determined to build on this momentum, working with farmers and communities to restore nature at scale, support a sustainable food system, and ensure that Wales's natural resources deliver for our people now and for future generations.

LLYR GRUFFYDD MS

Cabinet Minister for Rural Resilience and Sustainability

Introduction from the Chair of Tirweddau Cymru

Since its launch, Ffermio Bro has demonstrated the power of collaboration—bringing together farmers, local communities, and partners to champion approaches that respect our landscapes while embracing innovation.

This report highlights the achievements of Ffermio Bro so far:

- Strong engagement across Wales:** Over 400 expressions of interest were received in the first year, with a value of over £7m, showing the appetite for nature-friendly farming in our Designated Landscapes, and reflecting the positivity of farmers towards the scheme.
- Significant investment:** The Welsh Government allocated £2 million to the scheme, with £1.6 million available to farmers for capital works that enhance biodiversity and resilience.
- Collaborative delivery:** Dedicated local advisers supported farmers to develop projects that span multiple farms, creating impact at a landscape scale. Farmers participated in the decision-making process, sitting on Local Assessment Panels alongside ecologists and other experts.
- Environmental outcomes:** Projects funded in year one include hedgerow restoration, wetland and riparian habitat creation, traditional hay meadow restoration, and targeted tree planting, all contributing to ecosystem resilience and climate adaptation.
- Future-proofing farming:** Habitat created under Ffermio Bro will count towards requirements in the Sustainable Farming Scheme, ensuring long-term benefits for both farmers and nature.



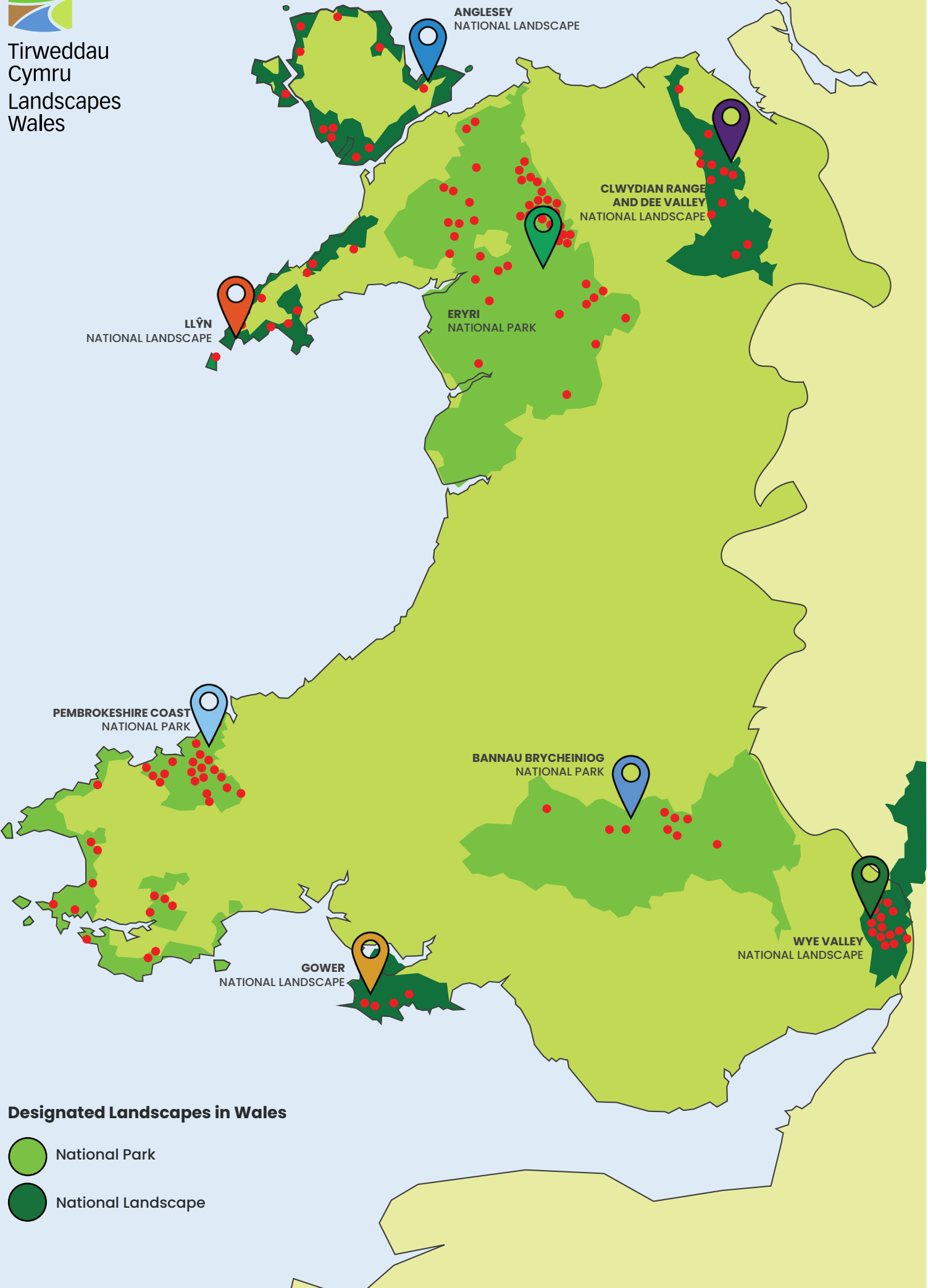
Looking ahead, we will continue to work together to ensure that Ffermio Bro continues to deliver benefits for people, nature, and Designated Landscapes for generations to come.

Thank you for your support and for joining us on this journey.

ANDREW BLAKE
Former Chair, Tirweddau Cymru



Tirweddau
Cymru
Landscapes
Wales



Designated Landscapes in Wales

-  National Park
-  National Landscape



Our three National Parks and five National Landscapes (formerly Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty/AONBs) cover a quarter of the land area of Wales. They are lived and farmed places, invaluable to nature, culture and heritage.

Ffermio Bro was created to recognise this – and the pivotal role these Designated Landscapes play in the recovery of nature in Wales. Launched in April 2025, it is a Welsh Government scheme for farmers in Designated Landscapes, awarding funding for activities that improve habitats, strengthen ecosystems and support nature recovery.

In contrast to other schemes, it is delivered locally by the National Park Authorities and the National Landscapes bodies, with a dedicated team of officers who know and understand their landscapes.

Farmers and landowners apply directly to Designated Landscape bodies, who have set local priorities, and award funding for activities that reflect local needs. Applications are decided by the Landscape itself for smaller projects (below £15,000 in 2026/27) – and by a Local Assessment Panel comprising members of the farming and conservation communities for larger projects.

The Designated Landscape handles the entire end-to-end process, with a single local point of contact for the applicant – helping to make applying convenient and straightforward for farmers.

We are flexible and can fund almost any activity that supports nature – and can do so at up to 100% of cost if the project has no economic benefit to the farmer. This allows us to better support farmers, and to deliver truly innovative nature recovery schemes.

We have received consistent support from farmers and farming unions, who welcome this kind of flexible, local funding. Ffermio Bro offers direct support and enhanced funding opportunities that are helping farmers in Designated Landscapes at a challenging time for both nature and agriculture.

Ffermio Bro is a collaborative scheme, delivering projects across multiple farms to achieve a common goal. Collaboration can be either geographic (*nearby farms working together*) or thematic (*farms across a wide area safeguarding a particular habitat or species*). A key role of our local officers is to help develop and guide these collaborations.



Our achievements in 2025/26

200 FARMS
received funding across
81 different projects

£1.52m
AWARDED FOR
capital works

45 new collaborations
created in 2025/26 by
Ffermio Bro

56*
collaborative
projects

*69% of all projects

21km

rivers and streams
benefitting from projects

through streamside corridors,
water quality measures and
Natural Flood Management
activities – with significant
further downstream benefits.

43.6km
hedgerows
created or restored

47
ponds
created

98ha
of woodland
planted, restored
or enhanced

83,362 native trees planted
*excluding hedgerow plants



4.5km dry
stone
walls

created or
restored

2.4km
rights of way
improved by projects





Case Studies Introduction

81 projects have now been funded by Ffermio Bro, spanning 200 farms across the eight Designated Landscapes.

While all our projects have been exciting, we have chosen a small selection to share here to demonstrate the ways in which we have been supporting farming and nature in Wales.

On the following pages you will find one case study for each of the Designated Landscapes.

For more information on any of these, please contact the relevant National Park Authority or National Landscape body.
Details can be found at www.landscapeswales.org.uk/ffermio-bro

Ty'n Mynydd

Protecting valuable habitats and public rights of way

Ty'n Mynydd, located near Llanddona within Môn's National Landscape, supports lowland heath and scattered wood pasture – both are sensitive and important habitat.

Through Ffermio Bro, targeted management work has been delivered to improve the condition of these valuable habitats whilst maintaining public access across the site.

The project involved installing new stock fencing to enable conservation cattle and Carneddau mountain pony grazing. These habitats require active management to prevent scrub encroachment and the dominance of coarse grasses. Carefully controlled grazing helps maintain a varied vegetation structure, promotes heather regeneration, and creates the open conditions required by characteristic heathland species. By reinstating grazing under a structured regime, the site is now on a positive trajectory for long-term habitat recovery.

Alongside habitat management, the project also supported the maintenance of a public footpath crossing the site. Clear and well-maintained access routes ensure continued enjoyment of the landscape for residents and visitors.

This project demonstrates how Ffermio Bro funding can deliver integrated outcomes – restoring priority habitats, supporting sustainable land management, and maintaining access within protected landscapes.



Ynys Môn
Tirwedd
Cenedlaethol

Anglesey
National
Landscape

This project has come along at a good time for us. This project has allowed us to complete works we wished to do a long time ago but needed the extra help. This funding has been flexible and having someone come out and seeing what we have in mind has made our vision a reality. The farm can now be managed in the way we want.

Landowner

Llangwyfan Farm Revitalising an ancient woodland

Llangwyfan Farm lies in the shadow of the Penycloddiau Hill Fort with stunning views of the Vale of Clwyd and beyond.

Farmers Julia and Tudor Hughes sought to connect the ancient woodlands on their land through a programme of hedgerow restoration – alongside better woodland management to foster a more balanced ecosystem of native flora and fauna. This included fencing off areas of woodland, removing diseased trees and thinning out dominant species.

The practical aspects of managing woodland and hedgerow restoration alongside the day to day running of the farm meant that the ongoing support of the Ffermio Bro team through the work was vital to Julia and Tudor. The local Ffermio Bro advisor was on hand throughout to answer queries, provide advice and ensure the works were most beneficial both to nature and to the farm.



Bryniau Clwyd a
Dyffryn Dyfrdwy
Tirwedd
Cenedlaethol

Clwydian Range
and Dee Valley
National
Landscape

We applied with proposed works for consideration and were delighted that some of our proposals were successful in being awarded project funding. The guidance of the Ffermio Bro team in providing us with detailed guidance, technical and practical advice both prior to and during the work was invaluable and an intrinsic part of the whole project.

JULIA HUGHES
Farmer





Bannau
Brycheiniog

Seed Harvesting A local success story in sustainable farming

In the heart of Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, a simple idea is transforming how local farms care for their land. Through the Ffermio Bro scheme, farmer Paul Matthews has invested in a Logic Seed Harvester, a practical tool delivering healthier soils and richer biodiversity.

A demonstration that sparked momentum

At a recent on-farm demonstration, farmers and partners gathered to see the harvester in action and how species-rich meadows can be restored and expanded. Meadows provide vital habitat for pollinators like bees and butterflies, store carbon, retain water, improve soil health, and offer a nature-based solution to flooding.

Bags of fresh native seeds were shared with attendees, ready to be sown into new meadows and begin restoration on their own farms.

Building a network with lasting impact

Working with the Wye and Usk Foundation, Paul has surveyed existing meadows and explored how multi-species leys can enhance water infiltration and soil function.

With support from the National Park and Ffermio Bro, he is harvesting seed from his own meadow and spreading it across additional fields, creating a growing patchwork of restored habitat and a more resilient landscape.

We are hoping to build on links already made with local farms to build a network of species rich meadows. Having the seed harvester on hand means that we can use it at different times to target specific species as they become ready. It's also possible to get out when the weather is good.

PAUL MATTHEWS
Farmer



Dyffryn Conwy Catchment

Collaborative action for cleaner water and climate resilience



Across the Dyffryn Conwy Catchment, four local groups—some newly formed, others long established—are joining forces to address two urgent priorities: improving water quality and slowing the flow of water through the landscape

Supported by the Ffermio Bro programme, their work strengthens and builds on progress already delivered through the Upper Conwy Project, creating a coordinated effort to protect habitats, reduce flood risk, and champion sustainable land management.

Each group brings valuable local knowledge and practical expertise, turning shared ambitions into effective, on-the-ground action. Together, they will focus on restoring riparian zones, planting scattered trees and woodland features, creating wetlands, separating clean and dirty water on farms, and implementing natural flood management techniques.

These nature-based interventions help filter sediments and nutrients before they reach watercourses, while also slowing the movement of water across the landscape.

The combined impact includes reduced peak river flows, healthier ecosystems, improved water quality, and greater resilience to extreme rainfall.

Collaboration lies at the heart of this approach. Working at a catchment scale enables partners to deliver benefits that extend beyond individual farms or communities. Ffermio Bro provides the framework for coordinated action, helping unlock solutions that work at scale while remaining locally led. Landowners play a central role, co-designing measures that support productive farming alongside thriving habitats. By linking Ffermio Bro with wider landscape-scale initiatives such as the Upper Conwy Project, this partnership demonstrates how collective action can achieve lasting benefits for communities, wildlife, and the wider environment.



The four groups (shown on the map above) span 19 farms – fostered and supported through the work of the local Ffermio Bro advisor. Each group brings valuable local knowledge and practical expertise, turning shared ambitions into effective, on-the-ground action. Together, they are focussed on restoring riparian zones, planting trees, creating wetlands, separating clean and dirty water on farms, and implementing natural flood management techniques.

In the first year of Ffermio Bro, the four Dyffryn Conwy collaborations have united these farms to deliver:

Planting hundreds of trees, including streamside corridors and scattered planting on steep banks to slow the flow of water

Creating or restoring 3.4km of hedgerow, nearly 1km of dry stone wall and 1.1km of earth embankment – including along local public footpaths

Installing culverts to help maintain and protect the river catchment from runoff, and damming drainage ditches to create small pools

Installing fencing to prevent stock accessing rivers and streams, with 2.8km of new streamside corridor

Clearing scrub around the catchment and creating 11 new ponds to protect and create habitats for pollinators, birds and other wildlife

Creating 3 new traditional orchards on farms in the area



My experience of Ffermio Bro this year has been a positive one. I can see the agricultural and environmental benefits of doing this work. Through discussion and developing a joint plan, we've been able to support both the farm system and the environment. The key strength of the project is the one-to-one relationship.

HEFIN JONES

Tyddyn Gethin, Bro Machno



Gŵyr
Tirwedd
Cenedlaethol

Gower
National
Landscape

Great Pitton Farm

Pioneering virtual fencing for safer, smarter coastal grazing

Farmer Tom Higgs has long grazed the dramatic coastline around Mewslade Bay with sheep. Making the switch to cattle to improve habitat condition, Tom faced a new challenge: larger, less agile livestock meant a higher risk of cliff falls.

Tom turned to Ffermio Bro for support. His solution? Virtual fencing collars that enable precise, invisible boundaries—keeping cattle away from dangerous cliffs while managing the sensitive grassland effectively.

A collaborative solution

Working together to support Tom, Ffermio Bro funded the cattle collars, with Natural Resources Wales paying the monitoring subscription – ensuring long-term viability.

Boosting biodiversity

Great Pitton Farm is part of Ffermio Bro's Gower pollinator collaboration, helping rare butterflies and bees expand their range. Ffermio Bro is also supporting Tom in using virtual fencing to exclude cattle from known adder habitat. A win-win for both livestock safety and native wildlife.



There is increasing interest in virtual fencing systems for cattle, particularly for conservation grazing and habitat management where conventional boundaries may not be practicable. The Ffermio Bro scheme has been able to fund several innovative projects involving these systems, but only where strict guidelines are adhered to around welfare of animals, in line with advice from the Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer.

Cattle collars will greatly improve the management on the Gower Coast SSSI. This technology will enable the conservation grazing which is vital in maintaining the sensitive coastal grassland and heathland.

NICOLA BROADRIDGE
NRW Environment Officer

The GPS collars funded by Ffermio Bro enable us to graze and manage specific areas of the cliff. They are also improving the safety of our livestock by preventing them from going on dangerous areas. They are a massive management benefit for both the grazing livestock and the habitat. We are extremely grateful as a small suckler herd would not be able to justify the cost.

TOM HIGGS
Farmer

This project has allowed me to undertake essential works which would otherwise have not been done. It allows us to cooperate with our neighbours for the benefit of nature, and the flexibility and advice from the Ffermio Bro team has been invaluable.

Landowner



Llyn
Tirwedd
Cenedlaethol

Llyn
National
Landscape

Ty Fry **Working together to protect chough**

Ty Fry, located in Uwchmynydd near the tip of the Llŷn peninsula is part of a newly formed farm cluster.

The project has focussed on controlling grazing pressure for the benefit of the chough in the area – as well as improving connectivity across the landscape.

The project involved the reinstatement of the earth banks which are characteristic of the area, allowing the grazier to manage the stock pressure on smaller field compartments for the benefit of chough.

New hedgerows were planted and existing hedgerows managed and restored to benefit pollinators and increase habitat connectivity. After engaging with the RSPB, given concerns that new hedgerows would remove chough foraging habitat, it was agreed that the risks were negligible compared to the overall benefits of the works.

The collaborating farmers are now able to manage the newly created habitats in the long-term, benefitting both farmers and nature alike on a scale that would not have been possible without Ffermio Bro's support.

Dôlwernen Flood management in the Gwaun Valley

Dôlwernen is a small farm in the Gwaun Valley, a landscape dominated by ancient semi-natural woodland. The holding was recently purchased by new entrants Molly and Brynmor, who were keen to manage the land in a way that complemented the surrounding landscape.



The original application focused on improving freshwater management, reducing livestock pressure on watercourses, increasing tree cover and maintaining good soil health.

But as the project developed, site conditions highlighted additional challenges. A new stream or spring had formed, causing silt movement and repeated flooding of a nearby road by overwhelming a downstream culvert. In response, the project was adapted to prioritise natural flood management. Works included the restoration of a shallow pool, revitalisation of existing ditches, strategic placement of boulders, and the opening of a drain to slow water flows before reaching the culvert. Alongside these measures, a shelterbelt of approximately 80 trees across 10 different species was planted to provide shelter for the farm orchard.

This integrated approach has reduced sediment movement, slowed water flows during heavy rainfall, and lowered the risk of culvert blockage and road flooding. Livestock exclusion has improved water quality, while new tree planting and shelterbelts are strengthening habitat connectivity and supporting long-term soil health.



We are really proud of the work we completed this year with Ffermio Bro. It's brought many stacked benefits including shelter for our orchard, a wildlife corridor between the two wooded sides for the Gwaun valley, reduced erosion in field and stopped seasonal flooding of the council road. We've already enjoyed seeing wildlife using this new area and can't wait to see it develop and mature.

MOLLY & BRYNMOR
Farmer



We have always sought to farm hand in hand with nature here, and this project has helped considerably with that aim. We have protected both the hedge and stream from potential ill effects of livestock and have created a wildlife corridor linking up an isolated woodland in the middle of the farm with a much larger Ancient Semi Natural Woodland bordering the holding.

MR TREVOR NEALE
Owner of Little Penarth Farm



Dyffryn Gwy
Tirwedd
Cenedlaethol

Wye Valley
National
Landscape

Little Penarth Farm **Riparian habitat improvement and woodland management**

Little Penarth Farm had been run as a certified organic beef and sheep unit from the early 1990s. However, active livestock farming had reduced in recent years – with other enterprises forming the base of the farm’s income.

Now, with the help of Ffermio Bro, sustainable livestock production – in harmony with nature – is returning to the pastures of this traditional Wye Valley family farm.

Hedgerows degraded by browsing sheep and eroded streamside banks have been fenced off, protecting them from grazing animals and improving water quality. Hedges have been gapped up and leaky dams installed, reducing flows downstream in high water events.

Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland has been brought under sympathetic management and Public Rights of Way enhanced.

But the work is not stopping here. Collaborative plans are already underway to create a mosaic of species-rich hay meadows on the holding and across several neighbouring farms.





£2.7m

available in **capital grants**
each year

Looking ahead

As a result of the unprecedented success of Ffermio Bro's first year, Welsh Government has significantly increased the funding allocated to the scheme. £6.5m has been awarded across 2026–2028, with £5.5m going directly to farmers to support capital works on farms.

In addition to this capital funding, a further annual allocation has been made available to the Designated Landscapes to enable farmer training and the delivery of expert advice, helping ensure projects have the greatest and longest lasting impact possible.

In our first year nearly 70% of projects were collaborative – and in future years we are targeting the creation of many more partnerships between farmers. We expect that nearly all projects will be collaborative in future years, and resources have been made available to the Designated Landscapes to help create and foster these collaborations.

We are now also able to fund multi-year projects, enabling delivery of bigger, better and more transformative projects. These projects could include major collaborations designed to improve water quality and flood management on river catchments, the restoration of ffridd habitat in our uplands, or creating expanses of species rich grasslands. Although primarily focussed on nature, we will also fund projects that improve rights of way in the Designated Landscapes, as well as those that benefit archaeological features and scheduled monuments.

Ffermio Bro forms part of the SFS Collaborative Layer, and is integrated with the wider SFS offering. Our Ffermio Bro officers, many of

whom have farming backgrounds, are trained to signpost farmers to SFS Optional Layer opportunities as they become available – such as woodland creation grants – where these better suit their needs.

Farmers have told us how much they have benefitted from the all-round guidance and clear advice Ffermio Bro officers have provided – supporting all aspects of the application process at the farm kitchen table. Given the success of these roles, next year we will have more officers in place, extending our reach further. Ffermio Bro has already attracted many farmers that have not typically participated in this type of scheme – and reaching these farmers is one of our key objectives for the future.

With over £2.7m available each year in capital grants, Ffermio Bro will deliver immense benefits for both nature and farming in the years ahead. Farmers and land managers can apply now – contact your local Designated Landscape.



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If you are interested in applying for a Ffermio Bro grant, please contact your local National Park Authority or National Landscape body. Details can be found on the website:

www.landscapeswales.org.uk/ffermio-bro

For further information on Ffermio Bro please contact the National Scheme Manager,
Lawrence Harris at contact@landscapeswales.org.uk



Ynys Môn
Tirwedd
Cenedlaethol
Anglesey
National
Landscape



Brynlau Chryd a
Dyffryn Dyfrdwy
Tirwedd
Cenedlaethol
Chrydian Range
and Dee Valley
National
Landscape



Bannau
Brycheiniog



Gŵyr
Tirwedd
Cenedlaethol
Gower
National
Landscape



Llyn
Tirwedd
Cenedlaethol
Llyn
National
Landscape



Porth Cenedlaethol
Arfordir Penfro
Pembrokeshire Coast
National Park



Dyffryn Gwy
Tirwedd
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National
Landscape