



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Dartmoor Farm for the Future- Sustainable Farming Incentive

November 2022 update – Tom Lewis

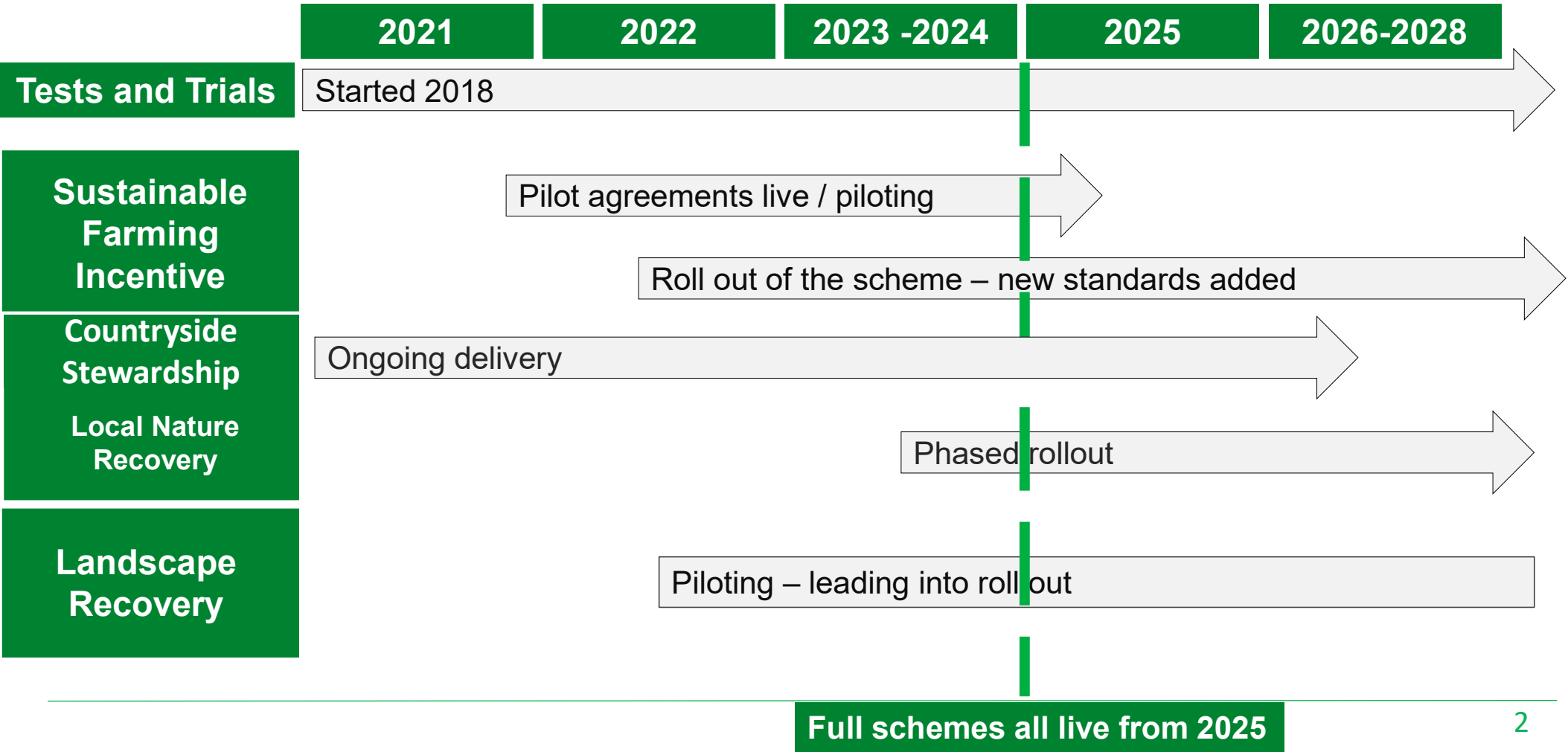


Forestry Commission
England



Environment
Agency

Our environmental land management schemes



Sustainable Farming Incentive

Farmers will be paid to provide public goods, **alongside food production**, such as:

- improved soil health
- improvements to water quality
- increased biodiversity
- climate change mitigation
- improved animal health and welfare



Objectives in 2022 and available standards

- Encourage actions that improve soil health, through
 - Arable and horticultural soils standard
 - Introductory level - £22 per ha
 - Intermediate level - £40 per ha
 - Improved grassland soils standard
 - Introductory level - £28 per ha
 - Intermediate level - £58 per ha
- Recognise the role moorland has in the provision of benefits to the public, through
 - Moorland standard
 - Introductory level only - £10.30 per ha plus additional £265 per agreement
- Improve animal health and welfare
 - We will pay for an annual health and welfare review for livestock

Eligibility

You must:

- be registered with the RPA, with a Single Business Identifier (SBI)
- be eligible for the Basic Payment Scheme
- enter land mapped in England - cross-border land parcels will **not** be eligible
- have management control of the land for their 3-year agreement (specific rules for tenants)
- enter land with an eligible land type and land cover for the standard

Applications and agreements

- Applications opened late June – rolling window – going well so far. Phased roll-out. Everyone can apply on-line, commons being rolled out now.
- Agreements will last for 3 years
- Every 12 months from your start date, you can:
 - incorporate more standards
 - add more land to agreements
 - increase ambition levels within standards
- During a 3-year agreement, farmers will only be able to reduce ambition / coverage in exceptional circumstances.

Before you apply

You should:

- check your registered contact details and permissions
- check that you and your land are eligible
- check your land details on the Rural Payments service
- register with the RPA if you're setting up a single entity for common land



Changes made through [co-design with farmers]

- Rolling application window (not time limited application window)
- Clearer standards – more self-explanatory
- Simplified scheme guidance – reduced in volume with key parts of the scheme highlighted
- Easier to navigate GOV.UK guidance structure – tested with users and continuing to look for ways to improve
- Downloadable version of full scheme guidance – introduced following feedback from farmers and stakeholders
- Easier for farmers to see what they are required to do – the ‘agreement’ (including all mandatory requirements) is now contained in three documents (the standards, T&Cs and agreement document) and explained in the scheme information

Sustainable Farming Incentive: What we've learned from the SFI pilot

The online application system has been improved considerably, simplified to make it faster and easier for farmers to apply

Standards revised:

- to make them clearer and self-explanatory
- for each action, they explain what to do, when to do it, how to do it, the aim, and what evidence we may ask for
- to contain all mandatory requirements relating to land management actions
- by reading a standard, farmers should know everything they must do, and what flexibility they have

accompanying 'how to guides' being revised to:

- reduce volume
- Improve structure to make it easier to navigate
- remove mandatory elements

Interaction with other schemes

- It's usually possible to include the same land in SFI and another scheme if:
 - you and your land are eligible for each scheme
 - the activities you're being paid for under each scheme are compatible
 - you aren't being paid twice for a similar activity on the same area of land at the same time (double funding)
- **Local Nature Recovery** is expected to launch by the end of 2024
- **Landscape Recovery** pilot applications closed 24 May 2022
- **Farming in Protected Landscapes** - you can receive funding through both
- **Private sector schemes** - only possible if you aren't being double funded

How this works with Countryside Stewardship

- Many CS options can co-exist with the SFI in 2022, including:
 - BE3 management of hedgerows
 - AB5 nest plots for lapwings
 - AB11 cultivated areas for arable plants
 - OR3 / OT1 organic conversion
 - ED1 educational access
- If you are in CS, any land with a risk of double funding will be removed automatically when you're applying for the SFI



Payments

- Quarterly payments, starting 3 months after your agreement goes live
- No capital items or payments in 2022
- Payment rates for the standards you have selected will not decrease
- Payments are based on all the land you enter into the SFI – the actions often only apply to a subset of that land



Monitoring and compliance

- New, supportive approach for checking the progress of your agreement
- The RPA will check how you're getting on by:
 - reviewing the annual declaration that you submit
 - checking evidence
 - carrying out site visits
 - using remote monitoring technology



By completing all of the actions under the level selected for the standards, you should achieve the set of aims for that standard.

Tenant farmers

- For tenants, not landlords – but you must have sufficient management control
- You can apply if you occupy land under a tenancy on a ‘rolling’ year-by-year basis, for example under:
 - an FBT granted for a term of more than 2 years, that continues on a rolling year-by-year basis after its initial term ends
 - an FBT granted for a term of 2 years or less that you expect your landlord to renew on an annual basis
- If you lose management control, you should let the RPA know



Common land

- Requires a 'single entity'
- Annual additional payment of £6.15 per hectare
- Common land eligible if:
 - it's wholly located in England
 - the land type and its mapped land cover are eligible for the standard(s)
 - the single entity will have sufficient management control for the 3-year agreement
- An agreement on common land can include:
 - a whole common
 - more than one whole common, if adjacent and managed as a single unit
 - part of a common, if it's managed as a separate, single unit and the SFI actions won't impact land management practices on the remaining part of the common

Payment rates for the elements

Arable and horticultural soils standard – summary

Introductory level – £22 per hectare	Intermediate level – £40 per hectare	Advanced
Action 1: complete a soil assessment and produce a soil management plan	Action 1: complete a soil assessment and produce a soil management plan	<p>We plan to add an advanced level to this standard from 2023 onwards.</p> <p>Likely to include increased use of no-tillage techniques.</p>
Action 2: test soil organic matter	Action 2: test soil organic matter	
Action 3: add organic matter to all land in the standard at least once during the 3-year SFI standards agreement	Action 3: add organic matter to all land in the standard at least once during the 3-year SFI standards agreement	
Action 4: have green cover on at least 70% of land in the standard over winter	Action 4: have green cover on at least 50% of land in this level of the standard over winter and multi-species cover crops on an additional 20% of the land	

Payment rates for the elements

Improved grassland soils standard – summary

Introductory level – £28 per hectare	Intermediate level – £58 per hectare	Advanced
Action 1: complete a soil assessment and produce a soil management plan	Action 1: complete a soil assessment and produce a soil management plan	We plan to add an advanced level to this standard from 2023 onwards
Action 2: test soil organic matter	Action 2: test soil organic matter	
Action 3: minimise bare ground by having no more than 5% of the total area of land entered into the standard left bare over winter	Action 3: minimise bare ground by having no more than 5% of the total area of land entered into the standard left bare over winter	
	Action 4: establish or maintain herbal leys on at least 15% of land in this level of the standard	

Payment rates for the elements

Moorland and rough grazing standard – summary

Introductory level - £10.30 per hectare, plus additional moorland payment £265 per agreement	
Action 1: identify and record the soil and vegetation types and condition, and presence of historic and archaeological features	Intermediate and advanced levels To follow later in SFI rollout
Action 2: assess the public goods the moorland is already providing	
Action 3: identify opportunities to maintain or enhance the public goods provided by the moorland	

Annual Health and Welfare Pathway – The Review

Funding for a vet or vet-led team to visit your farm and carry out an annual review.

We will start testing the first Annual Health and Welfare Reviews in Summer 2022, and we'll steadily increase these by invitation over the summer before opening to eligible keepers in Autumn 2022.



Annual Health and Welfare Pathway - Eligibility

You can apply if you're a cattle, pig and sheep keeper who has more than:

- 10 cattle
 - 20 sheep
 - 50 pigs
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- The livestock must be registered in England, and you must be eligible to claim for the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS).
 - You do not need to be in a SFI standards agreement to apply for a Review
 - You will be eligible for multiple Reviews if you keep different species
 - You can have one Review for each species every 12 months, but may be eligible for multiple Reviews for the same species if they are kept at different locations

Annual Health and Welfare Pathway – payment rates

The rates to be paid for each Review will be:

- Pigs - £684
- Sheep – £436
- Beef cattle– £522
- Dairy cattle - £372

You will be paid for each species, not for each animal. The payment covers vet and priority disease testing costs.

SFI standards in the future

Planning the rollout of standards to:

- deliver more and better outcomes as early as possible
 - make the scheme accessible and attractive to a wide range of farms
 - deliver incrementally rather than as a 'big bang'
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- Next announcement setting out the detail for '23 is imminent.

Year	Indicative standards and levels
2023	Nutrient management
	Integrated pest management
	Hedgerows
	Advanced levels of the 2 soils standards
2024	Agroforestry
	Low and no input grassland
	Water body buffering
	Farmland biodiversity
	Intermediate and advanced levels of the moorland standard
2025	Organic
	On-farm woodland
	Orchards and specialist horticulture
	Heritage
	Dry stone walls

Any questions?

