



Dartmoor HILL FARM PROJECT

SFI Update



SFI 2024 Closed

Tuesday evening brought the extremely concerning and unexpected news that Defra have closed the SFI 2024 scheme with some exceptions. A new scheme will be announced in summer 2025 after the spending review with the expectation of being open for applications in summer 2026.

If anyone needs support following this week's announcement then please do contact us.

Key Points for those currently in the application process

- **Those in current SFI agreements** will be paid in full for the duration of the scheme.
- **If you have been offered an agreement** you have 10 days to accept.
- **If you have submitted an application** you will receive an offer.
- **If you have started an application but have not submitted it**, you will not be able to submit an application with the exception of those that have requested assisted digital support.

- **If you were in the SFI pilot** you will be able to apply, but only on land that was included in the pilot scheme.

The DEFRA blog covers this in more detail - click below.

DEFRA Blog

The future schemes will be a part of the recently announced New Deal for farmers. You can find out more about what is expected below.

Learn More

Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier

Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier (CSHT) is open from summer 2025 but initially on an invitation only basis. It's not clear if they will allow a whole farm approach given many of the SFI options are available in CSHT with different codes. This might be an option for farms that were considering a hybrid approach with SFI. However given the budget was the driver for closure of SFI they may wish to target resources at the most biodiverse elements of a holding? We will update if and when we hear more.

CSHT Details

Mental Health Contacts

Helplines and help is always available to those in crisis - contact:

RABI 24hr Helpline: 0800 188 4444

FCN Helpline: 03000 111 999

Samaritans, Call: 116 123 or email: jo@samaritans.org

Contact us:

Russell Ashford, Steering Group Chairman

David Attwell, Land Management Adviser

Hazel Kendall, Dartmoor Farming Officer

Columb Hague, Farm Support Officer

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