

# Farm for the Future Farming with the Environment

Dartmoor Hill Farm Project is working with The Royal Countryside Fund to deliver this programme of free support 2022-2025.

Farm for the Future is funded by Defra's Future Farming Resilience Fund.



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# Agenda

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# 1 Scheme and Grant Update



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**The Sustainable Farming Incentive**

In this post, we'll provide updates on the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) and the resources you need to prepare. Alongside the date from which we'll start accepting applications, we also include details of an accelerated payment to help with cashflow.

Updated 21 September

[Read more](#)



**Slurry Infrastructure grant: guidance now available for round 2**

[Thomas Pridemore](#) 12 October 2023 • [Payments for equipment, technology and infrastructure](#)



In April I blogged about the outcome of the first round of Slurry Infrastructure grants. In that post, I said we were planning to launch two further, larger rounds in Autumn 2023 and 2024.

[Read more](#)

**About us**

This blog is managed by Defra's Farming and Countryside Programme.

On this blog, we explain the reforms to agricultural policy in England.

We share what we're working on, what we're learning and how you can get involved.

[Find out more](#)

**Funding for farmers, growers and land managers in England**

GOV.UK is the place to find official guidance and information.

[Funding for farmers, growers and land managers](#) sets out every payment on offer with links to learn more.

It features payments for:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/funding-for-farmers>





- Farming Equipment and Technology Fund (FETF) 2023
- Research and Innovation
- Calf Housing for Health and Welfare grant
- Water Management Grant Round 2
- Adding Value Grant
- Slurry Investment Grant Round 2
- Improving Farm Productivity Round 2

## Farming Investment Fund







# Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL)

National Parks and Landscapes  
(AONB's)

Carbon, Nature, People, Place

£2,000 - £250,000 (Dartmoor £600,000)

Now until March 2025

40 – 100% funding



# Landscape Recovery

- Designed to fund a smaller number of longer-term, larger-scale, bespoke projects.
- Land area 500 - 5000 connected hectares.
- Agreements awarded through competitive application rounds.
- Majority of projects involve groups of land managers and farmers, working together to deliver a range of environmental benefits across farmland and rural landscapes.
- 1<sup>st</sup> round in 2022 awarded funding to 22 projects covering over 40,000 ha inc East Dart.
- Recent 2<sup>nd</sup> round now also been awarded, includes Central Dartmoor and Walkham Valley.
- Another application round expected in 2024.





# Animal Health and Welfare Pathway

- The review – funding for annual veterinary visit.
- For: 11 or more beef cattle £522  
11 or more dairy cattle £372  
21 or more sheep £463  
51 or more pigs £684
- Capital grants – FETF, Calf Housing
- Poultry and pigs
- Disease Eradication and Control Programmes
- Payment by results trial – Pigs and Cattle



# Woodland

- Woodland Management Plans & Woodland Tree Health – 3ha to 0.5ha
- England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO)
- Plymouth & South Devon Community Forest
- Woodland Creation Planning
- Agroforestry



## 2 Focus on CS and SFI (ELM)





# Countryside Stewardship (CS)

- **CS Capital Grants** - 3-year agreements, open application window, for specific environmental benefits: boundaries, trees and orchards; water quality; air quality; natural flood management. CSF extended geographical coverage.
- **CS Mid Tier and Wildlife Offers** - 5-year management grants with or without capital grants to improve diversity of wildlife; water quality; air quality; natural flood management.
- **CS Higher Tier**- more advanced scheme for specific habitat management, targeted, different application process.





# Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) 2023

- Existing 2022 agreements closed
- No associated capital works
- 3-year agreements - can be amended
- 'Pick n Mix' Actions
- Management payment - £20 per hectare for up to the first 50 hectares, £1,000 maximum payment per farm business
- Rolling start dates, Paid quarterly
- More SFI actions to be introduced in 2024
- Animal Health & Welfare Review
- Land use - RLE1 on portal





# SFI and CS MT 2024 combined offer

- Payments increased again
- Premium payments
- Increased flexibility and simplicity
- Single application process, rolling application window
- Starts following month after submission, paid quarterly?
- Incentives for optimum combinations
- 50 new actions
- Can update existing agreement or open second agreement
- Advise and prevent approach



# 3 Example Farm







# Grassland

- Don't forget **Environmental Impact Assessment (ESA)** rules!! Not been physically or chemically cultivated in last 15 years.
- Improved or Unimproved grassland:

**Improved permanent grassland:** Permanent grassland that's been agriculturally 'improved' by doing one or more of the following activities:

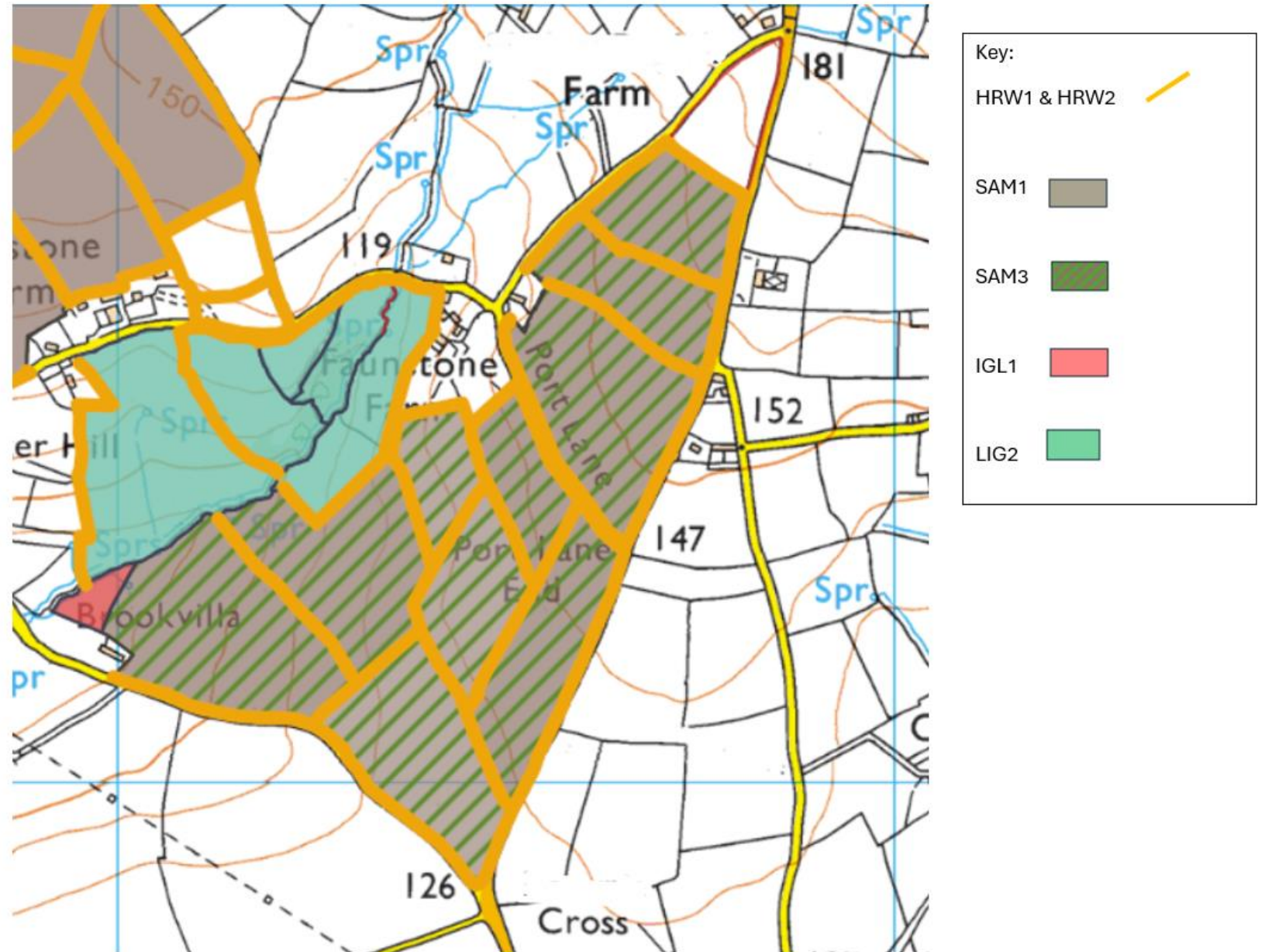
- regularly re-seeding, or reseeded within the last 15 years
- regularly applying fertiliser (typically at least 100kg per hectare of nitrogen as an artificial compound fertiliser or animal manures and slurries)
- blanket herbicide application to treat weeds
- maintaining field drains
- taking conserved forage as silage, haylage or hay, more than once a year

Improved grassland will usually have a high cover of ryegrasses and white clover, with a low cover of wildflowers and sedges.

**Low input (semi-improved or unimproved) permanent grassland:** Permanent grassland that's been managed by doing one or more of the following activities:

- no reseeded for at least 15 years
- applying low or no amounts of artificial compound fertiliser or animal manures and slurries
- applying localised or no herbicide to treat weeds
- leaving field drains unmaintained or maintaining them infrequently (hay meadows may be more actively drained)
- taking conserved forage as hay or haylage no more than once a year







HRW1 – Assess and Record hedgerow condition – 8500m = £425

HRW2 – Manage hedgerows – 8500m = £1105

IGL1 – Grassland field corner – 0.50ha = £166.50

LIG2 – Grassland with very low inputs – 10.20ha = £1540.20

SAM1 – Assess soil, test organic matter and produce a soil management plan – 31.5ha = £189.00

SAM3 – Herbal Leys – 31.5ha = £12,033.00

NUM1 - £652.00

Management payment – 41.70ha = £834 (Max £1k)

**Total per year = £16,944.70**



## Some other SFI 2023 Actions

- NUM2 Legumes on improved grassland - £102/ha
- NUM3 Legume fallow - £593/ha
- IGL2 Winter Bird Food (improved grassland) - £515/ha
- IGL3 4m-12m buffer strips (improved grassland) - £235/ha
- SAM2 Multi-species winter cover crops - £129/ha
- HRW3 Maintain or establish hedgerow trees - £10 for both sides per 100m
- AHL2 Winter bird food (arable) - £853/ha
- MOR1 Assess moorland and produce record - £10.60/ha + £272



# SFI/CS 2024

Total per year = £16,944.70 for 2023

- 4.5ha of LIG2 £679.50 = £16,265.20

GS6 – Species rich grassland– 4.5ha = £2,907.00

GS15 – Haymaking – 10.20ha = £1601.40

SP6 – Cattle grazing supplement– 10.20ha = £601.80

SP8 – Native breeds 10.20ha = £938.40

BE5 – Create traditional orchard – 1.5ha = £706.50

Maintain stone-faced banks – 6000m = £660

**Additional per year = £23,680.30 + 2023 £16,265.20 = £39,945.50**





Low grazing on moorland	New	3 years	£20-£66 per ha dependent on stocking density	Moorland is grazed with a low livestock density to support and enhance moorland habitat alongside farming
Supplement: Keep cattle and ponies on moorland	New	3 years	£7-£23 per ha dependent on stocking	When you graze moorland with a low livestock density, you do so with a proportion of cattle or ponies or horses
Manage livestock grazing on moorland	New	3 years	£33-50 per ha depending on stocking dates	Livestock grazing on moorland is managed to avoid impacting habitats which are sensitive to damage from grazing, wherever possible
General moorland management	Updated CS (UP3)	5 years	£55 per ha	You follow best practice guidelines for moorlands – this is a base action for certain supplements



# 4 Questions?





# Common Q's

- SFI or CS?
- Should apply for SFI 2023 now or wait until the new scheme in the summer?
- I'm in HLS can I apply for SFI?
- I'm in Mid Tier can I apply for SFI
- I'm in Mid Tier/SFI can I apply for a standalone CS Capital Grant
- I have a standalone CS Capital Grant already; can I apply for another one?
- SFI seems easier than MT, can I switch?
- Do I need to keep records for SFI?
- Can commons apply?
- Should I extend my HLS?
- How do I apply for Higher Tier?
- I have a SSSI what should I do?



# Thank You







Code	SFI action	Rotational or static action	Total or part SFI available area in each land parcel	Annual payment	Arable land		Permanent crops		Permanent grassland		Moorland	Hedgerows
					Arable crops	Temporary grassland	Horticultural	Non-horticultural	Improved	Low input		
IPM4	No use of insecticide on arable crops and permanent crops	Rotational or static	Total only	£45 per ha	✓		✓	✓				
<b>Actions for nutrient management</b>												
NUM1	Assess nutrient management and produce a review report	Not applicable	Not applicable – agreement level SFI action	£589 per year	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
NUM2	Legumes on improved grassland	Rotational or static	Total or part	£102 per ha		✓			✓			
NUM3	Legume fallow	Rotational or static	Total or part	£593 per ha	✓	✓	✓					
<b>Actions for farmland wildlife on arable and horticultural land</b>												
AHL1	Pollen and nectar flower mix	Rotational or static	Total or part	£614 per ha	✓	✓	✓					
AHL2	Winter bird food on arable and horticultural land	Rotational or static	Total or part	£732 per ha	✓	✓	✓					
AHL3	Grassy field corners and blocks	Static	Total or part	£590 per ha	✓	✓	✓					



Code	SFI action	Rotational or static action	Total or part SFI available area in each land parcel	Annual payment	Arable land		Permanent crops		Permanent grassland		Moorland	Hedgerows
					Arable crops	Temporary grassland	Horticultural	Non-horticultural	Improved	Low input		
Actions for farmland wildlife on improved grassland												
IGL1	Take grassland field corners or blocks out of management	Static	Total or part	£333 per ha		✓			✓			
IGL2	Winter bird food on improved grassland	Rotational or static	Total or part	£474 per ha		✓			✓			
Actions for buffer strips												
AHL4	4m to 12m grass buffer strip on arable and horticultural land	Static	Total or part	£451 per ha	✓		✓					
IGL3	4m to 12m grass buffer strip on improved grassland	Static	Total or part	£235 per ha		✓			✓			
Actions for low input grassland												
LIG1	Manage grassland with very low nutrient inputs (outside SDAs)	Static	Only total SFI available area, unless done with IGL1	£151 per ha		✓ outside SDAs			✓	✓		
LIG2	Manage grassland with very low nutrient inputs (SDAs)	Static	Only total SFI available area, unless done with IGL1	£151 per ha		✓ SDAs below moorland line			✓ SDAs below moorland line	✓ SDAs below moorland line		



Code	SFI action	Rotational or static action	Total or part SFI available area in each land parcel	Annual payment	Arable land		Permanent crops		Permanent grassland		Moorland	Hedgerows
					Arable crops	Temporary grassland	Horticultural	Non-horticultural	Improved	Low input		
Actions for moorland												
MOR1	Assess moorland and produce a written record	Static	Total only	£10.30 per ha and additional payment of £265 per agreement								
Actions for hedgerows												
HRW1	Assess and record hedgerow condition	Static	Not applicable	£3 per 100m – one side	Not applicable – linear SFI action which can be done on the boundaries of these land types							
HRW2	Manage hedgerows	Static	Not applicable	£10 per 100m – one side	Not applicable – linear SFI action which can be done on the boundaries of these land types							
HRW3	Maintain or establish hedgerow trees	Static	Not applicable	£10 per 100m – both sides	Not applicable – linear SFI action which can be done on the boundaries of these land types							
Actions for integrated pest management												
IPM1	Assess integrated pest management and produce a plan	Not applicable	Not applicable – agreement level SFI action	£989 per year								
IPM2	Flower-rich grass margins, blocks, or in-field strips	Rotational or static	Total or part	£673 per ha								
IPM3	Companion crop on arable and horticultural land	Rotational or static	Total or part	£55 per ha								



**Table 2: SFI actions you can do on different land types and features**

Code	SFI action	Rotational or static action	Total or part SFI available area in each land parcel	Annual payment	Arable land		Permanent crops		Permanent grassland		Moorland	Hedgerows
					Arable crops	Temporary grassland	Horticultural	Non-horticultural	Improved	Low input		
Actions for soils												
SAM1	Assess soil, test soil organic matter and produce a plan	Static	Total only	£5.80 per ha and additional payment of £95 per agreement	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
SAM2	Multi-species winter cover crops	Rotational or static	Total or part	£129 per ha	✓	✓	✓					
SAM3	Herbal leys	Rotational or static	Total or part	£382 per ha	✓	✓			✓			