



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Farming for the Future

January 2024



Forestry Commission
England



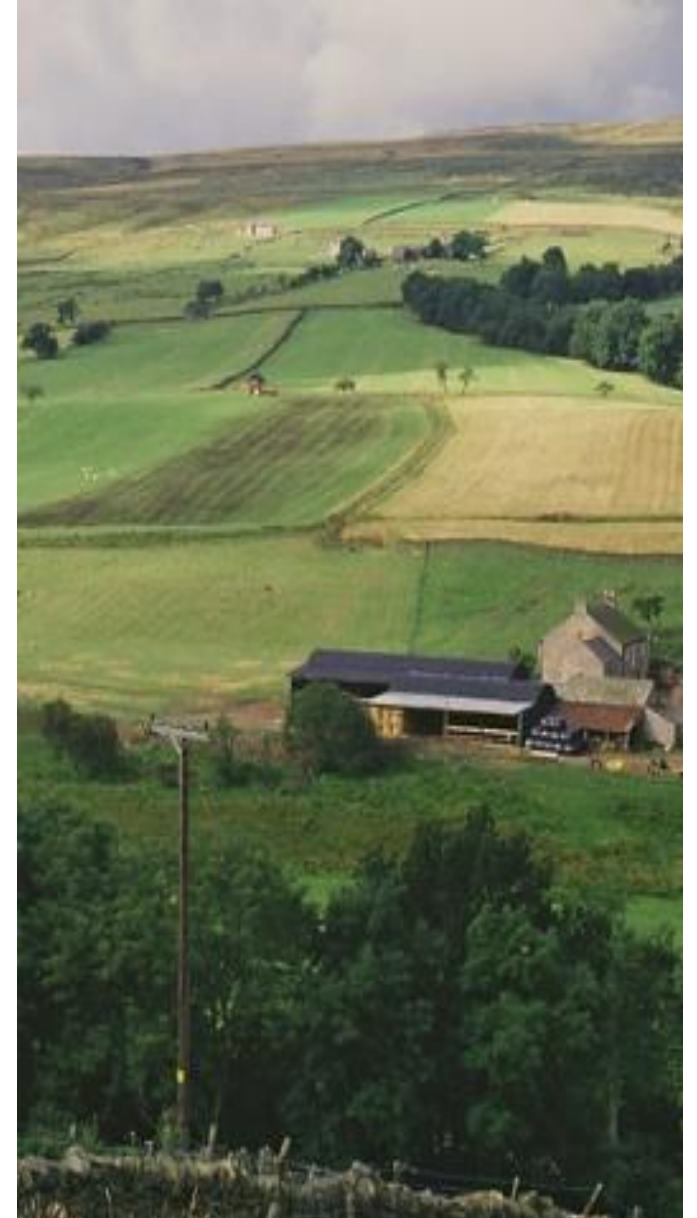
Environment
Agency

Farming reforms and our vision for British agriculture

We want farmers to have more money, more choice and more trust.

We have 3 goals:

1. Farmer-led innovation & improve productivity to domestic food production and create resilient farm businesses
2. Enhance the environment & farm with nature
3. Continual improvement in farm animal health & welfare



How we work with farmers

We are co-designing and testing our schemes with farmers to ensure they work for all farming businesses

For regulation, we will:

- simplify (see the [Rules for Farmers page](#))
- be fair, flexible, and proportionate
- support and enable
- take a risk-based approach



Ongoing and one-off payments

We are:

- phasing out area-based subsidies
- Introducing:
 - **ongoing schemes:** Environmental Land Management schemes (ELMs)
 - **one-off grants:** equipment, technology and infrastructure
- giving farmers time to adapt
- making sure everyone can benefit

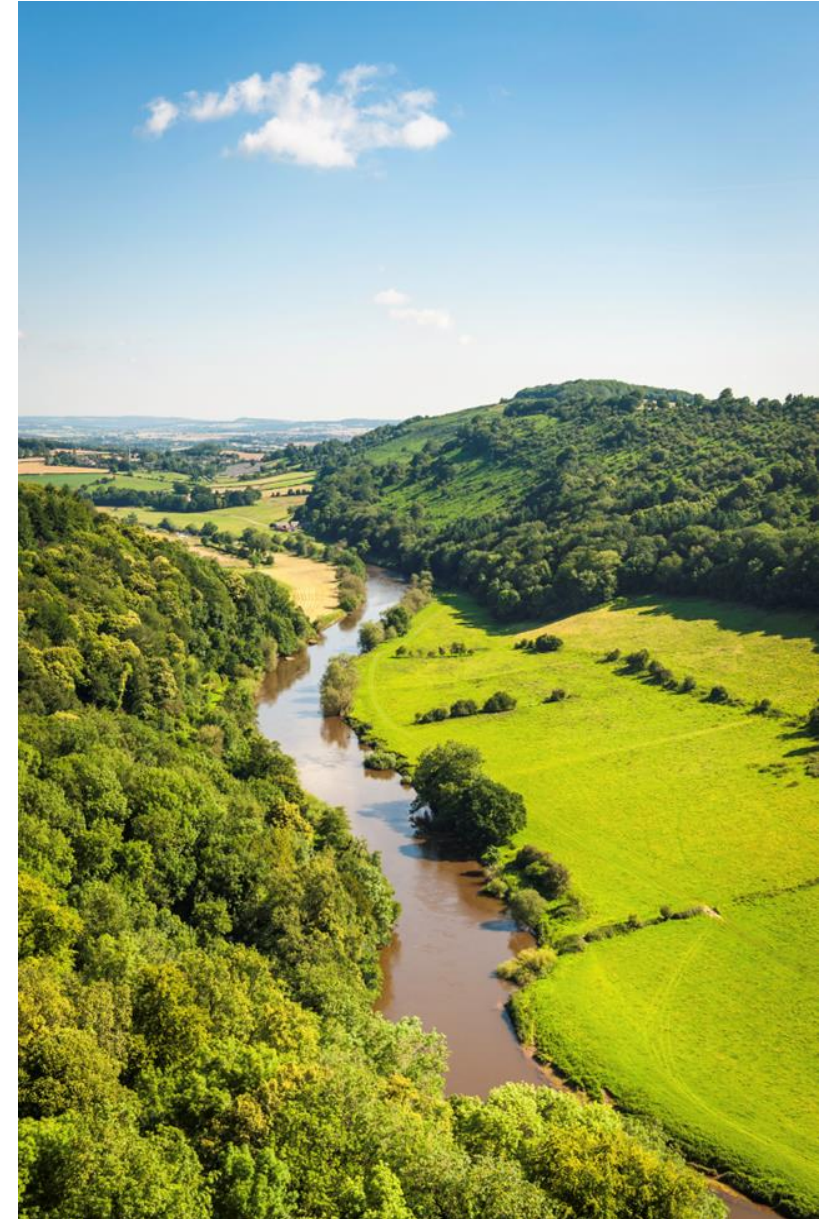


Ongoing payments in 2024

Biggest upgrade to farming schemes since the start of the agricultural transition

Announced at the 2024 Oxford Farming Conference:

- more money - SFI and CS payment rates increase by an average of 10%
- more choice – introducing around 50 more actions later this year
- more trust - ‘advise and prevent’ approach to regulation to make things fairer for all farmers
- better service - single application service for the SFI and CS Mid Tier
- more ambition - paying a premium for high ambition actions



Ongoing payments open now

You can currently ***apply*** to receive ongoing payments for:

- farming practices that help produce food sustainably (*Sustainable Farming Incentive*).
- planting and managing trees (*England Woodland Creation Offer & other schemes*)
- restoring peatlands in the uplands and lowlands (*Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme*)



Sustainable Farming Incentive - SFI

- Open for applications
- Wider choice of more flexible actions
- New management payment
- Rolling applications and straightforward application
- Flexible terms for tenants
- Quarterly payments
- Co-design and test our approach
- Works with other schemes



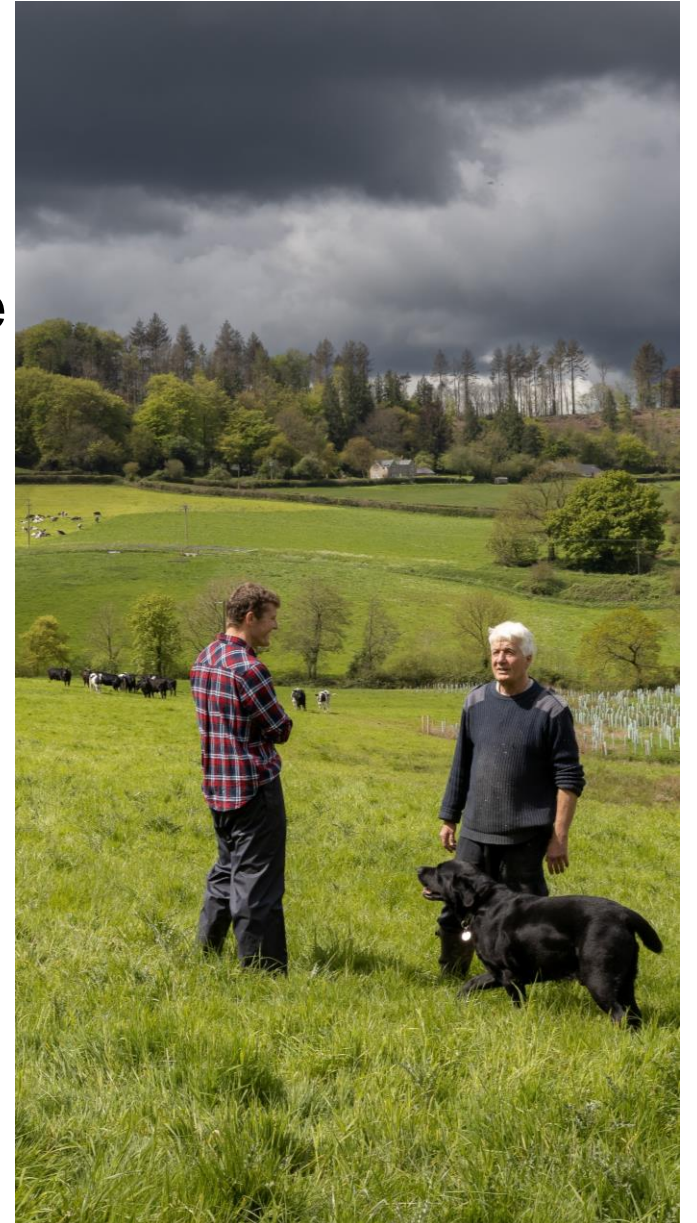
Countryside Stewardship - CS

- Over 35,000 live agreements
- Targeted actions relating to specific locations, features and habitats
- Mid Tier and additional SFI actions will open in Summer 2024 through one application
- Higher Tier will open in Summer 2024
- You can apply for a CS grant all year round



Landscape Recovery

- Large-scale and long-term
- Delivering environmental benefits alongside sustainable food production
- First round:
 - 22 projects recovering more than 260 threatened species and restoring more than 600km of England's streams and rivers
- Second round:
 - 34 projects with over 700 land managers, supporting over 200,000ha, more than 160 protected sites and restoring 35,000ha of peatland



One off grants open now

You can currently apply for:

- Countryside Stewardship grants
- Farming in Protected Landscapes
- the Tree Health Pilot
- the Annual Health and Welfare Review
- Improving Farm Productivity
- the Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund (NEIRF)
- Research Starter competition round 4
- Large R&D Partnerships round 3



Grants coming in 2024

More Farming Investment Fund grants

Another round of smaller capital grants (Farming Equipment & Technology Fund) in early 2024

We will run further rounds of our larger capital grants (Farming Transformation Fund), for:

- Adding Value
- Laying hen housing for health and welfare,
- Adult cattle housing and Calf housing
- Water Management
- Slurry Infrastructure



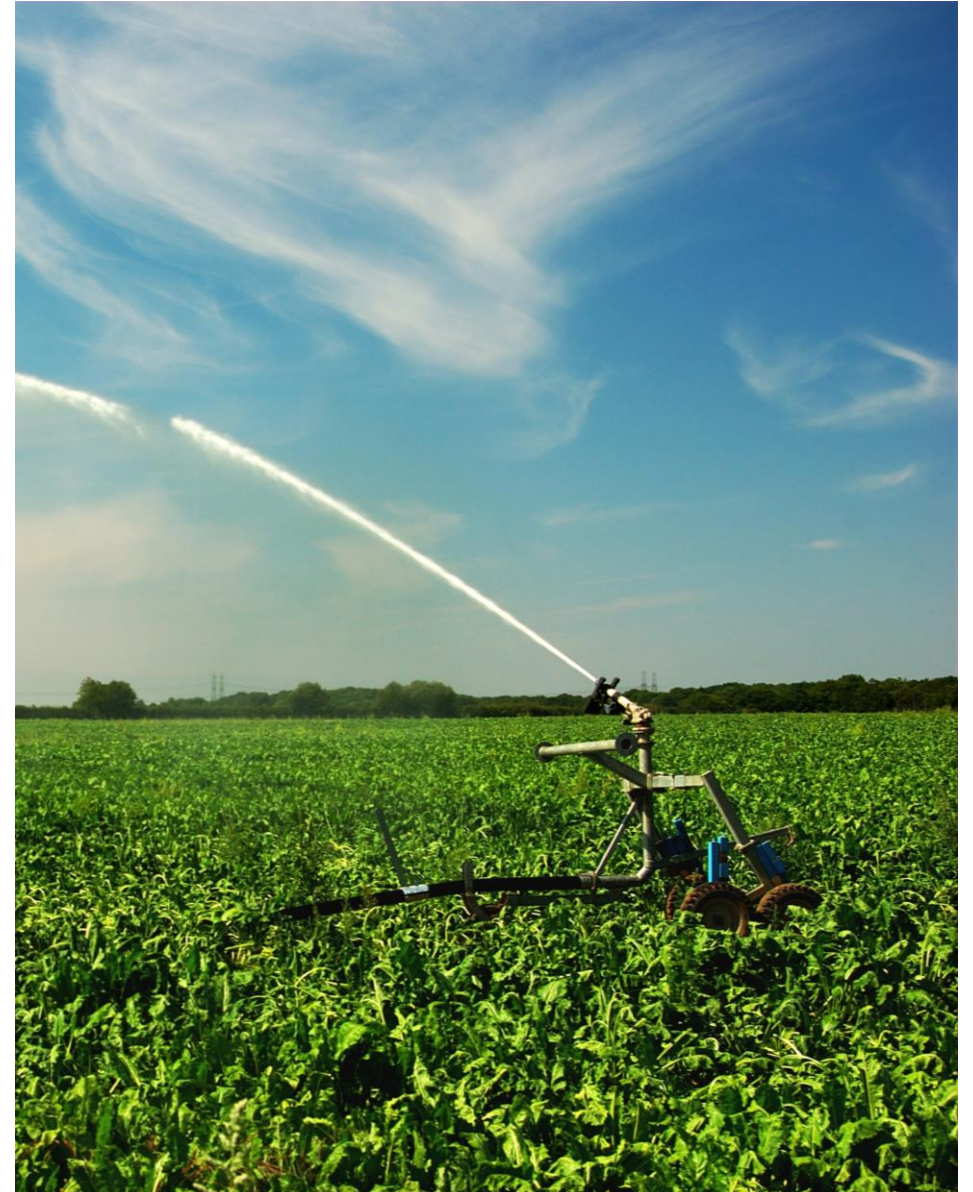
Grants coming in 2024 cont...

More Farming Innovation Programme grants

In early 2024, we will offer a new fund providing grants for on-farm tests and trials – ADOPT (Accelerating development of practices and technologies)

Later in 2024, we will offer:

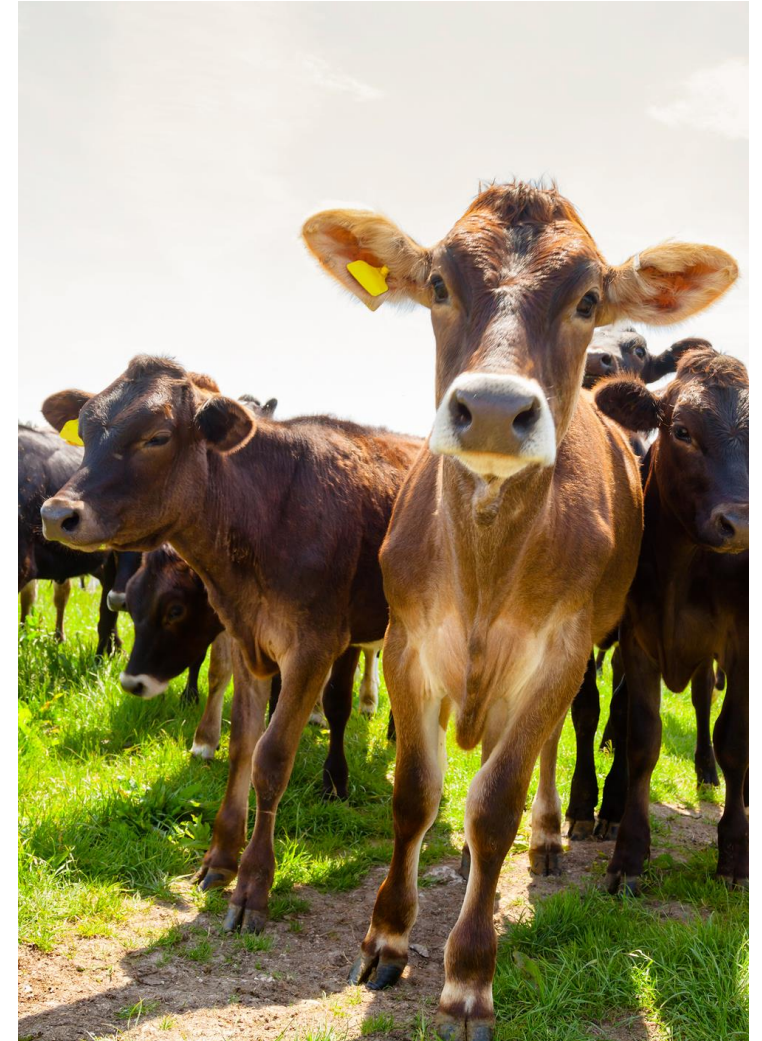
- Two 'Farming Futures' competitions
- 'Small Research & Development Partnerships' Round 4
- 'Feasibility Studies' Round 4



Livestock & grassland – what to do now

If you are a livestock farmer, consider:

- An annual health and welfare review
- SFI is open - you can get paid for actions around:
 - Improving soil health and organic matter
 - Managing moorlands
 - Establishing buffer strips
- You can find [more information in our webinar](#) from November 2023



Current SFI actions available for livestock & grassland farmers

SFI 2023		
Hedgerows	HRW1: Assess and record hedgerow condition	New
	HRW2: Manage hedgerows so there's a range of different heights and widths*	BE3 variation
	HRW3: Maintain existing hedgerow trees, or establish new ones, so there's an average of at least 1 hedgerow tree per 100m	New
Soil	SAM1: Assess soil, test soil organic matter and produce a soil management plan	New
	SAM2: Multi-species winter cover crops	New
	SAM3: Herbal leys	New
IPM	IPM1: Complete and IPM assessment and produce a plan	New

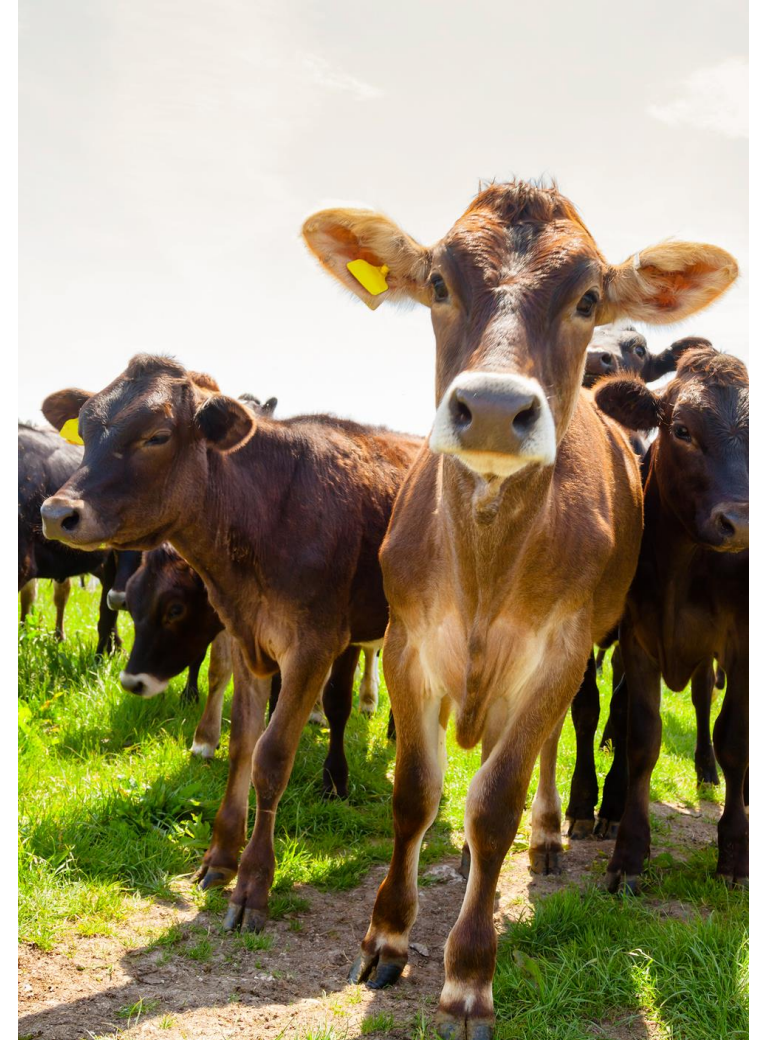
Current SFI actions available for livestock & grassland farmers

	SFI 2023 offer	
Nutrient management	NUM1: Complete a nutrient management (NM) assessment and produce an NM review report	New
	NUM2: Establish and maintain legumes (improved grassland)*	GS4 variation
Farm wildlife on grassland	IGL1: Take improved grassland field corners or blocks out of management	GS1 variation
	IGL2: Winter bird food on improved grassland	GS3 variation
Buffer strips	IGL3: 4m to 12m grass buffer strip on improved grassland	SW2 variation
Low input grassland	LIG1: Manage grassland with very low nutrient inputs (outside SDAs)	GS2 variation
	LIG2: Manage grassland with very low nutrient inputs (SDAs)	GS5 variation
Moorland	MOR1: Assess moorland and produce a written record	New

Take a look at the [SFI handbook](#) to see more about each of the actions and payments

Livestock & grassland – what is improving

- Increasing payment rates by an average of 10%
- Re-balancing payments for creation and maintenance actions.
- The latest rounds of the ‘Slurry Infrastructure’ and ‘Cattle Housing’ grants are now closed.
- Keep an eye out for more rounds in 2024.



Updated actions for species recovery and management – native breeds

Action	Action type (action code)	Duration	Annual payment
Supplement: Grazing land using native breeds at risk (grassland)	Updated CS (SP8)	Same as base action	£92 or £146 per ha dependent on grazing livestock units
Supplement: Grazing land using native breeds at risk (lowland heath and moorland)	Updated CS (SP8)	Same as base action	£7 or £11 per ha dependent on grazing livestock units

New actions for agroforestry

Action	Action type (action code)	Duration	Annual payment
Maintain high density in-field agroforestry	New	10 years	£849 per ha
Maintain medium density in-field agroforestry	New	10 years	£595 per ha
Maintain low density in-field agroforestry on less sensitive land	New	3 years	£385 per ha
Maintain low density in-field agroforestry on more sensitive land	New	10 years	£385 per ha
Maintain very low density in-field agroforestry on less sensitive land	New	3 years	£248 per ha
Maintain very low density in-field agroforestry on more sensitive land	New	10 years	£248 per ha

New and updated actions farmland wildlife and habitats on grassland

Action	Action type (action code)	Duration	Annual payment
Manage rough grazing for birds	Updated CS (UP2)	3 to 5 years*	£121 per ha
Manage wet grassland for breeding waders	Updated CS (GS9 and GS11)	5 years	£676 per ha
Manage wet grassland for wintering waders and wildfowl	Updated CS (GS10 and GS12)	years	£547 per ha
Manage priority habitat species-rich grassland	Updated CS (GS6, GS7 and GS8)	5 years	£646 per ha
Manage grassland for target habitats, species or features	Updated CS (GS13 and GS14)	5 years	£528 per ha
Manage species-rich floodplain meadows	New	5 years	£1,070 per ha
Supplement: Manage scrapes and gutters	New	5 years	£1.17 per sq m
Supplement: Haymaking	Updated CS (GS15)	3 to 5 years*	£157-£187 per ha
Supplement: Rush control	Updated CS (GS16)	3 to 5 years*	£95 per ha
Supplement: Shepherding	Updated CS (SP5)	5 years	£10 per ha
Supplement: Cattle grazing	Updated CS (SP6)	5 years	£59 per ha

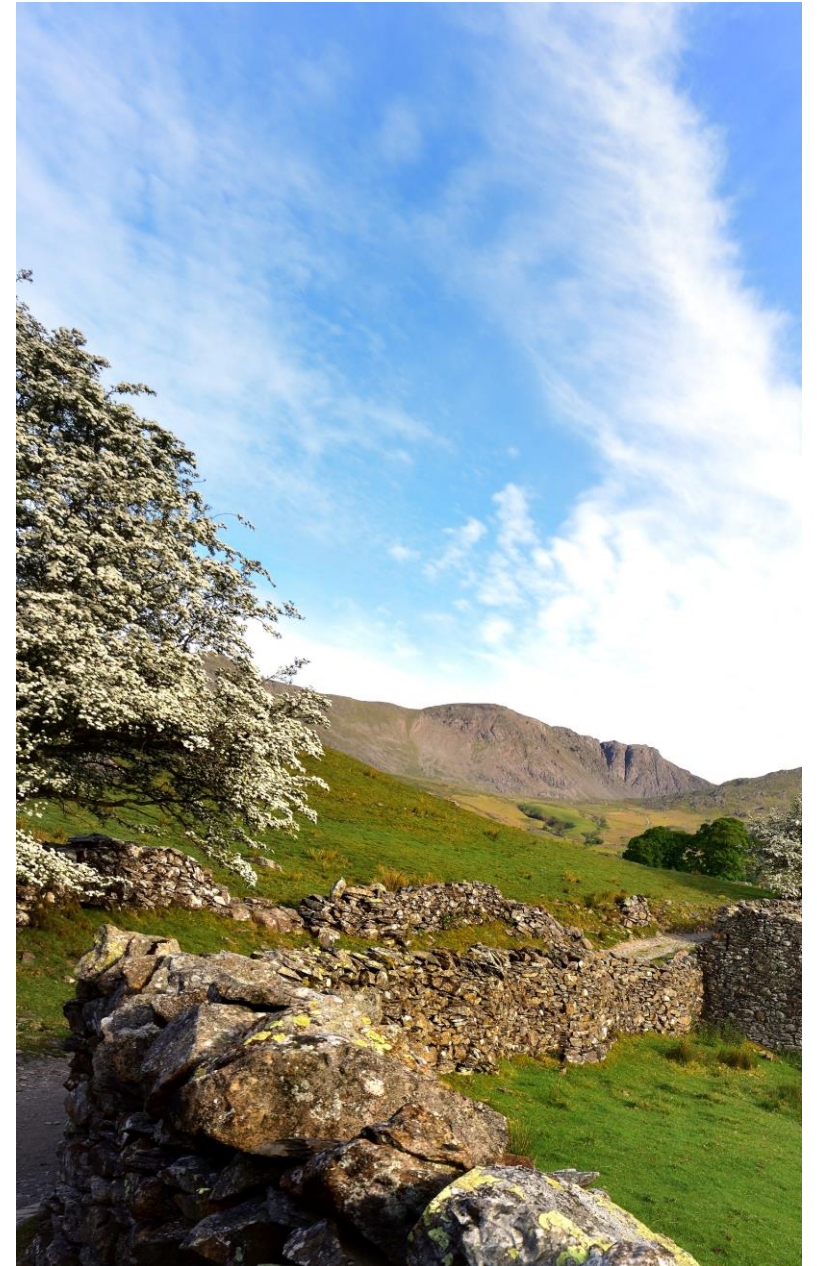
New and updated actions for lowland peat

Action	Action type (action code)	Duration	Annual payment
Raise water levels in permanent grassland peat soils to near the land surface	Updated CS (SW18)	10 years	£1,381 per ha
Raise water levels in permanent grassland peat soils	New	10 years	£840 per ha

Uplands – what has improved

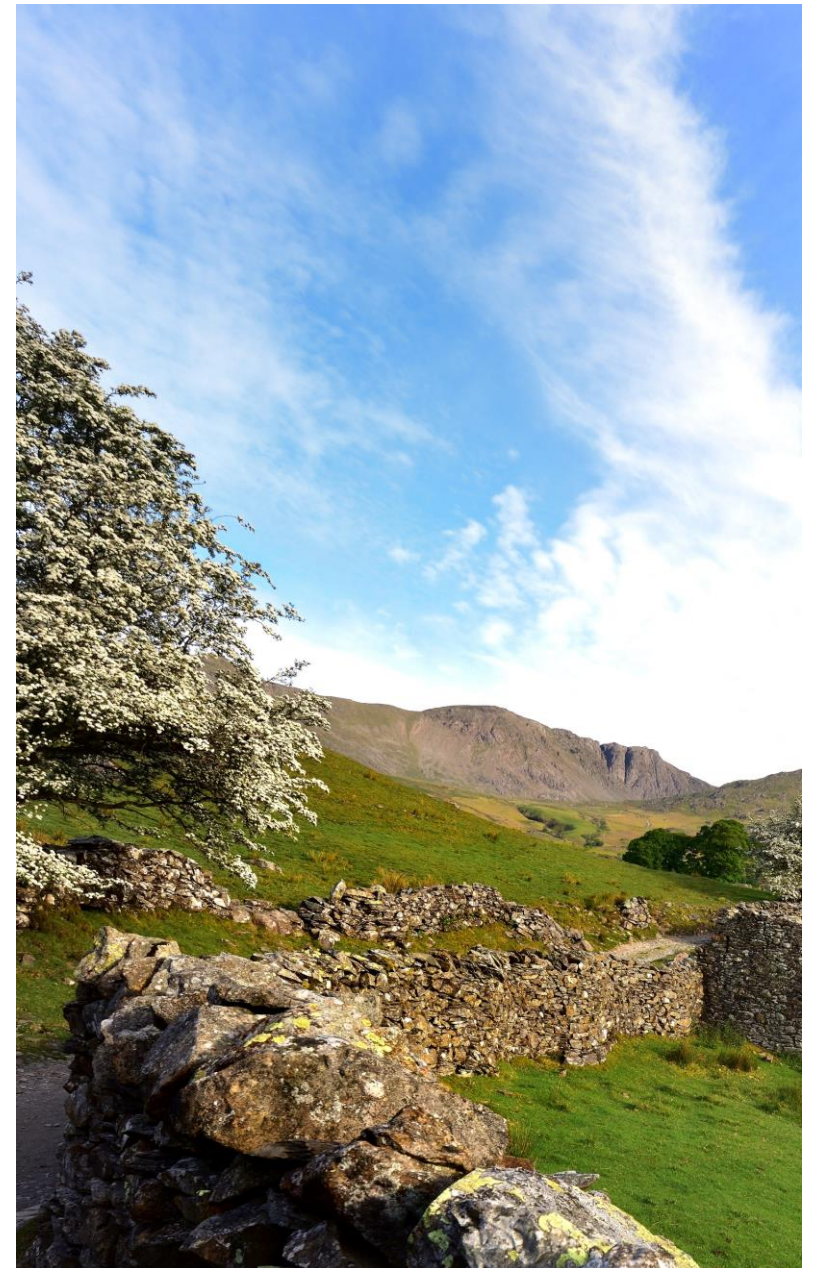
We have introduced measures to help access to schemes:

- Equalised 5 upland and lowland payment rates where upland rates were lower
- Greater flexibility between HLS and CS
- Introduced SFI Management Payment



Uplands – what is improving

- New and expanded moorland offer to be introduced in the SFI in 2024.
- Re-balancing prices for ‘creation’ and ‘maintenance’ actions for grassland habitats.
- For example, the price for maintaining species rich grassland increasing from 1 January 2024, from £182 to £646 per hectare
- More detail available on the [Defra Farming Blog](#)



New actions for moorland and upland peat

Action	Action type (action code)	Duration	Annual payment
Low grazing on moorland	New	3 years	£20-£66 per ha Dependent on stocking density
Supplement: Keep cattle and ponies on moorland	New	3 years	£7-£23 per ha Dependent on stocking
Manage livestock grazing on moorland	New	3 years	£33-50 per ha Depending on stocking dates
General moorland management	Updated CS (UP3)	5 years	£55 per ha
Supplement: Manage non-peat moorland soils for flood and drought resilience	New	10 years	£160 per ha
Supplement: rewetting peat	Updated CS (SP2)	Same as base action	£181 per ha
Supplement: Maintain features for wildfire management (fire and fuel breaks)	New	TBC	TBC

New actions for boundaries

Action	Action type (action code)	Duration	Annual payment
Maintain dry stone walls	New	3 years	£27 per 100m – both sides
Maintain earth banks	New	3 years	£11 per 100m – one side
Maintain stone-faced hedgebanks	New	3 years	£11 per 100m – one side

Supporting tenant farmers in England

Tenant farmers the heart of the rural economy,
managing a third of all farmland in England

To support tenants, we are:

- removing barriers
- acting on insight
- monitoring impact
- progressing Rock Review commitments

You can read more on the [Defra Farming Blog](#).



Small farms

All schemes are designed for all farm sizes

We have introduced:

- no minimum amount of land for the Sustainable Farming Incentive
- new Sustainable Farming Incentive Management Payment
- For a 50-hectare farm the management payment represents a potential increase of as much as 50%



Common land

- Designing our schemes for all farm businesses and land tenures
- To help with the costs of administering an SFI agreement on common land we have introduced a common land additional payment of £6.15 per ha of common land in the SFI



The Offer in 2024

Single application service

- From summer, there will be a streamlined single application service for you to apply for SFI and CS Mid Tier actions. It will replace the separate application windows and processes.
 - You will be able to select from the range of actions available on your land and combine compatible actions from SFI and CS on your land parcels more easily.
 - We will remove duplication between CS Mid-Tier and SFI actions, wherever possible. SFI agreement holders who entered into an agreement in 2023 will be able to either upgrade their existing agreement or apply for, and enter into, a separate 2024 agreement.
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The Offer in 2024

Premium Payments

- We will introduce premium payment actions with the biggest environmental impact and also for combinations of actions that deliver benefits at scale.
 - Premium payment rates will be introduced from 2024 for 21 high priority actions, including:
 - Nesting plots for Lapwings - £765 per ha
 - Raising water levels in peat soils – Arable £1,409; Grassland 1,381 per ha
 - In-field agroforestry - £248 – 849 per ha depending on density
 - Low and limited grazing on Moorland - £53 or 66 per ha
 - Water – seven premium payments ranging from £366 -1,489 per ha
 - Scrub and open habitat mosaics - £588 per ha
-

The Offer in 2024

Better Regulation – Advise and Prevent

- We are continuing to deliver an ‘advise and prevent’ approach across schemes and regulation, which will make things fairer for all farmers participating in schemes. This means the many farmers who want to do the right things will get the support you need if things go wrong
 - We will support farmers back into compliance with greater communication rather than immediate penalties and are firmly committed to safeguarding environmental standards and animal health through proportionate regulation and outcome-based incentives to drive change.
 - Significant improvements have already been made but are continuing to go further. We are rebuilding the system with a tailored, risk-based approach to regulation that makes it easy to follow the rules.
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Management Payment



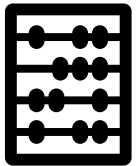
An annual 'SFI management payment' to recognise the management and administrative costs for farmers entering into and managing an SFI agreement.



Based on area, up to 50 hectares, entered into all land-based SFI actions, including the action to assess moorland and the actions for hedgerows.



£20 per hectare for up to the first 50 hectares entered into the relevant SFI actions (£1,000 maximum payment for each farm business in SFI).

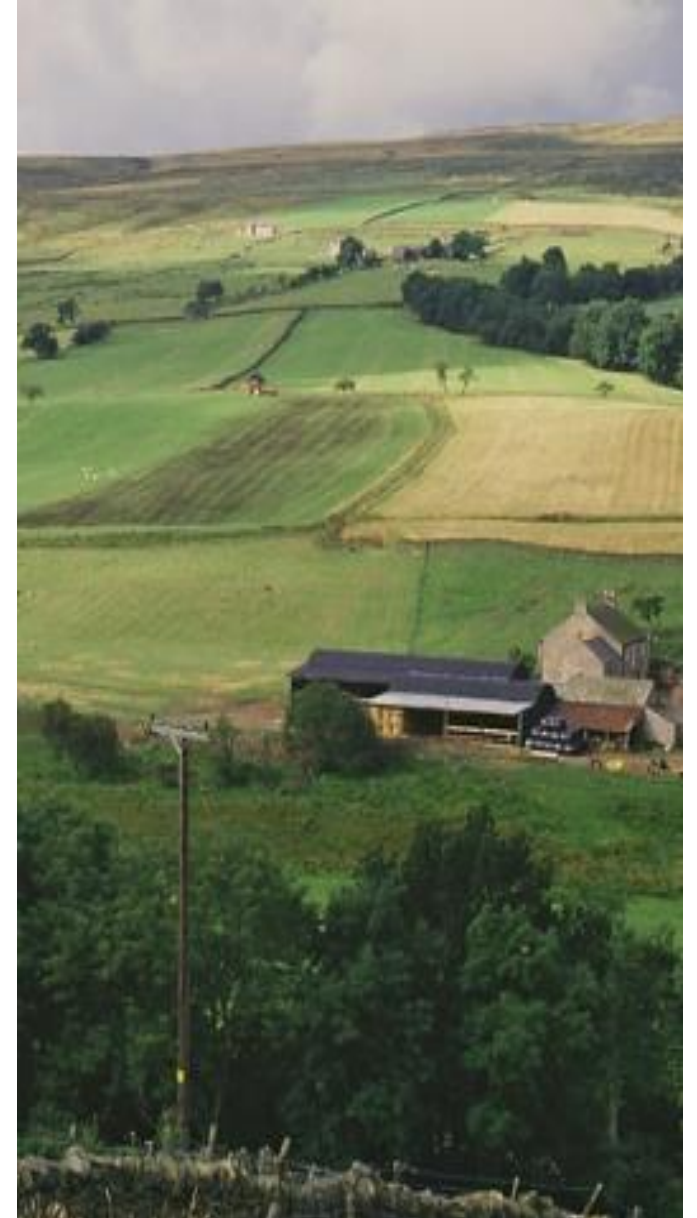


If an SBI has more than 1 SFI 2023 agreement, we'll calculate and pay the SFI management payment for the SFI 2023 agreement which started first.

Find a package that works for you

Don't forget:

- you can be in more than one of the environmental land management schemes – our schemes are designed to be stacked together
- private finance will also be available - you can stack private and public finances (see the Nature Markets Framework and Green Finance Strategy)



Find out more on GOV.UK



**Keep up to date with
the Defra Farming Blog**



**Find out how the SFI
can work for you**

No internet? Call the RPA: 03000 200 301

Any questions?

