

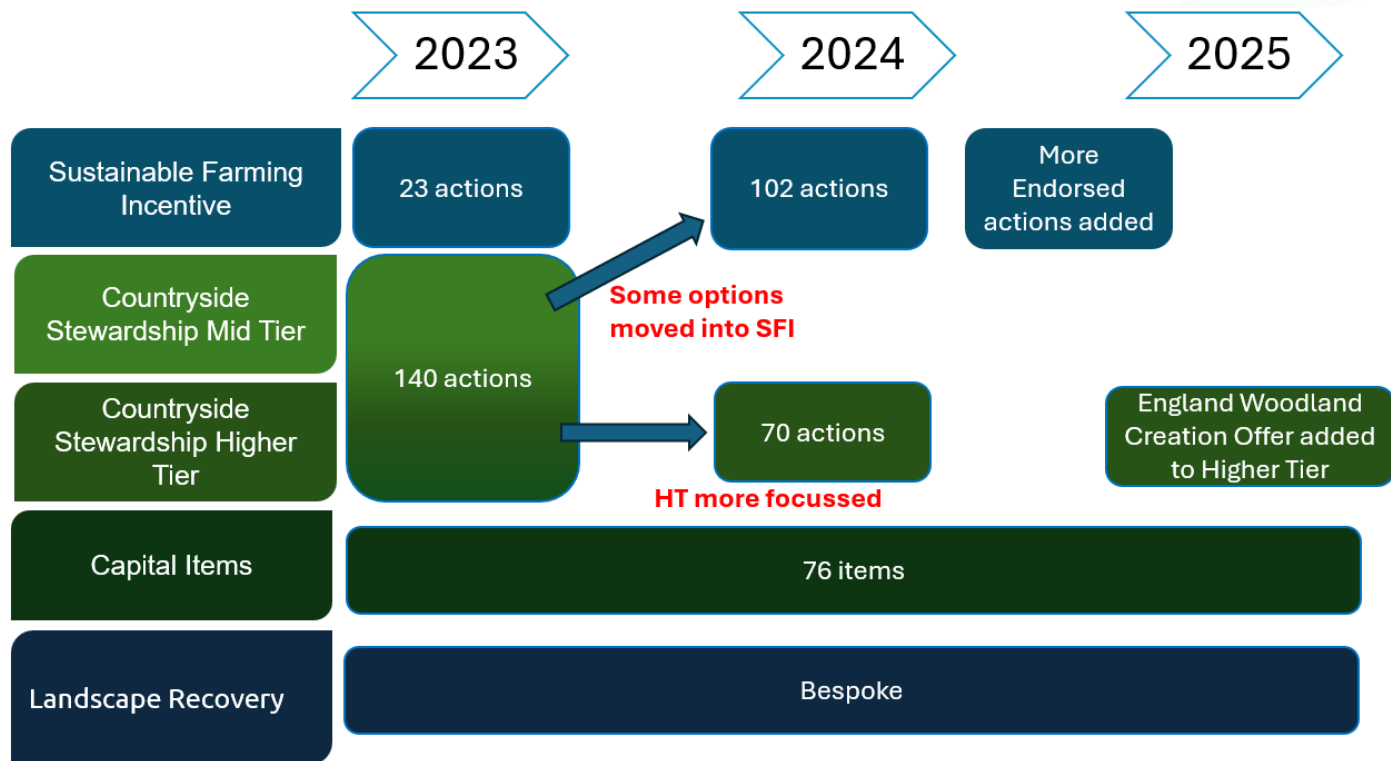
Sustainable Farming Incentive in England

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Update: November 2024



Where are we now?



SFI – The current offer basics (1)

- Flexibility to choose actions, part or whole farm
- Requirement to have 'management control' of land
- Each action has its own eligibility requirements
- Three-year agreement (mostly – there are now eight 5-year actions)
- Rolling application window, agreements start first day of a month
- Quarterly payments
- Management payment in first year £40/ha for first 50ha (max £2,000).
Reduces to £20/ha for year 2 & 3
- Common land payment £7/ha annually

SFI - The current offer basics (2)

- 25% farmed area limit on 10 arable actions
- You need a new agreement to add more SFI actions or land (you cannot upgrade original agreement)
- You cannot reduce delivery within the term of the agreement
- Flexibility to reduce rotational action area by 50% in year 2 & 3 or increase the area
- Can stack with private finance
- Capital items available

Expanded SFI Offer

SFI action	No. of actions
Agroforestry	2
Boundary features	5
Buffer strips (includes 1 supplement)	8
Farmland wildlife on arable land (includes 1 supplement)	15
Farmland wildlife and habitats on grassland (includes 4 supplements)	11
Heritage	5
Integrated Pest Management	4
Moorland (includes 7 supplements)	11
Nutrient management	3
Organic farming	14
Precision farming	4
Species recovery and management (Includes 4 supplements)	4
Soil health	7
Waterbodies	9
Total	102

- 102 actions available from July 2024, of these 17 are supplements
- 57 were in CS mid-Tier
- 8 are for five years
- Supplements can be stacked on based actions
- One action needs endorsement (14 more to follow) “Manage priority habitat species-rich grassland”
- Premium payments
- More technical actions will be in Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier



Options...



Code	SFI actions for farmland wildlife on arable and horticultural land	Annual payment	Action's duration
CAHL1	Pollen and nectar flower mix	£739 per hectare	3 years
CAHL2	Winter bird food on arable and horticultural land	£853 per hectare	3 years
CAHL3	Grassy field corners or blocks	£590 per hectare	3 years
AHW1	Bumblebird mix	£747 per hectare	3 years
AHW2	Supplementary winter bird food (*maximum 1 tonne for every 2 hectares of CAHL2)	£732 per tonne*	3 years
AHW3	Beetle banks	£764 per hectare	3 years
AHW4	Skylark plots (*minimum 2 plots)	£11 per plot*	3 years

For each action...

The action sets out:

- Aim
- Where you can do this action
- What, When and How to do the action
- Evidence to Keep
- Other actions or options you can stack with this action (compatible actions)
- Advice to help you do this action e.g. best practice on how to establish herbal leys

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there are managed hedgerows with a range of different heights and widths.

The purpose of this is to provide:

- habitat for wildlife
- pollen, nectar and berries for mammals, birds and insects

Evidence to keep

You must keep evidence to show what you've done to complete this action, such as:

- field operations at a land parcel level and associated invoices
- photographs or other documentation

If it's not clear that you've done this action in a way that could reasonably be expected to achieve its aim, we may ask for this evidence. You must supply the evidence if we ask for it.

SFI Planning Actions



Test soil organic matter and produce a **soil management plan**. £6/ha + £97 per agreement CSAM1



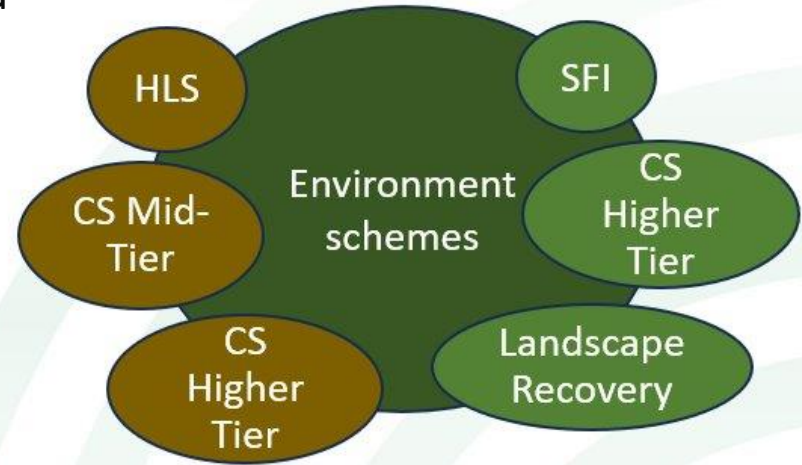
A **nutrient management** assessment and plan. £652/year CNUM1



An IPM (Integrated Pest Management) assessment and produce an **IPM plan**. £1,129/year CIPM1

Transfer from Existing Agreements

- Expected to have an automated process to allow CS Mid-Tier and HLS to be able to end their existing agreement either:
 - at the end of their current agreement year and receive the full payment due for that year
 - before the end of your current agreement year, but not receive payment for the part of the current agreement year you've already completed.
- Can apply for SFI agreement to run alongside existing agreement



Post Budget Update...

- £2.4bn budget confirmed for the next financial year, with £1.8bn set aside for ELMs;
- CS Higher Tier (HT) information to be published in December; potential to move towards a rolling window.
- Those with expiring HLS or CS HT agreements will be offered an extension; and
- Future rounds of Landscape Recovery are planned.

Where are we going?

- SFI applications that were submitted by 15th October should have an agreement starting on 1st Nov (with agreements being backed to 1st Nov).
- Asking for: certainty, cashflow and transparency.
- Updated actions, e.g. new 'mid ground' grassland option.

Thank you and questions

