

Sustainable Farming Incentive

- Rollout expected to begin in August 2023, with the application window remaining open all year round.
- Details on the application process to be announced but expected to be a simple process which can be completed without professional assistance. You will be able to apply [via the Rural Payments service](#).
- An SFI agreement lasts for 3 years from its start date and can be 'upgraded' annually to add more actions and land. You will not usually be able to end your agreement early or reduce the actions/areas included.
- Applications are not competitive – as long as your land is eligible and the actions picked are compatible, you will be accepted and get an agreement.
- The total annual payment will be paid in quarterly instalments.
- Management payment when signing up of £20 per ha entered (for up to 50 ha entered).

Countryside Stewardship and SFI

You can have an SFI agreement alongside an existing CS agreement, but you cannot get paid twice for the same action.

Available Actions

- Actions available from 2023 are summarised in the table below. Full details of each action can be found in the SFI handbook, pages 19 - 89.
- You can pick and choose the actions which you want and the area of land you wish to do them on.
- Some actions can be rotated to different field parcels in each year of the agreement. For these, you will need to apply for the area and location of that action in the first year. You can increase the land area in future years or reduce the area, as long as it is at least 50% of the area entered in the first year.
- 30 additional actions will be available in schemes in 2024.

For the full guidance and detailed information on the actions please look at the [Sustainable Farming Incentive Handbook here](#)

Example scheme

Action	Area included	Total Payment
SAM1 - Assess soil, test soil organic matter and produce a soil management plan.	100 ha	£675
SAM2 - Multi-species winter cover crops	25 ha	£2,967
SAM3 - Herbal leys	5 ha	£1,910
NUM2: Legumes on improved grassland	45 ha	£4,590
AHL3: Grassy field corners or blocks	2 ha	£1,180
NUM1: Assess nutrient management and produce a review report		£589
HRW2: Manage hedgerows	15,000 m	£1,500
HRW3: Maintain or establish hedgerow trees	7,500 m	£750
SFI Management payment	50 ha (max)	£1,000
TOTAL		£15,161

SFI Action	What to do	Annual Payment
Actions for soils		
SAM1 - Assess soil, test soil organic matter and produce a soil management plan	Assess the soil for all land parcels entered into this action and produce a written soil management plan. Test the soil organic matter on all land parcels entered within the last 5 years.	£5.80 / ha + £95 / agreement
SAM2 - Multi-species winter cover crops (Rotational or static)	Establish and maintain a multi-species cover crop over the winter months (Dec, Jan and Feb) The cover crop must be a mix containing at least 2 species from one or more plant families (brassicacae, legumes, grass or cereals, herbs)	£129 / ha
SAM3 - Herbal leys (Rotational or static)	You must establish and maintain herbal leys with a mixture of grasses, legumes, and herbs on the land entered into this action.	£382 / ha
Actions for moorland		
MOR1 - Assess moorland and produce a written record	You must complete a survey to identify, assess and record the soil, vegetation and historic and archaeological features across the moorland area entered into this action.	£10.30 / ha + £265 per agreement
Actions for hedgerows		
HRW1 - Assess and record hedgerow condition	Assess the condition of all the hedgerows entered into this action. Produce a written hedgerow condition assessment record for these hedgerows	£3 / 100m (one side)
HRW2 - Manage hedgerows	On fully established hedgerows, you can choose which of the following management approaches to use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cut each hedgerow incrementally. on a rotation, cut each hedgerow no more than once every 3 years, cutting no more than one third of hedges each year. on a rotation, cut each hedgerow no more than once every 2 years, cutting no more than half the hedges each year. managing them in a coppicing or laying rotation, which may mean they're left uncut for the duration of your 3-year SFI agreement. <p>If the hedgerows are newly planted, or not fully established, you must lightly trim them incrementally</p>	£10 / 100m (one side)
HRW3 - Maintain or establish hedgerow trees	You must make sure there's an average of at least 1 hedgerow tree per 100m over the total length of hedgerows entered into this action. You can do this action by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining existing trees growing within the hedgerow Establishing new hedgerow trees 	£10 / 100m (both sides)
Actions for integrated pest management		
IPM1 - Assess integrated pest management and produce a plan (this action applies to an SFI agreement, rather than a specific area of land (an 'agreement level SFI action')	BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection adviser visit and production of a written IPM plan.	£989 / year
IPM2 - Flower-rich grass margins, blocks, or in-field strips (Rotational or static action)	To establish the flower-rich grass margins, blocks, or in-field strips, you must sow a seed mix containing at least: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 grass species, which must not include ryegrass, with the grass component not exceeding 90% of the total seed mix by weight. 10 wildflower species, with no individual flower species exceeding 25% of the total wildflower species component by weight. 	£673 / ha
IPM3 - Companion crop on arable and horticultural land (Rotational or static action)	You must establish the companion crop on land entered into this action, so it's growing with the main arable or horticultural crop.	£55 / ha

IPM4 - No use of insecticide on arable crops and permanent crops (Rotational or static action)	You must not apply any plant protection products, including seed dressings, containing insecticide on land entered into this action.	£45 / ha
Actions for nutrient management		
NUM1 - Assess nutrient management and produce a review report (agreement level SFI action)	FACTS qualified adviser farm visit and production of a nutrient management review report.	£589 / year
NUM2 - Legumes on improved grassland (Rotational or static action)	You must establish and maintain legumes in the grassland. You can use one or more type of legume e.g., red clover, white clover, alsike clover, sainfoin, lucerne, bird's foot trefoil. Advance Sourcing can provide suitable grass seed mixes.	£102 / ha
NUM3 - Legume fallow	To establish the legume fallow, you must sow a seed mix containing at least 6 flowering species including legumes. The seed mix can contain legumes such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alsike clover • bird's foot trefoil • black medick • common vetch • lucerne 	£593 / ha
Actions for farmland wildlife on arable and horticultural land		
AHL1 - Pollen and nectar flower mix	To establish the blocks or strips of pollen and nectar flower mix, you must sow a grass-free seed mix containing at least 6 flower species. A single species must not exceed 50% of the total seed mix by weight.	£614 / ha
AHL2 - Winter bird food on arable and horticultural land (Rotational or static action)	To establish the winter bird food blocks or strips, you must sow a mix of at least 6 crops that will provide an extended supply of small seeds for farmland birds.	£732 / ha
AHL3 - Grassy field corners and blocks	To establish the grassy field corners or blocks you must either sow them or allow the areas to naturally regenerate. During the first 12 months after sowing them, or allowing them to naturally regenerate, you can regularly cut or graze them to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • control annual weeds • encourage new grass shoots to develop 	£590 / ha
Actions for farmland wildlife on improved grassland		
IGL1 - Take improved grassland field corners or blocks out of management	You must leave grassland field corners or blocks entered into this action unmanaged, so they're uncut and un-grazed.	£333 / ha
IGL2 - Winter bird food on improved grassland (Rotational or static action)	Manage the grassland in a way that could reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cutting it for silage or hay in a way that allows it to go to seed. • leaving it un-grazed after the final cut for silage and hay 	£474 / ha
Actions for buffer strips		
AHL4 - 4m to 12m grass buffer strip on arable and horticultural land	Establish and maintain a grass strip that's at least 4m to 12m wide (on average in each land parcel) on the edge of land entered into this action. The strip must buffer an existing landscape feature, such as hedgerows, stone walls, woodland or watercourses.	£451 / ha
IGL3 - 4m to 12m grass buffer strip on improved grassland	Establish and maintain a grass strip that's at least 4m to 12m wide (on average in each land parcel) on the edge of land entered into this action. The strip must buffer an existing landscape feature, such as hedgerows, stone walls, woodland, or watercourses.	£235 / ha

Actions for low input grassland		
LIG1 - Manage grassland with very low nutrient inputs	You must minimise the use of nutrient inputs on the grassland entered by applying no more than either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 tonnes per ha of cattle farmyard manure • equivalent amounts of available nutrients as fertiliser or in other organic manures 	£151 / ha
Additional Payments		
Additional common land payment (*if a group of 2 or more people apply for an SFI agreement on common land)		£6.15 / ha
SFI management payment (*up to the first 50 hectares entered into the relevant SFI actions, per SBI)		£20 / ha

For further discussion or to help with any questions that you may have, please contact us on enquiries@kiteconsulting.com or 01902 851007

