

# Expanded SFI offer (SFI24 offer) – endorsed actions

This document contains drafts of an additional 14 endorsed SFI actions. When Defra published drafts of these additional endorsed SFI actions, they said they expected them to be available from summer 2025. As the expanded SFI offer is closed for new applications, these additional endorsed SFI actions will now be considered as part of the work to develop a reformed and more targeted SFI. Further details on the reformed SFI offer will be published in summer 2025.

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# SFI actions for farmland wildlife and habitats on grassland

## GRH2: Manage wet grassland for breeding waders (endorsed)

### Duration

5 years

### How much you'll be paid

£676 per hectare (ha) per year

### Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's wet grassland with:

- in-field wet areas, including standing water and bare and muddy areas, during the wader breeding season and the autumn and winter months
- suitable sward heights and structure for the priority breeding wader bird species on your land (or likely to use your land) to nest during their breeding season
- appropriate rush cover for the priority breeding wader species on your land (or likely to use your land)
- any historic or archaeological features protected from damage
- a good cover and range of flowering grasses and wildflowers from late spring and during the summer months if your land is priority habitat species-rich grassland

The purpose of this is to:

- provide suitable wet grassland nesting and feeding habitat for priority breeding wader species so they can, in most years, successfully fledge their young
- support other species such as wintering wildfowl
- support other features such as historic or archaeological features, ditches of high environmental value and areas of species-rich wet grassland

### Where you can do this action

You must get written approval ('endorsement') before you can include this action in your SFI agreement. Read [section 1.2 'SFI actions which require endorsement'](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to get endorsement.

You can do this action on agricultural land located below the moorland line that's:

- endorsed as being suitable for this action – read 'suitable land for this action's endorsement'
- an eligible land type (as defined in [section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI'](#) in the SFI scheme information)
- registered with an eligible land cover on your digital maps
- declared with a [land use code](#) which is compatible with the eligible land cover

## Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Permanent grassland – all types	Permanent grassland	PG01
Arable land used to grow crops*	Arable land	Land use codes for <a href="#">arable crops</a> or <a href="#">leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops</a>
Temporary grassland*	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow*	Arable land	FA01
Certain non-agricultural features and areas within an otherwise eligible agricultural land parcel**	Relevant land cover, as shown in <a href="#">annex D of the SFI scheme information</a>	Relevant land use code, as shown in <a href="#">annex D of the SFI scheme information</a>

\*these land types are only eligible where you're restoring or creating wet grassland

\*\*non-agricultural features and areas will only be endorsed as suitable for this action if it's possible to achieve this action's aim on them – they may include, for example:

- rivers and streams
- ponds
- fen marsh and swamp
- heath land and bracken
- bog
- drains, ditches or dykes
- scattered areas of rock, bracken, scrub or water
- scrub
- tracks with a natural surface

## Suitable land for this action's endorsement

The required endorsement for this action will be done by an 'endorsing adviser'. They will be either:

- a Natural England adviser
- an adviser approved by Natural England to act on their behalf

To endorse this action, the endorsing adviser will check that the land you want to do the action on is one of the following:

- already [priority habitat coastal or floodplain grazing marsh](#) which supports priority breeding waders – it does not need to be mapped on the Priority Habitat Inventory (PHI)
- other wet grassland which already supports priority breeding waders
- has high potential for the restoration or creation of wet grassland for priority breeding waders

For the purposes of this action, 'priority breeding waders' include:

- curlew
- lapwing
- redshank
- snipe

The endorsing adviser:

- may contact you to visit your land to endorse this action
- will provide you with a written endorsement to confirm your land is suitable for the action
- will tell you if your land is not suitable, so they cannot endorse this action for your SFI agreement

This action's 'written endorsement' includes any supporting documents from the endorsing adviser which set out requirements you must follow. For example, an agreed restoration or creation plan.

If you want to restore or create wet grassland for breeding waders, before the endorsing adviser's visit, you need to provide them with (as relevant):

- a map which shows the location of the land you're intending to do this on
- soil analysis for the land – only if you're intending to introduce wildflower seed by applying for GR3 (floristically enhanced seed mix for grassland habitat) under Capital Grants

If relevant, your soil analysis needs to:

- include the soil available phosphorus (using the 'Olsen P' test)
- have been carried out within the last year, or within the last 5 years if there have been no fertiliser applications or increase in stocking levels since the last soil analysis

Read Natural England's guidance on ['soil sampling for habitat recreation and restoration'](#) to find out how to carry out this soil analysis.

If you need to take soil samples on areas within a land parcel containing historic or archaeological features (including scheduled monuments), make sure you follow the requirements explained in [section 5.6: 'Land with historic or archaeological features'](#) in the SFI scheme information.

If you intend to carry out or allow wildfowling on the land entered into this action, you need to:

- [complete the sustainable wildfowling strategy template – template to follow] to show how the activities will avoid causing significant disturbance to wintering birds
- provide the template to the endorsing adviser and ask them to sign it to confirm you've completed it
- keep the completed template and supply it if we ask for it, as required under 'Evidence to keep'

### **Eligibility of protected land**

Sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs): Eligible – you must get SSSI consent before you do this action (read [section 10.3 'SSSI consent'](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to do this).

Historic and archaeological features: Eligible – you must get an SFI HEFER before you do this action (read [section 5.6 'Land with historic or archaeological features'](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to do this).

### **Available area you can enter into this action**

Total or part of the available area in a land parcel.

### **Rotational or static action**

This action is static. This means you must do it at the same location each year of this action's duration.

### **What to do**

You must manage the land entered into this action in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim on either:

- existing wet grassland you're maintaining for priority breeding waders
- wet grassland you're restoring or creating for priority breeding waders – it may not be possible to achieve some elements of this action's aim until you do what's required by this action's written endorsement

### **Restoring or creating wet grassland**

To restore or create wet grassland, you must follow the requirements set out in this action's written endorsement. This may:

- replace some of the requirements set out under 'maintaining wet grassland' – these are identified with an asterisk (\*)
- allow you to do some of the activities set out under 'activities you must not do' – these are identified with an asterisk (\*)

This action's written endorsement may require you to (as relevant):

- install water control structures, so you can manage water levels
- create wet features, such as scrapes and gutters – you can apply for [WN2: Creation of scrapes and gutters] under Capital Grants to help you do this
- establish the sward, so there are suitable sward heights and structure

You must complete the activities required by this action's written endorsement within the first 3 years of this action's duration. Once you've done this, you must follow all the requirements set out in this action under:

- 'maintaining existing wet grassland'
- 'activities you must not do'

### **Maintaining existing wet grassland**

To provide in-field wet areas, including standing water and bare and muddy areas, you must:

- manage water levels in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim\* – read the 'advice to help you do this action' for more information
- have wet features, such as scrapes and gutters\* – to achieve this action's aim, you may need to manage them (you can apply for [GRH5: Manage scrapes and gutters supplement (endorsed)] to get paid to do this)

For the purposes of this action, the 'wader breeding season' is during the spring and early summer (usually between mid-March and mid-July).

To manage the sward, you must:

- graze it with livestock (or, if necessary, cut it after the wader breeding season) in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's

aim – read the ‘advice to help you do this action’ to find out which sward heights and structure are suitable

- minimise the risk of livestock trampling nests when grazing the sward during the wader breeding season – read the ‘advice to help you do this action’ to find out which stock type and stocking density will usually achieve this
- after the wader breeding season, graze or cut it to remove the year’s grass growth by autumn, leaving some tussocky grass to develop, so suitable sward conditions can be achieved by the following spring
- manage [injurious weeds](#), nettles, scrub and [invasive non-native species](#), to minimise their cover within each land parcel entered into this action
- manage rushes on the area in each land parcel entered into this action in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action’s aim – read the ‘advice to help you do this action to find out what rush cover is appropriate
- minimise scrub cover and tall vegetation on ditch edges (except if the ditch is next to woodland) – you can do this by grazing or cutting (or a combination of both)
- only top in patches to manage injurious weeds, invasive species, bracken or areas dominated by rushes, or to remove excess grass growth by the autumn\*
- maintain a continuous sward over any historic or archaeological features, with minimal scrub, bracken and bare ground
- manage any priority habitat species-rich grassland in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action’s aim

You must keep the height of any hedges low (usually less than 2 metres), so that nesting birds are less vulnerable to predation.

If wildfowling is carried out on land entered into this action, you must:

- make sure that it’s done in a way that avoids causing significant disturbance to wintering birds, as set out in your completed sustainable wildfowling strategy template – read ‘how endorsement works for this action’ for more information
- record bag returns

\*this action’s written endorsement may replace this requirement on land where you’re restoring or creating wet grassland – read ‘restoring or creating wet grassland’ for more information

### **Activities you must not do**

You must not do the following on the area entered into this action:

- plough, cultivate or reseed\*
- damage any historic or archaeological features – this includes by machinery use, such as harrowing or rolling, or supplementary feeding of livestock

- carry out supplementary feeding on land that's priority habitat species-rich grassland, except for mineral blocks
- carry out mechanical activities during the wader breeding season, including hay and haylage cutting and topping\*
- carry out or allow any other activities which may cause significant disturbance to breeding or wintering birds
- carry out land management activities in a way that causes poaching or overgrazing
- apply fertiliser, manures, digestate or any other industrial by-product including paper waste
- apply pesticides, except for herbicides to weed wipe or spot treat to control [injurious weeds](#), [invasive non-native species](#), rushes or nettles\*
- apply herbicides on priority habitat species-rich grassland if their use will affect the wildflowers in the sward
- carry out ditch or pond management activities when it may cause disturbance to wildlife using the ditch or pond (usually between April and August)
- carry out drainage works, including modifying existing drainage, unless it's to provide the in-field wet areas required by this action in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim

\*this action's written endorsement may allow you to do this activity on land where you're restoring or creating wet grassland – read 'restoring or creating wet grassland' for more information

## When to do it

You must do this action each year of its 5-year duration.

## How to do it

It's up to you how you do this action, as long as you:

- follow this action's requirements – these are identified by a 'must'
- do the action in a way that could reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim

You may find it helpful to read the 'advice to help you do this action', but it's not part of this action's requirements.

## Evidence to keep

You must keep:

- this action's written endorsement (including any supporting documents)
- where relevant, your completed sustainable wildfowling strategy template and bag returns record



You must also 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 and 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.

Other actions or options you can do on the same area as this action

To follow.

Advice to help you do this action

To follow.

## GRH3: Manage wet grassland for wintering waders and wildfowl (endorsed)

### Duration

5 years

### How much you'll be paid

£547 per hectare (ha) per year

### Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's wet grassland with:

- in-field wet areas, including standing water and bare and muddy areas during the autumn and winter months
- the year's grass growth removed by autumn, leaving some tussocky grass to develop, so there are suitable sward heights and structure for wintering waders and wildfowl
- appropriate rush cover for the wintering waders and wildfowl
- any historic or archaeological features protected from damage
- a good cover and range of flowering grass and wildflowers from late spring and during the summer months if your land is priority habitat species-rich grassland

The purpose of this is to:

- provide suitable wet grassland feeding and roosting habitat for wintering waders and wildfowl
- support other features such as historic or archaeological features, ditches of high environmental value and areas of species-rich wet grassland

### Where you can do this action

You must get written approval ('endorsement') before you can include this action in your SFI agreement. Read [section 1.2 'SFI actions which require endorsement'](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to get endorsement.

You can do this action on agricultural land located below the moorland line that's:

- endorsed as being suitable for this action – read 'suitable land for this action's endorsement'
- an eligible land type (as defined in [section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI'](#) in the SFI scheme information)
- registered with an eligible land cover on your digital maps

- declared with a [land use code](#) which is compatible with the eligible land cover

## Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Permanent grassland – all types	Permanent grassland	PG01
Arable land used to grow crops*	Arable land	Land use codes for <a href="#">arable crops</a> or <a href="#">leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops</a>
Temporary grassland*	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow*	Arable land	FA01
Certain non-agricultural features and areas within an otherwise eligible agricultural land parcel**	Relevant land cover, as shown in <a href="#">annex D of the SFI scheme information</a>	Relevant land use code, as shown in <a href="#">annex D of the SFI scheme information</a>

\*these land types are only eligible where you're restoring or creating wet grassland

\*\* non-agricultural features and areas will only be endorsed as suitable for this action if it's possible to achieve this action's aim on them – they may include, for example:

- rivers and streams
- ponds
- fen marsh and swamp
- heath land and bracken
- bog
- drains, ditches or dykes
- scattered areas of rock, bracken, scrub or water
- scrub
- tracks with a natural surface

## Suitable land for this action's endorsement

The required endorsement for this action will be done by an 'endorsing adviser'. They will be either:

- a Natural England adviser
- an adviser approved by Natural England to act on their behalf

To endorse this action, the endorsing adviser will check that the land you want to do the action on is one of the following:

- already [priority habitat coastal or floodplain grazing marsh](#) which supports wintering waders and wildfowl – it does not need to be mapped on the Priority Habitat Inventory (PHI)
- other wet grassland which already supports wintering waders and wildfowl
- has high potential for the restoration or creation of wet grassland for wintering waders and wildfowl

The endorsing adviser:

- may contact you to visit your land to endorse this action
- will provide you with a written endorsement if they endorse your land as being suitable for this action
- will tell you if your land is not suitable, so they cannot endorse this action for your SFI agreement

This action's 'written endorsement' includes any supporting documents from the endorsing adviser which set out requirements you must follow. For example, an agreed restoration or creation plan.

If you want to restore or create wet grassland for wintering waders and wildfowl, before the endorsing adviser's visit, you need to provide them with (as relevant):

- a map which shows the location of the land you're intending to do this on
- soil analysis for the land – only if you're intending to introduce wildflower seed by applying for GR3 (floristically enhanced seed mix for grassland habitat) under Capital Grants

If relevant, your soil analysis needs to:

- include the soil available phosphorus (using the 'Olsen P' test)
- have been carried out within the last year, or within the last 5 years if there have been no fertiliser applications or increase in stocking levels since the last soil analysis

Read Natural England's guidance on ['soil sampling for habitat recreation and restoration'](#) to find out how to carry out this soil analysis.

If you need to take soil samples on areas within a land parcel containing historic or archaeological features, including scheduled monuments, make sure you follow the requirements explained in [section 5.6: 'Land with historic or archaeological features'](#) in the SFI scheme information.

If you intend to carry out or allow wildfowling on the land entered into this action, you need to:

- [complete the sustainable wildfowling strategy template] to show how the activities will avoid causing significant disturbance to wintering birds
- provide the template to the endorsing adviser and ask them to sign it to confirm you've completed it
- keep the completed template and supply it if we ask for it, as required under 'Evidence to keep'

### **Eligibility of protected land**

Sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs): Eligible – you must get SSSI consent before you do this action (read [section 10.3 'SSSI consent'](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to do this).

Historic and archaeological features: Eligible – you must get an SFI HEFER before you do this action (read [section 5.6 'Land with historic or archaeological features'](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to do this).

### **Available area you can enter into this action**

Total or part of the available area in a land parcel.

### **Rotational or static action**

This action is static. This means you must do it at the same location each year of this action's duration.

### **What to do**

You must manage the land entered into this action in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim on either:

- existing wet grassland you're maintaining for wintering waders and wildfowl
- wet grassland you're restoring or creating for wintering waders and wildfowl – it may not be possible to achieve some elements of this action's aim until you do what's required by this action's written endorsement

### **Restoring or creating wet grassland**

To restore or create wet grassland, you must follow the requirements set out in this action's written endorsement. This may:

- replace some of the requirements set out under 'maintaining wet grassland', as identified with an asterisk (\*)

- allow you to do some of the activities set out under ‘activities you must not do’, as identified with an asterisk (\*)

This action’s written endorsement may require you to (as relevant):

- install water control structures, so you can manage water levels
- create wet features, such as scrapes and gutters – you can apply for [WN2: Creation of scrapes and gutters] under Capital Grants to help you do this
- establish the sward, so there are suitable sward heights and structure

You must complete the activities required by this action’s written endorsement within the first 3 years of this action’s duration. Once you’ve done this, you must follow all the requirements set out in this action under:

- ‘maintaining existing wet grassland’
- ‘activities you must not do’

### **Maintaining existing wet grassland**

To provide in-field wet areas, including standing water and bare and muddy areas, you must either:

- manage water levels in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action’s aim\* – read the ‘advice to help you do this action’ for more information
- have wet features, such as scrapes and gutters\* – to achieve this action’s aim, you may need to manage them (you can apply for [GRH5: Manage scrapes and gutters supplement (endorsed)] to get paid to do this)

To manage the sward, you must:

- graze it with livestock (or, if necessary, cut it) in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action’s aim – read the ‘advice to help you do this action’ to find out which sward heights and structure are suitable
- manage [injurious weeds](#), nettles, bracken, scrub and [invasive non-native species](#), to minimise their cover on the area in each land parcel entered into this action
- manage rushes on the area in each land parcel entered into this action in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action’s aim – read the ‘advice to help you do this action’ to find out what rush cover is appropriate
- minimise scrub cover and tall vegetation on ditch edges (except if the ditch is next to woodland) – you can do this by grazing or cutting (or a combination of both)

- only top in patches to manage [injurious weeds](#), [invasive non-native species](#), bracken or areas dominated by rushes, or to remove excess grass growth by the autumn\*
- maintain a continuous sward over any historic or archaeological features, with minimal scrub, bracken and bare ground
- manage any priority habitat species-rich grassland in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim

You must keep the height of any hedges low (usually less than 2 metres), so that birds are less vulnerable to predation.

If wildfowling is carried out on land entered into this action, you must:

- make sure that it's done in a way that avoids causing significant disturbance to wintering birds, as set out in your completed sustainable wildfowling strategy template – read 'how endorsement works for this action' for more information
- record bag returns

\*this action's written endorsement may replace this requirement on land where you're restoring or creating wet grassland – read 'restoring or creating wet grassland' for more information

### **Activities you must not do**

You must not do the following on the area entered into this action:

- plough, cultivate or reseed\*
- damage any historic or archaeological features – this includes by machinery use, such as harrowing or rolling, or supplementary feeding of livestock
- carry out mechanical activities during the wader breeding season (usually between mid-March and mid-July) if there are waders nesting, including hay and haylage cutting and topping\*
- carry out or allow any activities which may cause significant disturbance to breeding or wintering birds
- carry out land management activities in a way that causes poaching or overgrazing
- apply manures (apart from cattle, sheep or horse farmyard manure), digestate or any other industrial by-product, including paper waste
- apply more than 12 tonnes per ha per year of cattle, sheep or horse farmyard manure or equivalent amounts of available nutrients as fertiliser as an alternative – you must not increase the application rate if it's currently less than this
- apply pesticides, except for herbicides to weed wipe or spot treat to control [injurious weeds](#), [invasive non-native species](#), rushes or nettles\*

- carry out ditch or pond management activities when it may cause disturbance to wildlife using the ditch or pond (usually between April and August)
- carry out drainage works, including modifying existing drainage, unless it's to provide the in-field wet areas required by this action in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim

In addition, you must not do the following on any priority habitat species-rich grassland (such as lowland meadow or purple moor-grass and rush pasture):

- apply fertilisers or manures – this replaces the application of cattle, sheep or horse farmyard manure which is permitted on land that's not priority habitat species-rich grassland
- apply herbicides if their use will affect the wildflowers in the sward
- carry out supplementary feeding, except for mineral blocks

\*this action's written endorsement may allow you to do this activity on land where you're restoring or creating wet grassland – read 'restoring or creating wet grassland' for more information

## When to do it

You must do this action each year of its 5-year duration.

## How to do it

It's up to you how you do this action, as long as you:

- follow this action's requirements – these are identified by a 'must'
- do the action in a way that could reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim

You may find it helpful to read the 'advice to help you do this action', but it's not part of this action's requirements.

## Evidence to keep

You must keep:

- this action's written endorsement (including any supporting documents)
- where relevant, your completed sustainable wildfowling strategy template and bag returns record

You must also 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 and 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.

Other actions or options you can do on the same area as this action

To follow.

Advice to help you do this action

To follow.

## GRH4: Manage species-rich floodplain meadows (endorsed)

### Duration

5 years

### How much you'll be paid

£1,070 per hectare (ha) per year

### Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's species-rich floodplain meadow with:

- appropriate conditions to allow natural seasonal flooding to occur
- a good cover of flowering grasses and wildflowers from late spring and during the summer months, including at least 1 frequently occurring and 3 occasionally occurring 'indicator' species typical of a species-rich floodplain meadow
- suitable sward heights and structure for a species-rich floodplain meadow by autumn
- enough flowering grasses and wildflowers left to go to seed to maintain or increase the presence and abundance of 'indicator' plant species typical of a species-rich floodplain meadow
- appropriate scrub and rush cover for a species-rich floodplain meadow
- any historic or archaeological features protected from damage

The purpose of this is to:

- maintain or increase floodplain meadow habitats which support wildlife and biodiversity
- provide valuable space for floodwaters
- create potential for carbon capture and increased climate resilience
- contribute to protecting valued landscapes and archaeology

### Where you can do this action

You must get written approval ('endorsement') before you can include this action in your SFI agreement. Read [section 1.2 'SFI actions which require endorsement'](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to get endorsement.

You can do this action on agricultural land located below the moorland line that's:

- endorsed as being suitable for this action – read 'suitable land for this action's endorsement'
- an eligible land type (as defined in [section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI'](#) in the SFI scheme information)

- registered with an eligible land cover on your digital maps
- declared with a [land use code](#) which is compatible with the eligible land cover

## Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Species-rich permanent grassland	Permanent grassland	PG01
Species-poor permanent grassland*	Permanent grassland	PG01
Arable land used to grow crops*	Arable land	Land use codes for <a href="#">arable crops</a> or <a href="#">leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops</a>
Temporary grassland*	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow*	Arable land	FA01
Certain non-agricultural features and areas within an otherwise eligible agricultural land parcel**	Relevant land cover, as shown in <a href="#">annex D of the SFI scheme information</a>	Relevant land use code, as shown in <a href="#">annex D of the SFI scheme information</a>

\*these land types are only eligible where you're restoring or creating a species-rich floodplain meadow

\*\* non-agricultural features and areas will only be endorsed as suitable for this action if it's possible to achieve this action's aim on them – they may include, for example:

- rivers and streams
- ponds
- fen marsh and swamp
- heath land and bracken
- bog
- drains, ditches or dykes
- scattered areas of rock, bracken, scrub or water
- scrub
- tracks with a natural surface

## Suitable land for this action's endorsement

The required endorsement for this action will be done by an 'endorsing adviser'. They will be either:

- a Natural England adviser

- an adviser approved by Natural England to act on their behalf

To endorse this action, the endorsing adviser will check that the land you want to do the action on is one of the following:

- already a [priority habitat species-rich lowland meadow](#) which is in the floodplain – it does not need to be mapped on the Priority Habitat Inventory (PHI)
- has high or medium potential for the restoration or creation of species-rich floodplain meadow

The endorsing adviser:

- may contact you to visit your land to endorse this action
- will provide you with a written endorsement if they endorse your land as being suitable for this action
- will tell you if your land is not suitable, so they cannot endorse this action for your SFI agreement

This action's 'written endorsement' includes any supporting documents from the endorsing adviser which set out requirements you must follow. For example, an agreed restoration or creation plan.

If you want to restore or create a species-rich floodplain meadow, before the endorsing adviser's visit, you must provide them with:

- a map which shows the location of the land you're intending to do this on
- soil analysis for the land – this is to allow the endorsing adviser to assess whether your land has high or medium potential for restoration or creation

Your soil analysis needs to:

- include the soil available phosphorus (using the 'Olsen P' test)
- have been carried out within the last year

Read Natural England's guidance on '[soil sampling for habitat recreation and restoration](#)' to find out how to carry out this soil analysis.

If you need to take soil samples on areas within a land parcel containing historic or archaeological features, including scheduled monuments, make sure you follow the requirements explained in [section 5.6: 'Land with historic or archaeological features'](#) in the SFI scheme information.

## **Eligibility of protected land**

Sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs): Eligible – you must get SSSI consent before you do this action (read [section 10.3 'SSSI consent'](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to do this).

Historic and archaeological features: Eligible – you must get an SFI HEFER before you do this action (read [section 5.6 'Land with historic or archaeological features'](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to do this).

## **Available area you can enter into this action**

Total or part of the available area in a land parcel.

## **Rotational or static action**

This action is static. This means you must do it at the same location each year of this action's duration.

## **What to do**

You must manage the land entered into this action in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim on either:

- an existing species-rich floodplain meadow you're maintaining
- a species-rich floodplain meadow you're restoring or creating – it may not be possible to achieve some elements of this action's aim until you do what's required by this action's written endorsement

## **Restoring or creating a species-rich floodplain meadow**

To restore or create a species-rich floodplain meadow you must follow the requirements set out in this action's written endorsement. This may:

- replace some of the requirements set out under 'maintaining an existing species-rich floodplain meadow', as identified with an asterisk (\*)
- allow you to do some of the activities set out under 'activities you must not do', as identified with an asterisk (\*)

If you're restoring a species-rich floodplain meadow, it may take longer than this action's 5-year duration to achieve at least 1 frequently occurring and 3 occasionally occurring 'indicator' species.

You must complete the activities required by this action's written endorsement within the first 3 years of this action's duration. Once you've done this, you must follow all the requirements set out under:

- 'maintaining an existing species-rich floodplain meadow'
- 'activities you must not do'

## **Maintaining an existing species-rich floodplain meadow**

You must allow floodwater to flow naturally onto and off the area entered into this action\*. To do this, you may need to maintain any existing infrastructure, such as culverts, pipes, grips and ditches. Read the 'advice to help you do this action' to find out what conditions are appropriate.

- a good cover of flowering grasses and wildflowers from late spring and during the summer months, including at least 1 frequently occurring and 3 occasionally occurring 'indicator' species typical of a species-rich floodplain meadow
- suitable sward heights and structure for a species-rich floodplain meadow by autumn
- enough flowering grasses and wildflowers left to go to seed to maintain or increase the presence and abundance of 'indicator' plant species typical of a species-rich floodplain meadow

You must take an annual cut of field-dried hay\*. To do this, you must:

- leave the area ungrazed for a continuous period of at least 8 weeks during the spring and summer months before you harvest the hay crop – this is to allow a good cover of flowering grasses and wildflowers to develop\*
- harvest the hay crop after enough flowering grasses and wildflowers have set seed to reasonably achieve this action's aim – this must not be earlier than mid-June\*
- leave the cut hay crop to field dry, turning it at least once\*
- remove the hay crop once it is field dry\* – it can be unwrapped or wrapped

After you've removed the hay crop, you must manage the sward by aftermath grazing or taking a second cut in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim\*. Read the 'advice to help you do this action' to find out which:

- 'indicator' species are typical
- sward heights and structure are suitable

If something happens which means you cannot complete this action you must tell the Rural Payments Agency about this in writing as soon as possible. For example, if there's late flooding which means you cannot take the annual hay cut. Read [section 13.2 'What you must do if you cannot comply with your agreement'](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to do this.

You must also:

- make sure there's an intact sward throughout the year, without compacted areas or poaching\*
- minimise bare ground, so the soil is covered by vegetation and is not directly exposed to the elements\*

- manage [injurious weeds](#), nettles, bracken and [invasive non-native species](#), to minimise their cover on the area in each land parcel entered into this action
- manage rushes on the area in each land parcel entered into this action in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim – read the 'advice to help you do this action' to find out what rush cover is appropriate
- only top in patches to manage injurious weeds, invasive species, bracken or areas dominated by rushes\*
- maintain a continuous sward over any historic or archaeological features, with minimal scrub, bracken and bare ground

\*this action's written endorsement may replace this requirement on land where you're restoring or creating a species-rich floodplain meadow – read 'restoring or creating a species-rich floodplain meadow' for more information

### **Activities you must not do**

You must not do the following on the area entered into this action:

- plough, cultivate or reseed\*
- damage any historic or archaeological features – this includes by machinery use, such as harrowing or rolling
- carry out supplementary feeding, except for mineral blocks
- carry out mechanical activities, including hay cutting, in a way that may disturb breeding birds or damage nests
- carry out land management activities in a way that causes poaching or overgrazing
- apply digestate or any other industrial by-product, including paper waste
- apply inorganic fertiliser or manures, apart from cattle, sheep or horse farmyard manure
- apply more than 6 tonnes per ha per year of cattle, sheep or horse farmyard manure
- apply cattle, sheep or horse farmyard manure if floodwater has flowed onto the area during the previous 24 months
- apply pesticides, including herbicides\*

\*this action's written endorsement may allow you to do this activity on land where you're restoring or creating a species-rich floodplain meadow – read 'restoring or creating a species-rich floodplain meadow' for more information

### **When to do it**

You must do this action each year of its 5-year duration.

### **How to do it**

It's up to you how you do this action, as long as you:

- follow this action's requirements – these are identified by a 'must'
- do the action in a way that could reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim

You may find it helpful to read the 'advice to help you do this action', but it's not part of this action's requirements.

## Evidence to keep

You must keep this action's written endorsement (including any supporting documents).

You must also 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 and 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.

## Other actions or options you can do on the same area as this action

To follow.

## Advice to help you do this action

To follow.



## GRH5: Manage scrapes and gutters supplement (endorsed)

### Duration

5 years

### How much you'll be paid

£1.17 per square metre (m<sup>2</sup>) per year – you must only include the physical area of the scrape or gutter.

You'll enter the hectareage equivalent of the m<sup>2</sup> of the scrape or gutter in your SFI application. Divide the m<sup>2</sup> area by 10,000 to convert it into hectares.

### Action's aim

This supplemental action's aim is that there's an existing scrape or gutter managed with:

- an appropriate depth (and width for gutters), so it holds shallow standing water during the winter months (and during the spring and early summer if you're managing wet grassland for breeding waders)
- gently sloping sides, so they can be used by feeding birds
- bare, wet soil on the edges as the water level drops
- the surface of a scrape left rough, so there are a variety of water depths

The purpose of this is to:

- provide feeding areas for wading birds and wildfowl
- support invertebrates, plants and other birds

### Where you can do this action

You must get written approval ('endorsement') before you can include this supplemental action in your SFI agreement. Read [section 1.2 'SFI actions which require endorsement'](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to get endorsement.

You can do this supplemental action on scrapes and gutters that are:

- endorsed as being suitable for this action – read 'suitable land for this action's endorsement'
- on land that's entered into an eligible base SFI action when you apply for this supplemental action

The eligible base actions for this supplemental action are:

- GRH2: Manage wet grassland for breeding waders (endorsed)
- GRH3: Manage wet grassland for wintering waders and wildfowl (endorsed)
- GRH4: Manage species-rich floodplain meadows (endorsed)
- GRH6: Manage priority habitat species-rich grassland (endorsed)

You can apply for this supplemental action after the eligible base action, so it's in a different SFI agreement. In this case, the supplemental action will last for its duration (which may be different to the base action).

You cannot do this supplemental action on scrapes or gutters created using Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier (CSHT) action WN2: Creation of scrapes and gutters during the first 5 years after applying for WN2.

### **Suitable land for this action's endorsement**

The required endorsement for this supplemental action will be done by an 'endorsing adviser'. They will be either:

- a Natural England adviser
- an adviser approved by Natural England to act on their behalf

To endorse this supplemental action, the adviser will check that the scrapes and gutters you want to do the action on:

- already exist on your land
- need to be managed in order for you to achieve your selected base action's aim

For the purposes of this supplemental action, 'scrapes and gutters' include:

- wet scrapes, which are shallow pools that provide seasonally wet areas, usually as a habitat for wildfowl and wading birds in wet grassland areas
- gutters (also known as foot drains, gripes and grips), which are shallow channels that hold or transport water through wet habitats and provide feeding areas for wading birds

The endorsing adviser:

- may contact you to visit your land to endorse this action
- will provide you with a written endorsement if they endorse your land as being suitable for this action
- will tell you if your land is not suitable, so they cannot endorse this action for your SFI agreement

### **Eligibility of protected land**

Sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs): Same as your selected base action.

Historic and archaeological features: Same as your selected base action.

### **Available area you can enter into this action**

Less than your selected base action. You must only include the physical area of the scrape or gutter.

### **Rotational or static action**

This action is static. This means you must do it at the same location each year of this action's duration.

## **What to do**

You must manage the scrapes or gutters entered into this action in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim.

For scrapes, an appropriate depth will usually be no more than around 30 centimeters (cm) at the middle.

For gutters:

- an appropriate width will usually be between 1.5m and 3m
- an appropriate depth will usually be no more than around 30cm at the middle

At least once during this action's 5-year duration, you must mechanically remove vegetation from the scrape or gutter to expose bare soil. You must do this when:

- the scrape or gutter vegetates and begins to in-fill – this will usually be every 3 to 5 years
- the ground is not too wet – this will usually be during the late summer or autumn months

You must not:

- carry out work on the scrape or gutter if it may disturb breeding birds or damage nests
- use spoil to fill hollows or low areas on the adjacent land parcel
- leave spoil to form a bund or bank around the scrape or gutter
- place spoil on areas of high soil erosion (where there is potential for run-off) or on historic or archaeological features

## **When to do it**

You must do this action each year of its 5-year duration.

## How to do it

It's up to you how you do this action, as long as you:

- follow this action's requirements – these are identified by a 'must'
- do the action in a way that could reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim

You may find it helpful to read the 'advice to help you do this action', but it's not part of this action's requirements.

## 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 and 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.

## Other actions or options you can do on the same area as this action

To follow.

## Advice to help you do this action

To follow.

## GRH9: Rush control supplement (endorsed)

### Duration

3 years

### How much you'll be paid

£95 per hectare (ha) per year – you must only include the area within the land parcel entered into your selected base action which has dense and continuous rush cover at the start of this action's 3-year duration.

The area of rush cover will be reduced by doing this supplemental action. Your payment will still be based on the area that had dense and continuous rush cover at the start of this action's 3-year duration.

### Action's aim

This supplemental action's aim is that there's grassland with:

- reduced rush cover, so it's at an appropriate level for the grassland in your selected base action
- minimal bare ground

The purpose of this is to:

- help improve the condition of grassland habitats by reducing rush cover on land with heavy infestations
- help prevent the loss of species-rich grassland
- provide suitable habitats for wading birds and wildfowl

### Where you can do this action

You must get written approval ('endorsement') before you can include this supplemental action in your SFI agreement. Read [section 1.2 'SFI actions which require endorsement'](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to get endorsement.

You can do this supplemental action on land that's:

- endorsed as being suitable for this action – read 'suitable land for this action's endorsement'
- entered into an eligible base SFI action when you apply for this supplemental action

The eligible base actions for this supplemental action are:

- GRH1: Manage rough grazing for birds

- GRH2: Manage wet grassland for breeding waders (endorsed)
- GRH3: Manage wet grassland for wintering waders and wildfowl (endorsed)
- GRH4: Manage species-rich floodplain meadows (endorsed)
- GRH6: Manage priority habitat species-rich grassland (endorsed)
- CLIG3: Manage grassland with very low nutrient inputs (or LIG1 and LIG2 in the SFI 2023 offer)

You can apply for this supplemental action after the eligible base action, so it's in a different SFI agreement. In this case, the supplemental action will last for its duration (which may be different to the base action).

### **Suitable land for this action's endorsement**

The required endorsement for this supplemental action will be done by an 'endorsing adviser'. They will be either:

- a Natural England adviser
- an adviser approved by Natural England to act on their behalf

To endorse this supplemental action, the adviser will check that the land you want to do the action on has dense rush cover that:

- is continuous over more than half of the area in each land parcel entered into your selected base action
- needs to be controlled to improve the condition of the grassland habitat

You need to provide the adviser with a map and photographs that show the location and extent of the dense rush cover within the land parcel.

The endorsing adviser:

- may contact you to visit your land to endorse this action
- will provide you with a written endorsement if they endorse your land as being suitable for this action
- will tell you if your land is not suitable, so they cannot endorse this action for your SFI agreement

### **Eligibility of protected land**

Sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs): Same as your selected base action.  
Historic and archaeological features: Same as your selected base action

### **Available area you can enter into this action**

Same or less than your selected base action.

You must only include the area within the land parcel entered into your selected base action which has dense and continuous rush cover at the start of this action's 3-year duration.

### **Rotational or static action**

This action is static. This means you must do it at the same location each year of this action's duration.

### **What to do**

You must manage the land entered into this supplemental action in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim.

Read the 'advice to help you do this action' to find out what an appropriate level of rush cover will usually be for the grassland in your selected base action. If your selected base action ends before this supplemental action's 3-year duration, there must still be an appropriate level of rush cover as relevant to that base action.

To reduce the rush cover, you must control dense rush growth by doing one or more of the following activities:

- regular cutting
- spot spraying
- weed wiping

In addition to these activities, you can graze the area.

You must minimise bare ground to reduce the risk of new rushes becoming established.

You must not do the following on the area entered into this action:

- apply pesticides, except for herbicides to weed wipe or spot treat to control rushes, [injurious weeds](#), [invasive non-native species](#), or nettles
- use herbicides to control rushes on priority habitat species-rich grassland, unless this action's written endorsement allows you to do this
- carry out rush control activities during the wader breeding season (usually between mid-March and mid-July) if there are waders nesting in the area of rushes you're controlling

### **When to do it**

You must do this action each year of its 3-year duration.

### **How to do it**

It's up to you how you do this action, as long as you:

- follow this action's requirements – these are identified by a 'must'
- do the action in a way that could reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim

You may find it helpful to read the 'advice to help you do this action', but it's not part of this action's requirements.

## 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 and 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.

## Other actions or options you can do on the same area as this action

To follow.

## Advice to help you do this action

To follow.



# SFI actions for heritage

## HEF3: Take scheduled monuments out of cultivation (endorsed)

### Duration

5 years

### How much you'll be paid

£613 per hectare (ha) per year

### Action's aim

This action's aim is that, throughout the year, there's arable or horticultural land containing a scheduled monument with:

- a continuous mix of grasses or flowers, or both, growing over it
- no soil disturbance from cultivation once the mix is established
- minimal scrub and bracken growth

The purpose of this is to:

- protect scheduled monuments from damaging cultivation practices
- reduce diffuse pollution and soil erosion, depending on the land use and location
- maintain landscape character
- improve carbon storage

### Where you can do this action

You must get written approval ('endorsement') before you can include this action in your SFI agreement. Read [section 1.2 'SFI actions which require endorsement'](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to get endorsement.

You can do this action on agricultural land located above or below the moorland line that's:

- identified as containing a scheduled monument on your SFI Historic Environment Farm Environment Record (SFI HEFER) – you must get an SFI HEFER before you apply for this action (read 'eligibility of protected land' for more information)
- endorsed as being suitable for this action – read 'suitable land for this action's endorsement'

- an eligible land type (as defined in [section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI'](#) in the SFI scheme information) at the start of this action's duration – if the land type changes because of this action, it will not affect eligibility (for example, if temporary grassland becomes permanent grassland)
- registered with an eligible land cover on your digital maps
- declared with a [land use code](#) which is compatible with the eligible land cover

## Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Arable land used to grow crops	Arable land	Land use codes for <a href="#">arable crops</a> or <a href="#">leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops</a>
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01
Horticultural permanent crops*	Permanent crops	TC01

\*this land type is only eligible on the available area in a land parcel which does not contain the scheduled monument – read 'available area you can enter'

## Suitable land for this action's endorsement

The required endorsement for this action will be done by a Historic England adviser.

To endorse this action, the Historic England adviser will check that the land you want to do the action on:

- contains a suitable scheduled monument
- has been cultivated historically – either because cultivation is already permitted under an existing scheduled monument consent, or it's covered by class consent

The Historic England adviser:

- may contact you to visit your land to endorse this action
- will provide you with a written endorsement if they endorse your land as being suitable for this action
- will tell you if your land is not suitable, so they cannot endorse this action for your SFI agreement

## **Eligibility of protected land**

Sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs): Eligible – you must get SSSI consent before you do this action (read [section 10.3 'SSSI consent'](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to do this).

Historic and archaeological features: Eligible on land containing a scheduled monument – you must get an SFI HEFER before you apply for this action (read [section 5.6 'Land with historic or archaeological features'](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to do this).

## **Available area you can enter into this action**

Total or part of the available area in a land parcel.

You must include the area that contains the scheduled monument. If that's only part of the available area in a land parcel, you can enter the total available area.

## **Rotational or static action**

This action is static. This means you must do it at the same location each year of this action's duration.

## **What to do**

You must manage the land entered into this action in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim.

To provide the mix of grasses or flowers (or a combination of both), you must:

- use a mix which does not include deep rooted species (which could damage the scheduled monument)
- to establish your chosen mix, either use shallow minimum till ('min till') cultivation or re-seed temporary grassland by slot seeding, making sure you avoid damaging the existing sward
- once the mix is established, maintain it in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim

You must also manage scrub and bracken on the area in each land parcel entered into this action in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim.

You must not do the following on the area entered into this action:

- plough on earthwork sites when you establish your chosen mix of flowers or grasses (or both)

- harrow or roll, except when you're establishing your chosen mix during the first 12 months of this action's duration
- carry out supplementary feeding on or within around 6 metres (m) of the scheduled monument
- locate vehicle or stock access routes within around 6m of the scheduled monument (existing surfaced tracks can be used)
- carry out drainage works, including modifying existing drainage, unless you've got scheduled monument consent from Historic England before the work starts (read [section 10.1 'Scheduled monument consent'](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to do this)

## When to do it

You must do this action each year of its 5-year duration.

If this action's start date means it's too late to establish the grass or flower mix, you must do this within 12 months of this action's start date.

## How to do it

It's up to you how you do this action, as long as you:

- follow this action's requirements – these are identified by a 'must'
- do the action in a way that could reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim

You may find it helpful to read the 'advice to help you do this action', but it's not part of this action's requirements.

## 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, including seed invoices
- photographs and 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.

## Other actions or options you can do on the same area as this action

To follow.

## Advice to help you do this action

To follow.

## HEF4: Use minimum tillage cultivation on scheduled monuments (endorsed)

### Duration

3 years

### How much you'll be paid

£115 per hectare (ha) per year

### Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's land with a scheduled monument where no archaeological earthworks survive, which has:

- no evidence of freshly disturbed subsoil or archaeological remains, because minimum tillage ('min-till') equipment has been used to provide shallow cultivation depths
- minimal soil erosion

The purpose of this is to:

- protect scheduled monuments from damaging cultivation practices
- improve soil health and carbon storage

### Where you can do this action

You must get written approval ('endorsement') before you can include this action in your SFI agreement. Read [section 1.2 'SFI actions which require endorsement'](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to get endorsement.

You can do this action on agricultural land located above or below the moorland line that's:

- identified as containing a scheduled monument on your SFI Historic Environment Farm Environment Record (SFI HEFER) – you must get an SFI HEFER before you apply for this action (read 'eligibility of protected land' for more information)
- endorsed as being suitable for this action – read 'suitable land for this action's endorsement'

- an eligible land type (as defined in [section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI'](#) in the SFI scheme information)
- registered with an eligible land cover on your digital maps
- declared with a [land use code](#) which is compatible with the eligible land cover

## Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Arable land used to grow crops	Arable land	Land use codes for <a href="#">arable crops</a> or <a href="#">leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops</a>
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01
Horticultural permanent crops *	Permanent crops	TC01

\*this land type is only eligible on the available area in a land parcel which does not contain the scheduled monument – read ‘available area you can enter’

## Suitable land for this action’s endorsement

The required endorsement for this action will be done by a Historic England adviser.

To endorse this action, the Historic England adviser will check that the land you want to do the action on:

- contains a suitable scheduled monument where archaeological earthworks are not known to survive – the adviser will identify any archaeological earthworks, as they’re not identified on your SFI HEFER
- has been cultivated historically – either because cultivation is already permitted under an existing scheduled monument consent, or it’s covered by class consent

The Historic England adviser:

- may contact you to visit your land to endorse this action
- will provide you with a written endorsement if they endorse your land as being suitable for this action
- will tell you if your land is not suitable, so they cannot endorse this action for your SFI agreement

## Eligibility of protected land

Sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs): Eligible – you must get SSSI consent before you do this action (read [section 10.3 ‘SSSI consent’](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to do this).

Historic and archaeological features: Eligible, if it’s a scheduled monument where archaeological earthworks are not known to survive. You must get an SFI HEFER

before you apply for this action (read [section 5.6 'Land with historic or archaeological features'](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to do this)

### **Available area you can enter into this action**

Total or part of the available area in a land parcel.

You must include the area that contains the scheduled monument. If that's only part of the available area in a land parcel, you can enter the total available area.

### **Rotational or static action**

This action is static. This means you must do it at the same location each year of this action's duration.

### **What to do**

You must manage the land entered into this action in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim.

To do this, you must use min-till equipment to carry out all field operations to a depth that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim. This must not be more than 15 centimetres (cm) deep.

For the purposes of this action, 'field operations' include:

- tillage
- soil management
- planting
- harvesting

You must not do the following on the area entered into this action:

- grow maize, lucerne, root and tuber crops (excluding non-harvestable root crops, such as grazed fodder beet and forage turnips), short rotation coppice or miscanthus
- carry out drainage works, including modifying existing drainage, unless you've got scheduled monument consent from Historic England before the work starts (read [section 10.1 'Scheduled monument consent'](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to do this)
- locate vehicle or stock access routes within around 6 metres (m) of the scheduled monument (existing surfaced tracks can be used)

### **When to do it**

You must do this action each year of its 3-year duration.

### **How to do it**



It's up to you how you do this action, as long as you:

- follow this action's requirements – these are identified by a 'must'
- do the action in a way that could reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim

You may find it helpful to read the 'advice to help you do this action', but it's not part of this action's requirements.

## 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 and 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.

## Other actions or options you can do on the same area as this action

To follow.

## Advice to help you do this action

To follow.

## HEF7: Restrict cultivation depths and grow cover crops on scheduled monuments (endorsed)

### Duration

3 years

### How much you'll be paid

£257 per hectare (ha) per year

### Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's land containing a scheduled monument with:

- no evidence of freshly disturbed subsoil or archaeological remains, because cultivation has been done to a restricted depth
- minimal soil erosion
- at least once during this action's duration, a well-established cover crop over the winter months until the following summer

The purpose of this is to:

- protect scheduled monuments from damaging cultivation practices
- improve soil health and carbon storage

### Where you can do this action

You must get written approval ('endorsement') before you can include this action in your SFI agreement. Read [section 1.2 'SFI actions which require endorsement'](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to get endorsement.

You can do this action on agricultural land located above or below the moorland line that's:

- identified as containing a scheduled monument on your SFI Historic Environment Farm Environment Record (SFI HEFER) – you must get an SFI HEFER before you apply for this action (read 'eligibility of protected land' for more information)
- endorsed as being suitable for this action – read 'suitable land for this action's endorsement'
- not identified by you as being at risk of soil erosion of runoff – you must keep evidence of this
- an eligible land type (as defined in [section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI'](#) in the SFI scheme information)
- registered with an eligible land cover on your digital maps

- declared with a [land use code](#) which is compatible with the eligible land cover

## Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Arable land used to grow crops	Arable land	Land use codes for <a href="#">arable crops</a> or <a href="#">leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops</a>
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01
Horticultural permanent crops*	Permanent crops	TC01

\*this land type is only eligible on the available area in a land parcel which does not contain the scheduled monument – read ‘available area you can enter’

## Suitable land for this action’s endorsement

The required endorsement for this action will be done by a Historic England adviser.

To endorse this action, the Historic England adviser will check that the land you want to do the action on:

- contains a suitable scheduled monument (which can have surviving archaeological earthworks, as identified by the adviser as they’re not identified on your SFI HEFER)
- has been cultivated historically – either because cultivation is already permitted under an existing scheduled monument consent, or it’s covered by class consent

The Historic England adviser:

- may contact you to visit your land to endorse this action
- will provide you with a written endorsement if they endorse your land as being suitable for this action
- will tell you if your land is not suitable, so they cannot endorse this action for your SFI agreement

## Eligibility of protected land

Sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs): Eligible – you must get SSSI consent before you do this action (read [section 10.3 ‘SSSI consent’](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to do this).

Historic and archaeological features: Eligible, if it’s a scheduled monument – you must get an SFI HEFER before you apply for this action (read [section 5.6 ‘Land](#)

[with historic or archaeological features](#)' in the SFI scheme information to find out how to do this).

### **Available area you can enter into this action**

Total or part of the available area in a land parcel.

You must include the area that contains the scheduled monument. If that's only part of the available area in a land parcel, you can enter the total available area.

### **Rotational or static action**

This action is static. This means you must do it at the same location each year of this action's duration.

### **What to do**

You must manage the land entered into this action in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim. To do this, you must carry out the following activities.

You must carry out all field operations to a depth that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim. This must not be more than 15 centimetres (cm) deep.

On scheduled monuments where archaeological earthworks survive (as identified by the Historic England adviser), you must use either:

- a no-tillage ('no-till') direct drill
- broadcasting equipment

For the purposes of this action, 'field operations' include:

- tillage
- soil management
- planting
- harvesting

At least once during this action's 3-year duration you must:

- establish a quick-growing cover crop in the autumn – you must avoid growing deep rooted species which could damage the scheduled monument
- maintain the cover crop until around the end of July in the following year

For the purposes of this action's aim, the cover crop will be 'well-established' if there's:

- leafy vegetation that's sufficiently well grown to protect the soil surface
- minimal bare soil

You must not do the following on the area entered into this action:

- grow maize, lucerne, root and tuber crops (excluding non-harvestable root crops, such as grazed fodder beet and forage turnips), short rotation coppice or miscanthus
- use equipment trains that are longer than 6 metres (m)
- carry out drainage works, including modifying existing drainage, unless you've got scheduled monument consent from Historic England before the work starts (read [section 10.1 'Scheduled monument consent'](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to do this)
- locate vehicle or stock access routes within around 6m of the scheduled monument (existing surfaced tracks can be used)

## When to do it

You must do this action each year of its 3-year duration.

## How to do it

It's up to you how you do this action, as long as you:

- follow this action's requirements – these are identified by a 'must'
- do the action in a way that could reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim

You may find it helpful to read the 'advice to help you do this action', but it's not part of this action's requirements.

## Evidence to keep

You must keep written evidence that land entered into this action is not at risk of soil erosion or surface runoff. You can use the soil management plan produced for CSAM1 or SAM1 to identify this.

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

- field operations at a land parcel level and associated invoices, including details of the cover crop seed mix used
- photographs and 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.

## Other actions or options you can do on the same area as this action

To follow.

Advice to help you do this action

To follow.

# SFI actions for wood pasture and parkland

## WOD1: Manage wood pasture and parkland (endorsed)

### Duration

3 years

### How much you'll be paid

£212 per hectare (ha) per year

### Action's aim

This action's aim is that, throughout the year, there's managed wood pasture or parkland with:

- a mosaic of grassland vegetation and trees, as appropriate for your type of wood pasture or parkland and its location
- a variety of sward heights, with areas of shorter and longer grass and some tussocky grass allowed to develop
- some wildflowers, sedges and grasses allowed to flower and set seed in the spring and summer
- some flower, sedge and grass seed heads left undisturbed during the autumn and winter months
- appropriate scrub cover for your type of wood pasture or parkland
- a range of open-grown or pollarded trees of varying ages, including mature or veteran trees and newly planted trees, as appropriate for your type of wood pasture or parkland
- any standing, attached and fallen deadwood left undisturbed
- any historic and parkland water features maintained with their existing water regime and minimal scrub on the margins around the features
- any historic or archaeological features protected from damage

The purpose of this is to:

- provide enough trees at each life stage to become future veteran trees, including trees of the same species and form
- provide habitat which offers sources of food and shelter for wildlife, such as invertebrates and birds
- provide grassland or heathland habitat within wood pasture
- maintain designed landscape features in historic parkland

## Where you can do this action

You must get written approval ('endorsement') before you can include this action in your SFI agreement. Read [section 1.2 'SFI actions which require endorsement'](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to get endorsement.

You can do this action on agricultural land located above or below the moorland line that's:

- endorsed as being suitable for this action – read 'suitable land for this action's endorsement'
- an eligible land type (as defined in [section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI'](#) in the SFI scheme information)
- registered with an eligible land cover on your digital maps
- declared with a [land use code](#) which is compatible with the eligible land cover

### Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Wood pasture and parkland	Permanent grassland	PG01
	Woodland*	WO12
	Scrub	WO25

\*this land cover is only eligible if the Forestry Commission confirms the area is suitable for this action as part of this action's endorsement

### Suitable land for this action's endorsement

The required endorsement for this action will be done by an 'endorsing adviser'. They will be either:

- a Natural England adviser
- an adviser approved by Natural England to act on their behalf

To endorse this action, the endorsing adviser will check that the land you want to do the action on is either:

- existing wood pasture or parkland that's in good condition (as assessed by the adviser) – this can include recreational parkland if it's part of the farmed environment
- already [priority habitat wood pasture or parkland](#) – it does not need to be mapped on the Priority Habitat Inventory (PHI)



If you're intending to do this action on wood pasture or parkland that has a woodland 'land cover' (WO12), the endorsing adviser will ask the Forestry Commission to assess if your land is suitable for this action.

The endorsing adviser:

- may contact you to visit your land to endorse this action
- will provide you with a written endorsement if they endorse your land as being suitable for this action
- will tell you if your land is not suitable, so they cannot endorse this action for your SFI agreement

### **Eligibility of protected land**

Sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs): Eligible – you must get SSSI consent before you do this action (read [section 10.3 'SSSI consent'](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to do this).

Historic and archaeological features: Eligible – you must get an SFI HEFER before you do this action (read [section 5.6 'Land with historic or archaeological features'](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to do this).

### **Available area you can enter into this action**

Total or part of the available area in a land parcel.

### **Rotational or static action**

This action is static. This means you must do it at the same location each year of this action's duration.

### **What to do**

You must manage the land entered into this action in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim.

To do this, you must do the following activities, as relevant to your type of wood pasture or parkland and its location.

To manage the sward, you must:

- graze it with livestock or cut it (or a combination of both) in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim on your type of wood pasture or parkland – read the 'advice to help you do this action' to find out what's appropriate
- make sure there's an intact sward throughout the year, without compacted areas or poaching
- minimise bare ground, so the soil is covered by vegetation and is not directly exposed to the elements

- manage scrub on the area in each land parcel entered into this action in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim – read the 'advice to help you do this' to find out what's appropriate

To manage the trees, you must:

- maintain existing and newly planted trees (including replacing any that fail to establish) in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim on your type of wood pasture or parkland – read the 'advice to help you do this action' to find out what's appropriate
- protect the trees (including [veteran and ancient trees](#) and their rootstocks) from avoidable harm, including by machinery and grazing livestock and pests, such as deer and rabbits
- leave any standing, attached and fallen deadwood in place, unless it poses a risk to human safety (read the 'advice to help you do this action' for more information)

To manage historic or archaeological features, you must:

- maintain a continuous sward over them, with minimal scrub and bare ground – if you cut the sward, you must avoid damaging the features
- maintain historic and parkland water features (such as ponds and wet areas) in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim – this includes minimising scrub on the margins around the features by grazing or cutting
- maintain an undisturbed buffer strip adjacent to the edge of historic features, such as parkland fences, railings or historic boundaries
- carry out any maintenance works and minor repairs on structural historic or archaeological features on a 'like for like' basis to keep the character of the feature in its local setting

You must not do the following on the area entered into this action:

- plough, cultivate, harrow, roll or reseed
- carry out supplementary feeding
- apply any fertilisers, manures or lime
- apply pesticides, except for herbicides to weed wipe or spot treat to control [injurious weeds](#), [invasive non-native species](#), or nettles
- apply herbicides within the root protection area of trees – read the 'advice to help you do this action' for more information on root protection areas
- alter the depth, shape, profile and design of existing built water bodies and associated engineering
- pull or burn scrub or remove stumps
- burn cut material
- plant trees, or allow natural regeneration, on or near sensitive features, such as species-rich grassland and historic or archaeological features

- carry out drainage works, including modifying existing drainage

## When to do it

You must do this action each year of its 3-year duration.

## How to do it

It's up to you how you do this action, as long as you:

- follow this action's requirements – these are identified by a 'must'
- do the action in a way that could reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim

You may find it helpful to read the 'advice to help you do this action', but it's not part of this action's requirements.

## 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 and other documentation, including photographs of before and after maintenance works and minor repairs that you've carried out

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.

## Other actions or options you can do on the same area as this action

To follow.

## Advice to help you do this action

To follow.

# SFI actions for orchards

## ORH1: Manage traditional orchards (endorsed)

### Duration

3 years

### How much you'll be paid

£264 per hectare (ha) per year

### Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's a traditional orchard with:

- a range of healthy young and mature fruit or nut trees, pruned to maintain their characteristic tree form
- any standing, attached and fallen deadwood left undisturbed
- a grass sward between the trees, with suitable sward heights and structure
- some wildflowers, sedges and grasses allowed to flower and set seed in the spring and summer
- some flower, sedge and grass seed heads left undisturbed during the autumn and winter months
- appropriate scrub cover throughout the year for the wildlife in the traditional orchard
- any existing wet areas and ponds retained
- any historic or archaeological features protected from damage

The purpose of this is to:

- provide habitat for invertebrates and birds
- increase species diversity
- maintain landscape character

### Where you can do this action

You must get written approval ('endorsement') before you can include this action in your SFI agreement. Read [section 1.2 'SFI actions which require endorsement'](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to get endorsement.

You can do this action on agricultural land located above or below the moorland line that's:

- endorsed as being suitable for this action – read 'suitable land for this action's endorsement'

- an eligible land type (as defined in [section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI'](#) in the SFI scheme information)
- registered with an eligible land cover on your digital maps
- declared with a [land use code](#) which is compatible with the eligible land cover

## Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Permanent grassland*	Permanent grassland	PG01
Horticultural permanent crops*	Permanent crops	TC01

\*these land types are only eligible if there's a traditional orchard (read 'suitable land for this action's endorsement' to find out what this means)

## Suitable land for this action's endorsement

The required endorsement for this action will be done by an endorsing adviser. They will be either:

- a Natural England adviser
- an adviser approved by Natural England to act on their behalf

To endorse this action, the endorsing adviser will check that the land you want to do the action on is:

- a traditional orchard, with at least one-third of the original plantings occupied by trees over 10 years old
- already [priority habitat traditional orchard](#) or the Natural England adviser confirms will be mapped on the Priority Habitat Inventory (PHI)

For the purposes of this action, a 'traditional orchard' means groups of fruit or nut trees which are both:

- from at least one of the eligible species
- grown on vigorous rootstocks in permanent grassland

The 'eligible species' for this action include:

- apple
- pear
- cherry
- plum

- damson
- cobnut (a variety of hazelnut)
- walnut

The endorsing adviser:

- may contact you to visit your land to endorse this action
- will provide you with a written endorsement if they endorse your land as being suitable for this action
- will tell you if your land is not suitable, so they cannot endorse this action for your SFI agreement

### **Eligibility of protected land**

Sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs): Eligible – you must get SSSI consent before you do this action (read [section 10.3 ‘SSSI consent’](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to do this).

Historic and archaeological features: Eligible – you must get an SFI HEFER before you do this action (read [section 5.6 ‘Land with historic or archaeological features’](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to do this).

### **Available area you can enter into this action**

Total or part of the available area in a land parcel.

### **Rotational or static action**

This action is static. This means you must do it at the same location each year of this action’s duration.

### **What to do**

You must manage the land entered into this action in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action’s aim. To do this, you must do the following activities.

You must record the location, age range and species of trees in the orchard (the ‘existing trees’) as at this action’s start date on a map. You can record this on paper or digitally.

To manage the trees, you must:

- maintain the existing trees and, if necessary, fill in any gaps by planting ‘traditional orchard’ trees (as described under ‘how endorsement works for this action’) – you can [apply for TE3: Planting fruit trees](#) under Capital Grants to help you do this

- protect them from avoidable damage which may impact on tree survival and growth, including damage caused by grazing livestock and pests, such as deer and rabbits
- manage tree guards, so they do not damage growing trees
- keep the area around the base of establishing trees (usually the first 3 years after planting) clear of vegetation – this area will usually be around 1 metre diameter to minimise the impact on tree survival and growth
- formatively prune new trees (up to 20 years old) – this is to help create a strong branch framework and healthy young trees
- maintenance prune and shape established trees (more than 20 years old) in a way and at a time that's appropriate for your tree species – read the 'advice to help you do this action' to find out what's appropriate
- leave any standing, attached and fallen deadwood in place, unless it poses a risk to human safety (read the 'advice to help you do this action' for more information)

You can [apply for TE18: Restorative pruning of traditional orchard trees] under Capital Grants to carry out restorative pruning of unmanaged, mature trees.

To manage the sward, you must:

- cut it or graze it with livestock (or a combination of both) in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim - read the 'advice to help you do this action' to find out which sward heights and structure are suitable
- manage scrub on the area in each land parcel in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim – read the 'advice to help you do this action' to find out what's appropriate for the wildlife in your traditional orchard
- maintain a continuous sward over any historic or archaeological features, with minimal scrub, bracken and bare ground

You must not do the following on the area entered into this action:

- plough, cultivate, harrow, roll or reseed
- apply any fertilisers, manures or lime to established grass swards
- apply pesticides, except for herbicides to weed wipe or spot treat to control [injurious weeds](#), [invasive non-native species](#) or nettles
- carry out supplementary feeding
- carry out drainage works, including modifying existing drainage
- damage any historic or archaeological features

## When to do it

You must do this action each year of its 3-year duration.

## How to do it

It's up to you how you do this action, as long as you:

- follow this action's requirements – these are identified by a 'must'
- do the action in a way that could reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim

You may find it helpful to read the 'advice to help you do this action', but it's not part of this action's requirements.

## Evidence to keep

You must keep the required map which shows the location, age range and species of trees in the orchard (the 'existing trees') as at this action's start date.

You must also 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 and 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.

## Other actions or options you can do on the same area as this action

To follow.

## Advice to help you do this action

To follow.



# SFI actions for coastal habitats

## COH1: Manage coastal saltmarsh (endorsed)

### Duration

5 years

### How much you'll be paid

£483 per hectare (ha) per year

### Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's saltmarsh with:

- a mosaic of habitats and bare ground allowed to develop
- saltmarsh plant species which are typical for your saltmarsh's location

The purpose of this is to:

- protect the early development of saltmarsh by allowing the natural establishment of typical saltmarsh species
- expand the extent of priority habitat coastal saltmarsh
- increase resilience of the habitat and wider coastal system to the impacts of climate change

### Where you can do this action

You must get written approval ('endorsement') before you can include this action in your SFI agreement. Read [section 1.2 'SFI actions which require endorsement'](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to get endorsement.

You can do this action on land located below the moorland line that's:

- endorsed as being suitable for this action – read 'suitable land for this action's endorsement'
- an eligible land type (as defined in [section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI'](#) in the SFI scheme information)
- registered with an eligible land cover on your digital maps
- declared with a [land use code](#) which is compatible with the eligible land cover

## Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Coastal saltmarsh	Saline habitats	MW05
	Salt marsh – ungrazeable	MW01

## Suitable land for this action's endorsement

The required endorsement for this action will be done by an 'endorsing adviser'. They will be either:

- a Natural England adviser
- an adviser approved by Natural England to act on their behalf

To endorse this action, the endorsing adviser will check that the land you want to do the action on is:

- already [priority habitat saltmarsh](#) - it does not need to be mapped on the Priority Habitat Inventory (PHI)
- in 'favourable' or 'unfavourable recovering' condition if the saltmarsh is a site of special scientific interest (SSSI) - read the guidance on [SSSI condition and assessment](#) for more information

For the purposes of this action, 'saltmarsh' includes areas which are both:

- below the mean high water spring tide mark, with no vegetation management or grazing
- frequently covered by the tide

The endorsing adviser may allow you to do this action on existing saltmarsh above the mean high water spring tide where vegetation management is:

- not possible – for example, because there's no local grazing livestock
- not needed for good condition

The endorsing adviser:

- may contact you to visit your land to endorse this action
- will provide you with a written endorsement if they endorse your land as being suitable for this action
- will tell you if your land is not suitable, so they cannot endorse this action for your SFI agreement

## Eligibility of protected land

Sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs): Eligible – you must get SSSI consent before you do this action (read [section 10.3 ‘SSSI consent’](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to do this).

Historic and archaeological features: Eligible – you must get an SFI HEFER before you do this action (read [section 5.6 ‘Land with historic or archaeological features’](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to do this).

### **Available area you can enter into this action**

Total or part of the available area in a land parcel.

### **Rotational or static action**

This action is static. This means you must do it at the same location each year of this action’s duration.

### **What to do**

You must manage the land entered into this action in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action’s aim. To do this, you must:

- allow natural coastal changes, such as changes due to storms
- prevent damage to the saltmarsh from access routes or recreational activities occurring on the land
- remove tidal deposits of man-made litter as regularly as possible using hand tools
- leave organic material, such as seaweed and driftwood if washed on to the area
- protect any historic or archaeological features from damage

You must not do the following on the area entered into this action:

- allow any activity which could harm the vegetation in a way that means this action’s aim cannot reasonably be achieved
- manage the vegetation or graze it with livestock
- alter the existing pattern of creek systems by removing, blocking, straightening or widening channels
- create any new channels, modify or remove any sea defences
- allow vehicular access
- apply any fertilisers, organic manures or waste materials
- apply pesticides, except for herbicides to weed wipe or spot treat to manage [injurious weeds](#), nettles, scrub and [invasive non-native species](#)
- plough, cultivate, reseed, roll or harrow
- cut or remove any surface material including turf or plants
- dispose of any organic or inorganic material on any part of the site

## When to do it

You must do this action each year of its 5-year duration.

## How to do it

It's up to you how you do this action, as long as you:

- follow this action's requirements – these are identified by a 'must'
- do the action in a way that could reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim

You may find it helpful to read the 'advice to help you do this action', but it's not part of this action's requirements.

## 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 and 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.

## Other actions or options you can do on the same area as this action

To follow.

## Advice to help you do this action

To follow.

## COH2: Manage coastal sand dunes (endorsed)

### Duration

5 years

### How much you'll be paid

£620 per hectare (ha) per year

### Action's aim

This action's aim is that there are coastal sand dunes with:

- a mosaic of open habitats, diverse vegetation, and sand dune plant species typical for the location
- natural movement of sand within the habitats and across the coastline
- appropriate scrub cover for your coastal sand dune

The purpose of this is to:

- allow natural changes to the coast to occur freely
- maintain diverse sand dune flora, naturally creating opportunities for specialist sand dune flora to establish
- increase resilience of the habitat and wider coastal system to the impacts of climate change

### Where you can do this action

You must get written approval ('endorsement') before you can include this action in your SFI agreement. Read [section 1.2 'SFI actions which require endorsement'](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to get endorsement.

You can do this action on land located below the moorland line that's:

- endorsed as being suitable for this action – read 'suitable land for this action's endorsement'
- an eligible land type (as defined in [section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI'](#) in the SFI scheme information)
- registered with an eligible land cover on your digital maps
- declared with a [land use code](#) which is compatible with the eligible land cover

### Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
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Coastal sand dunes	Sand dunes	CF03
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## Suitable land for this action's endorsement

The required endorsement for this action will be done by an 'endorsing adviser'  
They will be either:

- a Natural England adviser
- an adviser approved by Natural England to act on their behalf

To endorse this action, the endorsing adviser will check that the land you want to do the action on is both:

- already [priority habitat coastal sand dunes](#) (it does not need to be mapped on the Priority Habitat Inventory (PHI))
- a site of special scientific interest (SSSI) that's in 'favourable' or 'unfavourable recovering' condition - read the guidance on [SSSI condition and assessment](#) for more information

The endorsing adviser:

- may contact you to visit your land to endorse this action
- will provide you with a written endorsement if they endorse your land as being suitable for this action
- will tell you if your land is not suitable, so they cannot endorse this action for your SFI agreement

## Eligibility of protected land

Sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs): Eligible, if it's in 'favourable' or 'unfavourable recovering' condition – you must get SSSI consent before you do this action (read [section 10.3 'SSSI consent'](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to do this).

Historic and archaeological features: Eligible – you must get an SFI HEFER before you do this action (read [section 5.6 'Land with historic or archaeological features'](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to do this).

## Available area you can enter into this action

Total or part of the available area in a land parcel.

## Rotational or static action

This action is static. This means you must do it at the same location each year of this action's duration.

## What to do

You must manage the land entered into this action in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim. To do this, you must:

- cut or graze the area in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim
- allow natural movement of sand, such as changes due to storms or windblow (deposits of windblown sand)
- remove tidal deposits of man-made litter as regularly as possible using hand tools
- manage [invasive non-native species](#), to minimise their cover within each land parcel entered into this action
- manage any scrub on the area in each land parcel entered into this action in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim – read the 'advice to help you do this action' to find out what scrub cover is appropriate
- protect any historic or archaeological features from damage
- only allow vehicular access on existing routes – this is to protect the sand dunes

You must not do the following on the area entered into this action:

- modify or remove any sea defences or water inlet or outlet systems
- change how water moves or is stored
- bring in new sand or artificially alter the sand dunes in any way
- plough, cultivate, reseed, roll or harrow
- apply fertilisers, organic manures or waste materials
- carry out supplementary feeding
- apply pesticides, except for herbicides to weed wipe or spot treat to manage [injurious weeds](#), nettles, scrub and [invasive non-native species](#)
- create new tracks or pathways

## When to do it

You must do this action each year of its 5-year duration.

## How to do it

It's up to you how you do this action, as long as you:

- follow this action's requirements – these are identified by a 'must'
- do the action in a way that could reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim

You may find it helpful to read the 'advice to help you do this action', but it's not part of this action's requirements.

## 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 and 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.

## Other actions or options you can do on the same area as this action

To follow.

## Advice to help you do this action

To follow.



## COH3: Manage coastal vegetated shingle (endorsed)

### Duration

5 years

### How much you'll be paid

£583 per hectare (ha) per year

### Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's coastal vegetated shingle with:

- a mosaic of open habitats, diverse vegetation, and coastal plant species typical for the location
- natural movement of shingle within the habitats and across the coastline

The purpose of this is to:

- allow natural changes to the coast to occur freely
- provide suitable conditions for diverse shingle flora to naturally establish
- increase resilience of the habitat and wider coastal system to the impacts of climate change

### Where you can do this action

You must get written approval ('endorsement') before you can include this action in your SFI agreement. Read [section 1.2 'SFI actions which require endorsement'](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to get endorsement.

You can do this action on land located below the moorland line that's:

- endorsed as being suitable for this action – read 'suitable land for this action's endorsement'
- an eligible land type (as defined in [section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI'](#) in the SFI scheme information)
- registered with an eligible land cover on your digital maps
- declared with a [land use code](#) which is compatible with the eligible land cover

The following are not eligible for this action:

- shingle that does not have any vegetation or typical coastal plant species
- land that's historically had shingle features, but where the land type has changed over time

## Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Coastal vegetated shingle	Vegetated shingle	CF02

## Suitable land for this action's endorsement

The required endorsement for this action will be done by an 'endorsing adviser'. They will be either:

- a Natural England adviser
- an adviser approved by Natural England to act on their behalf

To endorse this action, the endorsing adviser will check that the land you want to do the action on is both:

- already [priority habitat vegetated shingle](#), with typical coastal plant species (it does not need to be mapped on the Priority Habitat Inventory (PHI))
- a site of special scientific interest (SSSI) that's in 'favourable' or 'unfavourable recovering' condition - read the guidance on [SSSI condition and assessment](#) for more information

The endorsing adviser:

- may contact you to visit your land to endorse this action
- will provide you with a written endorsement if they endorse your land as being suitable for this action
- will tell you if your land is not suitable, so they cannot endorse this action for your SFI agreement

## Eligibility of protected land

Sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs): Eligible, if it's in 'favourable' or 'unfavourable recovering' condition – you must get SSSI consent before you do this action (read [section 10.3 'SSSI consent'](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to do this).

Historic and archaeological features: Eligible – you must get an SFI HEFER before you do this action (read [section 5.6 'Land with historic or archaeological features'](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to do this).

## Available area you can enter into this action

Total or part of the available area in a land parcel.

## Rotational or static action

This action is static. This means you must do it at the same location each year of this action's duration.

## What to do

You must manage the land entered into this action in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim. To do this, you must:

- allow vegetation to develop naturally, with areas of bare and vegetated shingle
- allow natural movement of shingle
- remove tidal deposits of man-made litter as regularly as possible using hand tools
- manage scrub to keep its cover on the area minimal
- protect any historic or archaeological features from damage
- only allow vehicular access on existing routes

You must not do the following on the area entered into this action:

- modify or remove any sea defences or water inlet or outlet systems
- change how water moves or is stored
- bring in new shingle or artificially alter the shape of the shingle in any way
- plough, cultivate, reseed, roll or harrow
- apply fertilisers, organic manures or waste materials
- carry out supplementary feeding
- apply pesticides, except for herbicides to weed wipe or spot treat to manage [injurious weeds](#), nettles, scrub and [invasive non-native species](#)
- create new tracks or pathways

## When to do it

You must do this action each year of its 5-year duration.

## How to do it

It's up to you how you do this action, as long as you:

- follow this action's requirements – these are identified by a 'must'
- do the action in a way that could reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim

You may find it helpful to read the 'advice to help you do this action', but it's not part of this action's requirements.

## 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 and 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.

Other actions or options you can do on the same area as this action

To follow.

Advice to help you do this action

To follow.

## SFI actions for waterbodies

### WBD10: Manage ditches of high environmental value (endorsed)

#### Duration

5 years

#### How much you'll be paid

£38 per 100 metres (m) for both sides per year

#### Action's aim

This action's aim is that there are ditches with:

- varied bankside and aquatic vegetation
- undisturbed wildlife habitat
- minimal overhanging vegetation (unless the ditch is next to woodland)
- appropriate water levels to support your type of wet grassland

The purpose of this is to:

- support the provision of suitable habitat on wet grassland for priority breeding and wintering waders and wildfowl
- improve the biodiversity of the ditch and adjacent land parcels

#### Where you can do this action

You must get written approval ('endorsement') before you can include this action in your SFI agreement. Read [section 1.2 'SFI actions which require endorsement'](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to get endorsement.

You can do this action on a ditch that:

- is endorsed as being suitable for this action – read 'suitable ditches for this action's endorsement'
- forms part of the boundary of a land parcel that's located below the moorland line
- is a man-made, long and narrow linear channel that's cut into the ground for the purpose of draining the land or managing water levels
- has vegetated banks
- contains standing or flowing water

You can only do this action on both sides of the entire length of the ditch you enter into this action (you can choose what length to enter).

This usually means you must have management control of both sides of the ditch. However, if the ditch borders a neighbour's land, you can enter both sides of the ditch if you meet both of the following conditions:

- you have a legal right or obligation to manage the ditch
- you can meet this action's requirements and do the action in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim

You cannot do this action on ditches managed by third parties, such as [Internal Drainage Boards](#).

The following features are not eligible for this action:

- ditches located in a severely disadvantaged area (SDA) below the moorland line
- culverts or underground drains
- natural watercourses, such as streams
- non-linear water features, such as ponds, lakes or reservoirs
- grips, gutters and foot drains

### **Suitable ditches for this action's endorsement**

The required endorsement for this action will be done by an 'endorsing adviser'. They will be either:

- a Natural England adviser
- an adviser approved by Natural England to act on their behalf

To endorse this action, the endorsing adviser will check that the ditch you want to do the action on:

- is next to, feeds into or away from land parcels entered into GRH2 (manage wet grassland for breeding waders) or GRH3 (manage wet grassland for wintering waders and wildfowl)
- is of high environmental value

For the purposes of this action, 'high environmental value' means the ditch either:

- already supports or will support priority species of plants, fish, mammals and invertebrates
- is essential for you to manage water levels on wet grassland entered into GRH2 (manage wet grassland for breeding birds) or GRH3 (manage wet grassland for wintering waders and wildfowl)

The land entered into GRH2 or GRH3 can be in:

- the same SFI agreement as this action
- a separate SFI agreement which started before this action, provided both SFI agreements are held by the same agreement holder (Single Business Identifier (SBI))

The endorsing adviser:

- may contact you to visit your land to endorse this action
- will provide you with a written endorsement if they endorse your land as being suitable for this action
- will tell you if your land is not suitable, so they cannot endorse this action for your SFI agreement

### **Eligibility of protected land**

Sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs): Eligible – you must get SSSI consent before you do this action (read [section 10.3 'SSSI consent'](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to do this).

Historic and archaeological features: Eligible – you must get an SFI HEFER before you do this action (read [section 5.6 'Land with historic or archaeological features'](#) in the SFI scheme information to find out how to do this).

### **Available area you can enter into this action**

Not applicable, as this is a linear action. You'll enter the length (m).

### **Rotational or static action**

This action is static. This means you must do it at the same location each year of this action's duration.

### **What to do**

You must manage the ditch entered into this action in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim.

You must carry out in-channel ditch management activities (removing vegetation and silt from the ditch channel):

- on a suitable rotation to support management of your type of ditch habitat – read the 'advice to help you do this action' to find out what's suitable for different types of ditch habitat on different soil types
- in the autumn, winter and early spring (usually September to late March) to avoid disturbing ditch habitats and associated wildlife – for the purposes of this action this is the 'ditch management season'

When you carry out in-channel ditch management activities, you must:

- leave one side of the ditch channel, or sections of the ditch channel, unmanaged during any one ditch management season – this is to provide a refuge for species to recolonise the ditch
- spread vegetation and silt removed from the ditch thinly on land next to the ditch
- where vegetation within the ditch channel is removed by cutting, cut above the base of the ditch leaving the roots in the base

After you've carried out any in-channel ditch management activities, you must allow bankside vegetation to regenerate naturally. If necessary, you can top bankside vegetation to control injurious weeds and re-establish the sward.

You must also:

- graze or cut vegetation at the top of the ditch bank, so the ditch is largely open and unshaded by scrub, trees and tall vegetation (except next to woodland)
- maintain ditch water levels to a suitable depth for the location of your ditch and the habitats which are next to it – read the 'advice to help you do this action' to find out what's suitable for your type of wet grassland

You must not:

- re-profile or increase the width or depth of the ditch
- use the silt or vegetation you've removed from the ditch to fill hollows or low-lying areas in the adjacent land parcel
- spread the silt or vegetation you've removed from the ditch on land with historic or archaeological features

## When to do it

You must do this action each year of its 5-year duration.

## How to do it

It's up to you how you do this action, as long as you:

- follow this action's requirements – these are identified by a 'must'
- do the action in a way that could reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim

You may find it helpful to read the 'advice to help you do this action', but it's not part of this action's requirements.

## 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 and 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.

## Other actions or options you can do on the same area as this action

To follow.

## Advice to help you do this action

To follow.