

Expanded Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) offer from summer 2024

SFI actions (v1.1b – August 2024)

The SFI expanded offer for 2024 (SFI 2024) re-opened for applications from certain eligible applicants, who the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) wrote to. For all other farmers and land managers, SFI remains closed for applications.

Please read the Written Ministerial Statement (<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2025-05-12/hcws626>) on the UK Parliament website for more information. This document contains all of the SFI actions in the re-opened SFI 2024 offer. Each SFI action is also set out in the 'Find funding for land or farms' (<https://www.gov.uk/find-funding-for-land-or-farms>) tool.

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SFI actions for soil health

CSAM1: Assess soil, produce a soil management plan and test soil organic matter

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£6 per hectare (ha) per year and £97 per SFI agreement per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that you:

- understand the condition of your soil
- effectively plan how to increase the long-term health, productivity, and resilience of your soil

Where you can do this action

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

- 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

For land above the moorland line, you can do CMOR1 to complete a survey to identify, assess and record the soil, vegetation and historic and archaeological features.

Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Arable land used to grow crops	Arable land	Land use codes for arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01
Permanent grassland – improved and low input	Permanent grassland	PG01

Permanent crops – horticultural and non-horticultural	Permanent crops	Land use codes for permanent crops
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Eligibility of protected land

Sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs): Eligible – you do not need to get SSSI consent for this action.

Historic and archaeological features: Eligible – you must get a 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 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:

- assess the soil for all the land parcels entered into this action and produce a written soil management plan which covers that land
- test the soil organic matter (SOM) on all the land parcels entered into this action within the last 5 years

You can use the following to get paid for this action:

- an existing soil management plan that was written in the last 12 months, informed by a soil assessment
- existing SOM test results that are not more than 5 years old

To test the SOM for small land parcels, you can combine them into a single sample area if the soil type and past management is similar. This means you can take soil from each land parcel and combine it into a single sample to test the SOM.

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

To help improve national data on the condition of England's soils, DEFRA or the RPA may ask you to provide some information about your soil assessment and SOM testing results during this action's 3-year duration.

This data is one of the public goods that this action is paying for and part of wider government measures in relation to our soils policy and strategy. We'll publish guidance on GOV.UK about what information is needed and how to supply it.

When to do it

For the soil assessment and soil management plan, you must:

- complete the soil assessment and produce the written soil management plan within 12 months of this action's start date
- review the soil management plan in each subsequent year of this action's 3-year duration, adding any new soil analyses

For the SOM testing, each year of this action's 3-year duration you must:

- make sure you've tested the SOM on all the land parcels entered into this action within the last 5 years
- retest that land if your existing SOM test results reach 5 years old

If the timing meets the requirements above, you can do the SOM testing at the same time as your other routine soil testing required in the farming rules for water.

If you enter land into this action which has not been tested for SOM within the last 5 years, you should try to do the SOM testing on that land during the first 12 months of your SFI agreement.

If the laboratory that tests your soil samples does not have capacity to do the tests during the first 12 months of this action's duration, you must:

- get the tests done as soon as possible
- make sure you've tested the SOM on all of these land parcels within the last 5 years by the end of your SFI agreement
- keep evidence of why it was not possible to complete the tests in the first 12 months, so you can provide it to us if we ask for it

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 written record of your soil management plan, including your soil assessment
- the SOM test results

You must supply this evidence when we ask for it.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	CSAM2, CSAM3, SOH1, SOH2, SOH3, SOH4, CAHL1, CAHL2, CAHL3, AHW1, AHW3, AHW4, AHW5, AHW6, AHW7, AHW8, AHW9, AHW10, AHW11, AHW12, CIGL1, CIGL2, CIGL3, GRH1, GRH6, HEF5, HEF6, CAHL4, CLIG3, BFS1, BFS2, BFS3, BFS4, BFS5, BFS6, OFC1, OFC2, OFC3, OFC4, OFC5, OFM1, OFM2, OFM4, OFM5, OFM6, OFA1, OFA6, WBD3, WBD4, WBD5, WBD6, WBD7, WBD8, AGF1, AGF2, PRF1, PRF2, PRF3, PRF4, CIPM1, CIPM2, CIPM3, CIPM4, CNUM1, CNUM2, CNUM3, SCR1, SCR2
SFI 2023 actions	AHL1, AHL2, AHL3, AHL4, IGL1, IGL2, IGL3, IPM1, IPM2, IPM3, IPM4, LIG1, LIG2, NUM1, NUM2, NUM3, SAM2, SAM3
CS options	AB1, AB2, AB3, AB5, AB6, AB7, AB8, AB9, AB10, AB11, AB13, AB14, AB15, AB16, BE1, BE2, BE4, BE5, GS1, GS2, GS3, GS4, GS5, GS6, GS7, GS8, GS9, GS10, GS11, GS12, GS13, GS14, HS3, HS4, HS7, HS9, CT1, CT2, CT3, CT4, CT5, CT7, LH1, LH2, LH3, WT6, WT7, WT8, WT9, WT10, OP1, OP2, OP4, OP5, OR1, OR2, OR3, OR4, OR5, OT1, OT2, OT3, OT4, OT5, SW1, SW2, SW3, SW4, SW5, SW6, SW7, SW8, SW9, SW10, SW12, SW13, SW15, SW16, SW17, SW18, WT1, WT2, UP2 (if located below the moorland line)
ES options	All ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	SFI pilot arable and horticultural land standard – all levels SFI pilot improved grassland standard SFI pilot low and no input grassland standard – all levels SFI pilot water body buffering standard – all levels

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- all levels of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	AHW4, AHW12, CIGL3, GRH6, BFS6, SCR1 and SCR2 added to SFI 2024 actions

CSAM2: Multi-species winter cover crop

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£129 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's a multi-species cover crop that's:

- well-established over the winter months
- present between harvesting a cash crop and establishing the next cash crop

The purpose of this is to:

- protect the soil surface
- provide root growth that benefits soil structure
- supports soil biology and minimises nutrient leaching, soil erosion and runoff

Where you can do this action

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

- 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 arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01
Permanent horticultural crops	Permanent crops	TC01

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 a 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 rotational or static. This means you can either:

- move its location for the second and third years of this action's duration
- do it at the same location each year of this action's duration

What to do

You must establish a multi-species cover crop on land entered into this action which will not be harvested as a 'cash crop'.

A 'cash crop' means a crop grown to be harvested for commercial use.

You must establish the multi-species cover crop early enough so it can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim.

You must use a seed mix that contains at least 2 species from 2 or more of the following plant families:

- brassicas
- legumes
- cereals or grasses
- herbs

You must avoid growing deep rooted species on any area within a land parcel with historic or archaeological features identified in your SFI HEFER. Read [section 5.6 'Land with historic or archaeological features'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You must maintain the multi-species cover crop over the winter months in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim. You can graze the cover crop with livestock, but it must still be well-established over the winter months.

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 so the cover crop protects the soil surface for the duration of the winter months (usually from early December until late February)
- minimal bare soil

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 prolonged adverse weather which means the cover crop is not well-established. 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 not do the following on the well-established cover crop:

- mechanically apply any fertilisers or manures
- destroy it before the end of the winter months, unless you're establishing an early-sown spring crop

If you're establishing an early-sown spring crop, you may destroy the multi-species cover crop before the end of the winter months. You must not do this more than 6 weeks before you establish the early-sown spring crop.

When you destroy the multi-species cover crop, you should try to minimise risks such as compaction, poaching, soil runoff or erosion.

You can maintain an existing multi-species cover crop to get paid for this action if it:

- meets this action's requirements
- is not already being paid for under another environmental land management scheme option – you can use a cover crop paid for under SOH3 (multi-species summer-sown cover crop) to meet this action, but only if you overseed it

When to do it

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

If this action's start date means it's too late for you to do this action, you must start doing it within 12 months of the action's start date.

In the final year of this action's duration, you must do this action until the end of the winter months, or this action's end date, whichever is earlier.

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 details of the seed mix used
- photographs or other documentation

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

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	AHW5, AHW10, AHW11, OFA6, OFC3, OFC4, OFM4, OFM5, AGF1, AGF2, PRF1, PRF2, PRF3, PRF4, SOH1, SOH2, SOH3, CIPM1, CIPM3, CIPM4, CNUM1, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, IPM3, IPM4, NUM1, SAM1
CS options	AB5, AB11, AB14, HS3, HS9, OP5, OR3, OR4, OT3, OT4
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3

- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
What to do	<p>You must avoid growing deep rooted species on land with historic or archaeological features.</p> <p>Link added to section 13.2 'What you must do if you cannot comply with your agreement' in the SFI scheme information.</p> <p>You can use a cover crop paid for under SOH3 to meet this action, but only if you overseed it.</p>
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

CSAM3: Herbal leys

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£382 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's an established herbal ley with:

- a mixture of grasses, legumes and herbs or wildflowers to provide varied root structures
- areas of flowering plants from late spring and during summer months

The purpose of this is to:

- produce a high volume of forage with minimal use of inorganic fertiliser
- improve resilience to drought
- help improve and maintain the soil's structure, carbon, biology and fertility

Where you can do this action

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

- 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 arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01
Improved permanent grassland	Permanent grassland	PG01

Eligibility of protected land

Sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs): Ineligible – you must not enter any area that's designated as an SSSI into this action.

Historic and archaeological features: Ineligible – you must not enter any area with an historic or archaeological feature into this action. This only affects the area where the feature is located in a land parcel. You can apply for this action on the remaining area in the land parcel if it's eligible.

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 rotational or static. This means you can either:

- move its location for the second and third year of this action's duration
- do it at the same location each year of this action's duration

What to do

You must establish an herbal ley with a mixture of grass, legumes and herbs on land entered into this action.

You must use a seed mix which includes all of the following (as a minimum):

- 1 grass species
- 2 legume species
- 2 herb or wildflower species

If you're establishing an herbal ley on land identified by you as being at risk of soil erosion or runoff, you must use establishment techniques which minimise the risk of soil erosion or runoff. You can use the soil management plan produced for CSAM1 (or SAM1) to identify this land (see action CSAM1 for more information).

Once the herbal ley is established, you must maintain it. To do this you must manage it in a way, and for a period of time, that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim.

You must minimise use of inorganic fertilisers containing nitrogen. Usually, this will be no more than around 40 kilograms of nitrogen per hectare per year.

You must not use the established herbal ley for storage or apply pesticides on it, except:

- for herbicides to weed wipe or spot treat to control [injurious weeds](#), [invasive non-native species](#), or nettles
- to destroy the existing ley to establish a new herbal ley

You can maintain an existing herbal ley to get paid for this action if it:

- meets this action's requirements – you may need to re-sow it to make sure it can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim

- is not already being paid for under another environmental land management scheme option, such as CS option GS4 (legume and herb-rich swards)

When to do it

You must:

- establish the herbal ley by early autumn, within 12 months of this action's start date
- maintain the herbal ley at the same location for a period of time that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim – this will usually be until the end of the second summer after sowing
- re-establish the herbal ley by early autumn (either at the same location or a different location) and maintain it until this action's end 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 details of the seed mix used
- photographs or other documentation

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

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	OFC1, OFC3, OFM1, OFM4, AGF1, AGF2, CIPM1, CNUM1, PRF1, PRF2, PRF3, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, NUM1, SAM1
CS options	OR1, OR3, OT1, OT3
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Action's aim	Minor wording update
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	You can apply for this action on the area in a land parcel that does not contain an historic or archaeological feature
Rotational or static action	This action is rotational or static. Wording on new and existing herbal leys has been removed
What to do	Replaced 'at least' with 'as a minimum' for the seed mix that you must use
When to do it	Wording updated to reflect that this action is rotational or static for new and existing herbal leys
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	OR1 removed from CS options

Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements
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SOH1: No-till farming

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£73 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that no-tillage ('no-till') farming techniques are used, so soil disturbance is minimised.

The purpose of this is to:

- improve soil health, fertility, structure, soil water storage and reduce soil runoff
- help to keep organic matter and nutrients in the soil
- provide benefits for carbon, water quality and biodiversity
- help protect historic environment features

Where you can do this action

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

- 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

You cannot do this action on land where you're tilling narrow strips of soil to plant crops, leaving the areas between the rows untilled. This is known as 'strip tillage'.

Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Arable land used to grow crops	Arable land	Land use codes for arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops
Temporary grassland*	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow*	Arable land	FA01

(*only if it's part of the crop rotation and present for no more than 2 years of this action's duration)

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 a 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 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 establish crops on land entered into this action using a 'no-till' direct drill or broadcasting equipment.

For the purposes of this action:

- crops include 'cash crops', cover crops and temporary grassland (a 'cash crop' means a crop grown to be harvested for commercial use)
- direct drills include tine drills, disc drills and precision seed drills
- any following harrow tines must be rearward facing

You must not use conventional or shallow min-till cultivation machinery (except for a stubble rake or straw harrow with rearward facing tines):

- to prepare the land for sowing crops
- between harvesting (or destroying cover crops) and sowing crops

Where necessary, you can carry out the following on land that does not contain historic or archaeological features:

- low disturbance subsoiling to reduce soil compaction during the crop rotation - for example, if there's bad weather when you harvest the crop
- mole draining to help natural drainage

You must keep evidence if you do subsoiling or mole draining.

You must not carry out subsoiling or mole draining on land with historic or archaeological features. This includes scheduled monuments (which would require scheduled monument consent). Read [section 10.1 'Scheduled monument consent'](#) in the SFI scheme information for further details.

When to do it

You must do this action:

- from its start date, unless you have a crop in place when this action starts which does not meet this action's requirements
- throughout each year of this action's duration

If there's a crop in place when this action starts which does not meet this action's requirements, you must do this action:

- as soon as possible after the crop is harvested or destroyed
- 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 (including if you've had to carry out low disturbance subsoiling to reduce compaction or mole draining) 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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	AHW6, AHW7, AHW8, AHW9, AHW10, OFA1, OFA6, OFC3, OFM4, SOH4, AGF1, AGF2, PRF1, PRF2, PRF3, PRF4, SOH2, SOH3, CAHL2, CIPM1, CIPM3, CIPM4, CNUM1, CSAM1, CSAM2, CIGL2
SFI 2023 actions	AHL2, IPM1, IPM3, IPM4, NUM1, SAM1, SAM2, IGL2
CS options	AB1, AB2, AB5, AB6, AB7, AB9, AB10, AB11, AB13, AB14, GS3, SW5, SW6, OP1, OP2, OP5, OR3, OT3
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	SFI pilot arable and horticultural soils standard – introductory level

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6. 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
What to do	Replaced 'broadcasting equipment' with 'any following harrow tines must be rearward facing'. You can carry out mole draining to help natural drainage on land that does not contain historic or archaeological features.
Evidence to keep	You must keep evidence if it's been necessary to carry out mole draining

SFI actions in the expanded SFI offer (v1.1b August 2024)

Other actions or options you can do on the same area	CIGL2 added to SFI 2024 actions. AHW5 and AHW11 removed from SFI 2024 actions. IGL2 added to SFI23 actions. OR4 and OT4 removed from CS options.
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

SOH2: Multi-species spring-sown cover crop

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£163 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's a well-established spring-sown multi-species cover crop which is present either:

- between harvesting a cash crop, until the next cash crop is established
- after a winter cover crop is destroyed or oversown, until the next cash crop is established

The purpose of this is to:

- protect the soil surface
- provide root growth that benefits soil structure
- support soil biology and minimise nutrient leaching, soil erosion and runoff
- add organic matter

Where you can do this action

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

- 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, excluding temporary grassland	Arable land	Land use codes for arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops
Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01
Permanent horticultural crops	Permanent crops	TC01

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 a 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 rotational or static. This means you can either:

- move its location for the second and third years of this action's duration
- do it at the same location each year of this action's duration

What to do

You must establish a multi-species cover crop mix during the spring months (usually between March and May) which will not be harvested as a 'cash crop'.

A 'cash crop' means a crop grown to be harvested for commercial use.

You must use a rapid growing seed mix that contains at least 4 species. This must include 2 species from two or more of the following plant families:

- brassicas
- legumes
- cereals and grasses, with grasses making up no more than 25% of the total mix by weight
- herbs

The seed mix must not contain:

- Japanese reed millet
- maize
- miscanthus or reed canary grass
- sorghum (all varieties)
- artichokes
- sweet fennel

You must avoid growing deep rooted species on any area within a land parcel with historic or archaeological features identified in your SFI HEFER. Read [section 5.6 'Land with historic or archaeological features'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You must maintain the multi-species cover crop in a way, and for a period of time, that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim.

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 well-established cover crop:

- cut it or graze it with livestock (other than when destroying the cover crop)
- mechanically apply any fertilisers or manures
- destroy it more than 2 weeks before you intend to sow the next main crop

When you destroy the cover crop, you should try to minimise risks such as compaction, poaching, soil runoff or erosion.

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 prolonged adverse weather. 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 not use the following to meet this action:

- a multi-species temporary grass ley, such as a mix of grass and clover, that is being used for grazing
- a multi-species crop which you intend to harvest as a cash crop, such as a mix of wheat and clover

You can only use an existing multi-species cover crop to meet this action's requirements if you overseed it. This includes a cover crop already paid for under an environmental land management scheme action, such as SAM2 or CSAM2 (multi-species winter cover crop).

When to do it

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

If this action's start date means it's too late for you to do this action, you must start doing it within 12 months of the action's start date.

In the final year of this action's duration, you must do this action until the next main crop is sown, or this action's end date, whichever is earlier.

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 details of the 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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	AHW6, OFA1, OFA6, OFC3, OFC4, OFM4, OFM5, AGF1, AGF2, PRF1, PRF2, PRF3, PRF4, SOH1, SOH3, SOH4, CAHL2, CIPM1, CIPM3, CIPM4, CNUM1, CSAM1, CSAM2
SFI 2023 actions	AHL2, IPM1, IPM3, IPM4, NUM1, SAM1, SAM2
CS options	AB2, AB9, HS3, HS9, SW5, SW6, OP5, OR4, OP1, OR3, OT3, OT4
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6. 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
What to do	You must avoid growing deep rooted species on land with historic or archaeological features
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	OFA6, OFC4 and OFM5 added to SFI 2024 actions. HS3 and OT4 added to CS options.
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

SOH3: Multi-species summer-sown cover crop

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£163 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's a well-established summer-sown multi-species cover crop which is present between harvesting a cash crop, until either:

- the next cash crop is sown
- a winter cover crop is sown

The purpose of this is to:

- protect the soil surface
- provide root growth that benefits soil structure, supports soil biology and minimises nutrient leaching, soil erosion and runoff
- add organic matter

Where you can do this action

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

- 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, excluding temporary grassland	Arable land	Land use codes for arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops
Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01
Permanent horticultural crops	Permanent crops	TC01

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 a 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 rotational or static. This means you can either:

- move its location for the second and third years of this action's duration
- do it at the same location each year of this action's duration

What to do

You must establish a multi-species cover crop mix during the summer months (usually between June and August) which will not be harvested as a cash crop.

A 'cash crop' means a crop grown to be harvested for commercial use.

You must use a rapid growing seed mix that contains at least 4 species. This must include 2 species from two or more of the following plant families:

- brassicas
- legumes
- cereals and grasses, with grasses making up no more than 25% of the total mix by weight
- herbs

The seed mix must not contain:

- Japanese reed millet
- maize
- miscanthus or reed canary grass
- sorghum (all varieties)
- artichokes
- sweet fennel

You must avoid growing deep rooted species on any area within a land parcel with historic or archaeological features identified in your SFI HEFER. Read [section 5.6 'Land with historic or archaeological features'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You must maintain the multi-species cover crop in a way, and for a period of time, that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim.

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 well-established cover crop:

- cut it or graze it with livestock (other than when destroying the cover crop)
- mechanically apply any fertilisers or manures
- destroy it more than 2 weeks before you intend to establish the next main crop

When you destroy the cover crop, you should try to minimise risks such as compaction, poaching, soil runoff or erosion.

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 prolonged adverse weather. 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 not use the following to meet this action:

- a multi-species temporary grass ley, such as a mix of grass and clover, that is being used for grazing
- a multi-species crop which you intend to harvest as a cash crop, such as a mix of wheat and clover

You can only use an existing multi-species cover crop to meet this action's requirements if you overseed it. This includes a cover crop already paid for under an environmental land management scheme action, such as SOH2 (multi-species spring-sown cover crop).

When to do it

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

If this action's start date means it's too late for you to do this action, you must start doing it within 12 months of the action's start date.

In the final year of this action's duration, you must do this action until the next main crop is sown, or this action's end date, whichever is earlier.

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 details of the 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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	AHW6, OFA1, OFA6, OFC3, OFC4, OFM4, OFM5, AGF1, AGF2, PRF1, PRF2, PRF3, PRF4, SOH1, SOH2, CAHL2, CIPM1, CIPM3, CIPM4, CNUM1, CSAM1, CSAM2
SFI 2023 actions	AHL2, IPM1, IPM3, IPM4, NUM1, SAM1, SAM2
CS options	AB2, AB9, HS3, HS9, SW5, SW6, OP1, OP5, OR3, OR4, OT3, OT4
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6. 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
What to do	<p>You must avoid growing deep rooted species on land with historic or archaeological features.</p> <p>Reference to using an existing cover crop paid for under SAM2 (multi-species winter cover) which you can use to meet this action if you overseed it replaced by SOH2 (multi-species spring-sown cover crop).</p>
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	OFA6, OFC4 and OFM5 added to SFI 2024 actions. SOH4 removed from SFI 2024 actions. HS3 and OT4 added to CS options
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

SOH4: Winter cover following maize crops

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£203 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's a cover crop on land, which:

- is not at risk of soil erosion or surface runoff
- follows the early harvest of a maize crop
- is well-established during the winter months

The purpose of this is to:

- reduce the risk of soil erosion and surface runoff
- slow water runoff and allow soil to settle out, to reduce losses of sediment, nutrients and chemicals carried in the surface water
- help take up nutrients and reduce nitrate leaching through the soil profile

Where you can do this action

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

- used to grow maize crops
- identified by you as not being at risk of soil erosion or surface runoff – you must keep written 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, excluding temporary grassland	Arable land	Land use codes for arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01

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 a 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 rotational or static. This means you can either:

- move its location for the second and third years of this action's duration
- do it at the same location each year of this action's duration

What to do

After harvesting a maize crop, you must establish a winter cover crop which will not be harvested as a cash crop.

You must do this by either:

- establishing a quick growing cover crop as soon as possible after harvesting the maize crop, in time to establish before winter (this will usually be no later than around mid-October)
- maintaining a cover crop that was established by under-sowing the maize crop earlier in the year that remains after the maize crop is harvested

A 'cash crop' means a crop grown to be harvested for commercial use.

You must maintain the cover crop in a way, and for a period of time, that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim.

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 during the winter months (usually from early December until late February)
- minimal bare soil

You can graze the cover crop with livestock, but it must still be well-established over the winter months.

Once the maize crop has been harvested, you must not apply fertilisers or manures to the winter cover crop during the autumn or winter months.

If you're establishing an early-sown spring crop, you may destroy the winter cover crop before the end of the winter months. You must not do this more than 6 weeks before you establish the early-sown spring crop.

When you destroy the cover crop, you should try to minimise risks such as compaction, poaching, soil runoff or erosion.

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 prolonged adverse weather. 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.

When to do it

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

If this action's start date means it's too late for you to do this action, you must start doing it within 12 months of the action's start date.

In the final year of this action's duration, you must do this action until the end of the winter months or this action's end date, whichever is earlier.

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
- 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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	OFC3, OFM4, AGF1, AGF2, PRF1, PRF2, PRF3, PRF4, SOH1, SOH2, CIPM1, CIPM4, CNUM1, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, IPM4, NUM1, SAM1
CS options	OR3, OT3
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6. 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information

What to do	<p>Leafy vegetation needs to be sufficiently well grown to protect the soil surface during the winter months (usually from early December until late February).</p> <p>You can graze the cover crop with livestock, but it must still be well-established over the winter months.</p> <p>Once the maize crop has been harvested, you must not apply fertilisers or manures to the winter cover crop during the autumn or winter months.</p> <p>If you're establishing an early-sown spring crop, you may destroy the winter cover crop before the end of the winter months. You must not do this more than 6 weeks before you establish the early-sown spring crop.</p>
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	SOH2 added to SFI 2024 actions
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

SFI actions for agroforestry

AGF1: Maintain very low density in-field agroforestry on less sensitive land

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£248 per hectare (ha) per year – the hectareage can include:

- the area used to grow agroforestry trees
- the areas between the trees, used for arable or horticultural crops, grassland or other eligible environmental land management scheme actions or options

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's an established very low density in-field agroforestry system that's maintained, so there's a combination of both:

- trees (including shrubs)
- arable or horticultural crops, grassland for forage or areas used for other eligible environmental land management scheme actions or options

The purpose of this is to:

- reduce soil erosion and flooding
- improve water and air quality
- provide shelter for crops and livestock
- contribute to carbon capture and storage

Where you can do this action

You can do this action on an eligible in-field agroforestry system on less 'sensitive' agricultural land located below the moorland line that's:

- 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

You can use the [Forestry Commission's SFI Agroforestry map](#) to identify 'less sensitive land' (shown as 'sensitivity: low'). Less sensitive land does not include:

- sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) or other sensitive areas which are listed in the [guidance on forestry environmental impact assessments](#) (forestry EIA)

- priority habitats such as species-rich grassland - you can find [a list of priority habitats on GOV.UK](#)

To be eligible for this action, the in-field agroforestry system must:

- contain established trees – these can be at any stage of maturity, including newly planted saplings if they'll be left to become mature trees
- be grown on semi-vigorous or vigorous rootstocks if they are fruit trees – these will usually produce trees at least 4 metres tall
- be very low density

For the purposes of this action, 'very low density' means that across the area you enter into this action in each land parcel:

- there's an average of 30 to 50 trees per hectare, usually planted in rows or a grid
- the trees are spaced in a way that means you do not need to apply for a forestry EIA – read the 'advice to help you do this action' for further information

Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Arable land used to grow crops	Arable land	Land use codes for arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01
Improved permanent grassland	Permanent grassland	PG01
Permanent crops - horticultural	Permanent crops	TC01

Eligibility of protected land

Sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs): Ineligible – you must not enter any area that's designated as an SSSI into this action.

Historic and archaeological features: Ineligible – you must not enter any area with an historic or archaeological feature into this action. This only affects the area where the feature is located in a land parcel. You can apply for this action on the remaining area in the land parcel if it's eligible.

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 maintain the very low density in-field agroforestry system in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim. This includes:

- replacing dead trees, where necessary to make sure the density continues to be an average of at least 30 trees per hectare across the area you enter into this action in each land parcel
- protecting the trees from grazing livestock and pests, such as deer and rabbits, to prevent serious damage - you can apply for [Capital Grants](#) to help you do this
- managing weeds around the base of establishing trees
- pruning and shaping the trees once they are established

When to do it

You must do this action from its start date, throughout 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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	AHW1, AHW3, AHW6, AHW7, AHW8, AHW9, AHW10, AHW11, AHW12, BFS1, BFS2, BFS3, OFA1, OFA6, OFC1, OFC3, OFC4, OFM1, OFM4, OFM5, SOH4, WBD3, WBD4, WBD5, WBD6, WBD7, WBD8, PRF1, PRF2, PRF3, PRF4, SOH1, SOH2, SOH3, CAHL1, CAHL2, CAHL3, CAHL4, CIGL1, CIGL2, CIGL3, CIPM1, CIPM2, CIPM3, CIPM4, CLIG3, CNUM1, CNUM2, CNUM3, CSAM1, CSAM2, CSAM3, HEF8
SFI 2023 actions	AHL1, AHL2, AHL3, AHL4, IGL1, IGL2, IGL3, IPM1, IPM2, IPM3, IPM4, LIG1, LIG2, NUM1, NUM2, NUM3, SAM1, SAM2, SAM3
CS options	AB1, AB2, AB3, AB6, AB7, AB8, AB9, AB10, AB11, AB13, AB14, AB15, AB16, GS2, GS3, GS4, GS5, HS6, SW1, SW2, SW3, SW4, SW5, SW6, SW7, SW8, SW9, SW10, SW13, SW15, SW16, WD3, WT1, WT2, OP1, OP2, OP4, OP5, OR1, OR3, OR4, OT1, OT3, OT4
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6. 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Where you can do this action	Clarified wording on 'less sensitive land'
Eligibility of protected land	You can apply for this action on the area in a land parcel that does not contain an historic or archaeological feature
What to do	Added link to Capital Grants
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	HEF8 added to SFI 2024 actions
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

AGF2: Maintain low density in-field agroforestry on less sensitive land

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£385 per hectare (ha) per year – the hectareage can include:

- the area used to grow agroforestry trees
- the areas between the trees, used for arable or horticultural crops, grassland or other eligible environmental land management scheme actions or options

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's an established low density in-field agroforestry system that's maintained, so there's a combination of both:

- trees (including shrubs)
- arable or horticultural crops, grassland for forage or areas used for other eligible environmental land management scheme actions or options

The purpose of this is to:

- reduce soil erosion and flooding
- improve water and air quality
- provide shelter for crops and livestock
- contribute to carbon capture and storage

Where you can do this action

You can do this action on an eligible in-field agroforestry system on less 'sensitive' agricultural land located below the moorland line that's:

- 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

You can use the [Forestry Commission's SFI Agroforestry map](#) to identify 'less sensitive land' (shown as 'sensitivity: low'). Less sensitive land does not include:

- sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) or other sensitive areas which are listed in the [guidance on forestry environmental impact assessments](#) (forestry EIA)
- priority habitats such as species-rich grassland - you can find [a list of priority habitats on GOV.UK](#)

To be eligible for this action, the in-field agroforestry system must:

- contain established trees – these can be at any stage of maturity, including newly planted saplings if they'll be left to become mature trees
- be grown on semi-vigorous or vigorous rootstocks if they are fruit trees – these will usually produce trees at least 4 metres tall
- be very low density

For the purposes of this action, 'low density' means that across the area you enter into this action in each land parcel:

- there's an average of 51 to 130 trees per hectare, usually planted in rows or a grid
- the trees are spaced in a way that means you do not need to apply for a forestry EIA – read the 'advice to help you do this action' for further information

Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Arable land used to grow crops	Arable land	Land use codes for arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01
Improved permanent grassland	Permanent grassland	PG01
Permanent crops - horticultural	Permanent crops	TC01

Eligibility of protected land

Sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs): Ineligible – you must not enter any area that's designated as an SSSI into this action.

Historic and archaeological features: Ineligible – you must not enter any area with an historic or archaeological feature into this action. This only affects the area where the feature is located in a land parcel. You can apply for this action on the remaining area in the land parcel if it's eligible.

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 maintain the low density in-field agroforestry system in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim. This includes:

- replacing dead trees, where necessary to make sure the density continues to be an average of at least 51 trees per hectare across the area you enter into this action in each land parcel
- protecting the trees from grazing livestock and pests, such as deer and rabbits, to prevent serious damage - you can apply for [Capital Grants](#) to help you do this
- managing weeds around the base of establishing trees
- pruning and shaping the trees once they are established

When to do it

You must do this action from its start date, throughout 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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	AHW1, AHW3, AHW6, AHW7, AHW8, AHW9, AHW10, AHW11, AHW12, BFS1, BFS2, BFS3, OFA1, OFA6, OFC1, OFC3, OFC4, OFM1, OFM4, OFM5, SOH4, WBD3, WBD4, WBD5, WBD6, WBD7, WBD8, PRF1, PRF2, PRF3, PRF4, SOH1, SOH2, SOH3, CAHL1, CAHL2, CAHL3, CAHL4, CIGL1, CIGL2, CIGL3, CIPM1, CIPM2, CIPM3, CIPM4, CLIG3, CNUM1, CNUM2, CNUM3, CSAM1, CSAM2, CSAM3, HEF8
SFI 2023 actions	AHL1, AHL2, AHL3, AHL4, IGL1, IGL2, IGL3, IPM1, IPM2, IPM3, IPM4, LIG1, LIG2, NUM1, NUM2, NUM3, SAM1, SAM2, SAM3
CS options	AB1, AB2, AB3, AB6, AB7, AB8, AB9, AB10, AB11, AB13, AB14, AB15, AB16, GS2, GS3, GS4, GS5, HS6, SW1, SW2, SW3, SW4, SW5, SW6, SW7, SW8, SW9, SW10, SW13, WD3, WT1, WT2, OP1, OP2, OP4, OP5, OR1, OR3, OR4, OT1, OT3, OT4
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6. 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information. Clarified wording on 'less sensitive land'.
Eligibility of protected land	You can apply for this action on the area in a land parcel that does not contain an historic or archaeological feature
What to do	Added link to Capital Grants
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	HEF8 added to SFI 2024 actions. SW6 added to CS options
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

SFI actions for boundary features

CHRW1: Assess and record hedgerow condition

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£5 per 100 metres (m) for one side of an eligible hedgerow per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that you:

- understand the condition of your hedgerows
- effectively plan how they can be managed to improve their condition

Where you can do this action

An eligible hedgerow for this action must be:

- a boundary line of shrubs, or both shrubs and trees
- over 20m long
- less than 10m wide

The hedgerow can be:

- newly planted, laid or coppiced
- woody growth on top of an earth or stone-faced bank, for example, Cornish or Devon hedges

There can be gaps in the hedgerow if they're not more than:

- 20m long
- 10% of the total length of the relevant hedgerow when you add all the gaps in it together

If the gaps add up to more than 10%, you can only do the action on the total length of the hedgerow if you'll plant up the gaps during this action's 3-year duration. You can apply for Capital Grants for [hedgerow gapping up \(BN7\)](#) and [planting new hedges \(BN11\)](#) to help you do this.

You can do this action on either one side or both sides of an eligible hedgerow. You must have management control of one or both sides, depending on what you enter into this action.

You can enter both sides of a roadside hedgerow, or a hedgerow that borders a neighbour's land, if you meet both of the following:

- you have a legal right or obligation to maintain the hedgerow
- you can meet this action's requirements

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 a 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 can choose what length of eligible hedgerows to enter into this action.

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:

- assess the condition of all the hedgerows entered into this action
- produce a written hedgerow condition assessment record for these hedgerows

If you've already assessed these hedgerows and produced a written hedgerow condition assessment record in the last 5 years, you can use it to get paid for this action.

When to do it

You must:

- assess the condition of the hedgerows and complete a written hedgerow condition assessment record within 12 months of this action's start date
- review the condition of the hedgerows and update the hedgerow condition assessment record in each subsequent year of this action's 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 written record of your hedgerow condition assessment. It can be recorded on paper or digitally. You must supply this evidence if we ask for it.

Other actions or options you can do with this action

You can do the following actions or options in land parcels with eligible boundaries entered into this action.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	All SFI 2024 actions, except BND1
SFI 2023 actions	All SFI 2023 actions, except HRW1
CS options	All CS management options, including BE3 (management of hedgerows)
ES options	All ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	All SFI pilot standards, including all levels of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

CHRW2: Manage hedgerows

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£13 per 100 metres (m) for one side of an eligible hedgerow per year

Action's aim

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

The purpose of this is to provide:

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

Where you can do this action

An eligible hedgerow for this action must be:

- a boundary line of shrubs, or both shrubs and trees
- over 20m long
- less than 10m wide

The hedgerow can be:

- newly planted, laid or coppiced
- woody growth on top of an earth or stone-faced bank, for example, Cornish or Devon hedges

There can be gaps in the hedgerow if they're not more than:

- 20m long
- 10% of the total length of the relevant hedgerow when you add all the gaps in it together

If the gaps add up to more than 10%, you can only do the action on the total length of the hedgerow if you'll plant up the gaps during this action's 3-year duration. You can apply for Capital Grants for [hedgerow gapping up \(BN7\)](#) and [planting new hedges \(BN11\)](#) to help you do this.

You can do this action on either one side or both sides of an eligible hedgerow unless you're managing a fully established hedgerow in a coppicing or laying rotation. In this case, you must enter both sides of the hedgerow.

You must have management control of one or both sides, depending on what you enter into this action.

You can enter both sides of a roadside hedgerow, or a hedgerow that borders a neighbour's land, if you meet both of the following:

- you have a legal right or obligation to maintain the hedgerow
- you can meet this action's requirements

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 a 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 can choose what length of eligible hedgerows to enter into this action.

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 hedgerows entered into this action. What you must do to manage them depends on whether they're:

- fully established, which will usually be the case around 5 years after they're planted
- newly planted, or not fully established

If the hedgerows are fully established, you must use one of the following management approaches (you can use different approaches on different fully established hedgerows):

- cut each hedgerow incrementally
- on a rotation, cut each hedgerow no more than once every 3 years, cutting no more than one third of hedges each year
- on a rotation, cut each hedgerow no more than once every 2 years, cutting no more than half the hedges each year
- managing them in a coppicing or laying rotation, which may mean they're left uncut for the duration of your 3-year SFI agreement

If the hedgerows are newly planted, or not fully established, you must lightly trim them incrementally. You must do this until they're fully established.

When to do it

For fully established hedgerows, if you're cutting them:

- incrementally, you must do this during the autumn and winter months (usually September to late February), each year of this action's 3-year duration
- on a rotation no more than once every 3 years, you must do this during the autumn and winter months
- on a rotation no more than once every 2 years, you must do this in late winter (usually from early January to late February)

For newly planted hedgerows, or hedgerows which are not fully established, you must lightly trim them incrementally:

- during the autumn and winter months
- each year of this action's 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 or other documentation

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

Other actions or options you can do with this action

You can do the following actions or options in land parcels with eligible boundaries entered into this action.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	All SFI 2024 actions, except BND1

SFI 2023 actions	All SFI 2023 actions, except HRW2
CS options	All CS management options, except BE3 (management of hedgerows)
ES options	All ES revenue options, except boundary options
SFI pilot standards	All SFI pilot standards, except the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

CHRW3: Maintain or establish hedgerow trees

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£10 per 100 metres (m) for both sides of an eligible hedgerow per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there are hedgerow trees maintained or established.

The purpose of this is to provide:

- habitat for wildlife
- carbon storage benefits

Where you can do this action

An eligible hedgerow for this action must be:

- a boundary line of shrubs, or both shrubs and trees
- over 20m long
- less than 10m wide

The hedgerow can be:

- newly planted, laid or coppiced
- woody growth on top of an earth or stone-faced bank, for example, Cornish or Devon hedges

There can be gaps in the hedgerow if they're not more than:

- 20m long
- 10% of the total length of the relevant hedgerow when you add all the gaps in it together

If the gaps add up to more than 10%, you can only do the action on the total length of the hedgerow if you'll plant up the gaps during this action's 3-year duration. You can apply for Capital Grants for hedgerow gapping up (BN7) and planting new hedges (BN11) to help you do this.

You can only do this action on both sides of an eligible hedgerow. This means you must have management control of both sides of the hedgerow.

You can enter both sides of a roadside hedgerow, or a hedgerow that borders a neighbour's land, if you meet both of the following:

- you have a legal right or obligation to maintain the hedgerow
- you can meet this action's requirements

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 a 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 can choose what length of eligible hedgerows to enter into this action.

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 make sure there's an average of at least 1 hedgerow tree per 100m over the total length of hedgerows entered into this action. This means some 100m lengths can contain no trees, as long as you meet this average.

You can do this action by:

- maintaining existing trees growing within the hedgerow
- establishing new hedgerow trees

To establish a new hedgerow tree, you must either:

- select an existing sapling in the hedgerow with a single straight stem
- plant a new sapling – you can apply for [Capital Grants](#) to plant a hedgerow tree (TE1) and protect it with a tree guard (TE6)

You must identify each newly established hedgerow tree by tagging it or using another method to identify it clearly, so it can be avoided when managing the hedgerow.

You can include dead and dying trees when counting how many hedgerow trees are in a given length of hedgerow. This decaying wood can provide a habitat for invertebrates, nesting birds and bats. This does not include newly planted tree saplings that die before they become established.

You must not damage the hedgerow trees, or cut them unless there's a clear need, for example:

- to prolong the life of the tree
- for health and safety reasons (such as removing branches that pose a risk to people)
- because it's a tradition in the local landscape (such as coppicing or pollarding willow)

When to do it

You must have done this action by the end of this action's 3-year duration, so it meets the requirements explained above.

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 or other documentation

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

Other actions or options you can do with this action

You can do the following actions or options in land parcels with eligible boundaries entered into this action.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	All SFI 2024 actions, except BND1
SFI 2023 actions	All SFI 2023 actions, except HRW3
CS options	All CS management options, including BE3 (management of hedgerows)
ES options	All ES revenue options, except boundary options
SFI pilot standards	All SFI pilot standards, except the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

BND1: Maintain dry stone walls

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£27 per 100 metres (m) for both sides

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there are dry stone walls maintained in good condition.

The purpose of this is to:

- help manage livestock
- provide habitats for lichens, mosses, ferns and wildlife
- maintain landscape and historic features

Where you can do this action

An eligible dry stone wall for this action must be:

- a vertical structure that's built of natural stone
- of traditional dry stone wall construction, which can include mortar if it's part of the traditional stone walling method
- at least 20 metres long, measured between 2 end points – read the 'advice to help you do this action' to find out how to measure this
- in good condition

To be in good condition, the dry stone wall must be both:

- continuous – which means there are no gaps along its entire length, apart from structural wall features such as stiles, stone gate posts and sheep creeps
- complete – which means the wall is at a height in keeping with local style, with top stones in place if they're part of the local style

You can only do this action on both sides of the entire length of an eligible dry stone wall. This means you must have management control of both sides of the wall.

You can enter both sides of a roadside wall, or a wall that borders a neighbour's land, if you meet both of following conditions:

- you have a legal right or obligation to maintain the wall
- you can meet this action's requirements

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 a 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.

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 maintain dry stone walls entered into this action in good condition. To do this, you must:

- visually check their condition and identify any sections that need to be repaired
- carry out any necessary repairs
- keep a record (written or photographic) of any need for repairs you identify, and the repair work you do – including the date you identify the need and when the work was done

When you carry out any necessary repairs, you must:

- use materials in keeping with the local style and characteristic
- retain any existing features such as top stones, sheep creeps, stiles and stone gate posts

When to do it

You must:

- check the condition of the walls at least once during each year of this action's 3-year duration
- carry out any necessary repairs within 12 months of identifying the need, or by this action's end date if you identify the need for repairs during the final year of this action's 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 written or photographic record and supply this evidence if we ask for it.

Other actions or options you can do with this action

You can do the following actions or options in land parcels with eligible boundaries entered into this action.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	All SFI 2024 actions, except CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3 and WBD2
SFI 2023 actions	All SFI 2023 actions, except HRW1, HRW2 and HRW3
CS options	All CS management options, except BE3 (management of hedgerows)
ES options	All ES revenue options, except boundary options
SFI pilot standards	All SFI pilot standards, except the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

BND2: Maintain earth banks or stone-faced hedgebanks

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£11 per 100 metres (m) for one side

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there are earth banks or stone-faced hedgebanks maintained in good condition.

The purpose of this is to:

- help manage livestock
- provide habitats for lichens, mosses and ferns, and wildlife
- maintain landscape and historic features

Where you can do this action

To be eligible for this action, the bank must be:

- either a raised earth or turf-faced bank (an earth bank), or a raised earth bank faced with natural stone (a stone-faced hedgebank) – there can be woody growth on top of the bank (for example, Cornish or Devon hedges)
- distinct from the surrounding landform
- a land parcel boundary
- at least 20 metres (m) long, measured between 2 end points – read the 'advice to help you do this action' to find out how to measure this
- in good condition

To be in good condition, the earth bank or stone-faced hedgebank must be both:

- continuous, with no gaps along its entire length
- complete, so the bank is at a height in keeping with local style and a stone-faced hedgebank has facing stones in place

You can do this action on the entire length of either one side or both sides of an eligible earth bank or stone-faced hedgebank. You must have management control of one or both sides, depending on what you enter into this action.

You can enter both sides of a roadside bank, or a bank that borders a neighbour's land, if you meet both of the following:

- you have a legal right or obligation to maintain the bank
- you can meet this action's requirements

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 a 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.

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 maintain earth banks or stone-faced hedgebanks entered into this action in good condition. To do this, you must:

- visually check their condition and identify any sections that need to be repaired
- carry out any necessary repairs
- keep a record (written or photographic) of any need for repairs you identify, and the repair work you do – including the date you identify the need and when the work was done
- retain any existing features such as top stones, sheep creeps, stiles and stone gate posts

When you carry out any necessary repairs, you must retain any existing features such as top stones, sheep crops, stiles and stone gate posts.

When to do it

You must:

- check the condition of the banks at least once during each year of this action's 3-year duration
- carry out any necessary repairs within 12 months of identifying the need, or by this action's end date if you identify need for repairs during the final year of this action's 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 written or photographic record and supply this evidence if we ask for it.

Other actions or options you can do with this action

You can do the following actions or options in land parcels with eligible boundaries entered into this action.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	All SFI 2024 actions, except BND1
SFI 2023 actions	All SFI 2023 actions
CS options	All CS management options
ES options	All ES revenue options, except boundary options
SFI pilot standards	All SFI pilot standards, except the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	There can be 'woody growth' (instead of 'hedge growth') on top of the bank. Added Cornish or Devon hedges as an example
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

SFI actions for buffer strips

CAHL4: 4m to 12m grass buffer strip on arable and horticultural land

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£515 per hectare (ha) per year – calculate the hectareage by:

- measuring the length of the buffer strip in metres (m)
- multiplying that length by the relevant width (6m to 12m) to give the area in m²
- dividing that area by 10,000 to convert it into ha

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's a grass buffer strip:

- with an intact grass sward throughout the year
- without tracks, compacted areas or poaching

The purpose of this is to:

- protect existing landscape and heritage features
- provide habitat for wildlife
- prevent pollutants, such as sediment and nutrients, from being carried in surface water runoff, if located next to a watercourse
- support an integrated pest management approach, if located close to cropped areas, which can help to reduce costs and improve farm resilience

Where you can do this action

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

- 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 arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops

Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01
Permanent crops – horticultural	Permanent crops	TC01

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 a 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

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 establish and maintain a grass strip on land entered into this action that's:

- at least 4m to 12m wide (on average in each land parcel) - it can be more than 12m wide, but you'll only be paid for the 12m width.
- on the edge of arable and horticultural land

The grass strip must buffer an existing landscape feature, or certain heritage features, such as:

- hedgerows
- stone walls
- woodland
- ditches, rivers and streams
- upstanding historic or archaeological features, such as earthworks, in-field structures or buildings

You can also locate the grass buffer strip next to:

- trackways that channel run-off water directly into a watercourse
- fence lines that form links between areas of wildlife habitat

You must make sure the grass strip is in addition to any regulatory requirements relating to buffer strips.

Once the grass strip is established, you must manage it in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim.

During late summer, after the bird breeding season, you must cut part of the grass strip's width next to the edge of the crop or fallow land. You must do this along as much of the strip's length as possible. This is to provide some shorter vegetation and a range of habitat types.

You must not do any of the following on the grass buffer strip once it's established:

- use it for regular vehicular access, turning or storage (for example, storing bales or machinery)
- apply fertilisers or manures
- apply pesticides, except for herbicides to weed wipe or spot treat to control [injurious weeds](#), [invasive non-native species](#), or nettles

You can maintain an existing grass buffer strip to get paid for this action if it:

- meet this action's requirements
- are not already being paid for under another environmental land management scheme option, such as CS option SW1 (4m to 6m buffer strip on cultivated land)

When to do it

You must:

- establish the grass buffer strip within the first 12 months of this action's duration
- maintain the same area of grass buffer strip in each subsequent year of this action's 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 or other documentation

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

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	OFC3, OFC4, OFC5, OFM4, OFM5, OFM6, AGF1, AGF2, PRF2, CIPM1, CNUM1, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, NUM1, SAM1
CS options	OR3, OR4, OR5, OT3, OT4, OT5
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6. 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
What to do	Storing bales or machinery added as an example of 'storage'

CIGL3: 4m to 12m grass buffer strip on improved grassland

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£235 per hectare (ha) per year – calculate the hectareage by:

- measuring the length of the buffer strip in metres (m)
- multiplying that length by the relevant width (4m to 12m) to give the area in m²
- dividing that area by 10,000 to convert it into ha

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's a grass buffer strip:

- with an intact grass sward throughout the year
- without tracks, compacted areas or poaching

The purpose of this is to:

- protect existing landscape and heritage features
- provide habitat for wildlife
- prevent pollutants, such as sediment and nutrients, from being carried in surface water runoff, if located next to a watercourse
- support an integrated pest management approach, if located close to cropped areas, which can help to reduce costs and improve farm resilience

Where you can do this action

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

- 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
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Improved permanent grassland	Permanent grassland	PG01

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 a 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

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 establish and maintain a grass strip on land entered into this action that's:

- at least 4m to 12m wide (on average in each land parcel) - it can be more than 12m wide, but you'll only be paid for the 12m width
- on the edge of improved grassland

The grass strip must buffer an existing landscape feature, or certain heritage features, such as:

- hedgerows
- stone walls
- woodland
- ditches, rivers and streams
- upstanding historic or archaeological features, such as earthworks, in-field structures or buildings

You can also locate the grass buffer strip next to:

- trackways that channel run-off water directly into a watercourse
- fence lines that form links between areas of wildlife habitat

You must make sure the grass strip is in addition to any regulatory requirements relating to buffer strips.

Once the grass strip is established, you must manage it in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim.

You can graze the grass buffer strip with livestock, provided there's an intact grass sward throughout the year, without tracks, compacted areas or poaching.

You must not do the following on the grass buffer strip once it's established:

- cut it for hay or silage, so it can provide a refuge for farmland wildlife
- use it for regular vehicular access, turning or storage (for example, storing bales or machinery)
- apply any fertilisers or manures
- apply pesticides, except for herbicides to weed wipe or spot treat to control injurious weeds, invasive non-native species, or nettles
- use pesticides, except for herbicides to weed wipe or spot treat for the control of [injurious weeds](#), [invasive non-native species](#), or nettles

You can maintain an existing grass buffer strip to get paid for this action if it:

- meet this action's requirements
- are not already being paid for under another environmental land management scheme option, such as CS option SW2 (4m to 6m buffer strip on intensive grassland)

When to do it

You must:

- establish the grass buffer strip within the first 12 months of this action's duration
- maintain the same area of grass buffer strip in each subsequent year of this action's 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 or other documentation

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

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	OFC1, OFC3, OFM1, OFM4, WBD7, AGF1, AGF2, PRF2, CIPM1, CNUM1, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, NUM1, SAM1
CS options	SW10, OR1, OR3, OT1, OT3
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6. 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
How much you'll be paid	Replaced 6m with 4m
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information

What to do	Storing bales or machinery added as an example of 'storage'
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

BFS1: 12m to 24m watercourse buffer strip on cultivated land

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£707 per hectare (ha) per year – calculate the hectareage by:

- measuring the length of the buffer strip in metres (m)
- multiplying that length by the relevant width (12m to 24m) to give the area in m²
- dividing that area by 10,000 to convert it into ha

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's a grass buffer strip on land at risk of soil erosion or surface runoff, which:

- is alongside a watercourse or pond
- has an intact sward throughout the year, without tracks, compacted areas or poaching

The purpose of this is to:

- protect watercourses
- reduce the risk of potential pollutants, such as sediment, pesticides and nutrients, being transported to watercourses in surface water runoff
- provide habitats for wildlife and form links to other habitats
- support an integrated pest management approach if located close to cropped areas

Where you can do this action

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

- identified by you as being at risk of soil erosion or surface runoff – you must keep written evidence of this
- alongside a watercourse (ditch, pond, river or stream)
- 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 arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01

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 a 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

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 establish and maintain a grass strip that's:

- at least 12m wide and up to 24m wide (on average in each land parcel) – it can be more than 24m wide, but you'll only be paid for the 24m width
- alongside a ditch, pond, river or stream, to create a buffer between the edge of the crop or fallow land and the watercourse

You must make sure the grass strip is in addition to any regulatory requirements relating to buffer strips.

Once the grass strip is established, you must manage it in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim.

During late summer, after the bird breeding season, you must cut part of the grass strip's width next to the edge of the crop or fallow land. You must do this along as much of the strip's length as possible. This is to provide some shorter vegetation and a range of habitat types.

You must not do the following on the established grass strip:

- allow livestock to access it
- use it for regular vehicular access, turning or storage (for example, storing bales or machinery)
- apply fertilisers or manures
- apply pesticides, except for herbicides to weed wipe or spot treat to control [injurious weeds](#), [invasive non-native species](#), or nettles

You can maintain an existing grass strip to get paid for this action if it:

- meets this action's requirements
- is not already being paid for under another environmental land management scheme option, such as CS option SW4 (12m to 24m watercourse buffer strip on cultivated land)

When to do it

You must:

- establish the grass buffer strip within the first 12 months of this action's duration
- maintain the grass buffer strip throughout each subsequent year of this action's 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 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
- 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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	OFC3, OFC4, OFM4, OFM5, AGF1, AGF2, PRF2, CSAM1, CIPM1, CNUM1,
SFI 2023 actions	SAM1 IPM1, NUM1
CS options	OR3, OR4, OT3, OT4
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6. 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
What to do	Storing bales or machinery added as an example of 'storage'

Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements
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BFS2: Buffer in-field ponds on arable land

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£681 per hectare (ha) per year – calculate the hectareage by:

- measuring the length of the buffer strip in metres (m)
- multiplying that length by the relevant width (10m to 20m) to give the area in m²
- dividing that area by 10,000 to convert it into ha

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's a wide grass buffer strip around a pond that:

- has an intact grass sward throughout the year, without tracks and compacted areas
- is left to develop a mix of tussocky grasses, flowering plants and low scrub
- has minimal poaching by livestock

The purpose of this is to:

- protect ponds from nutrient leaching and sediment runoff
- help improve water quality
- provide a habitat for wildlife

Where you can do this action

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

- adjacent to a pond
- 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, allowing scrub to develop)
- registered with an eligible land cover on your digital maps
- declared with a [land use code](#) which is compatible with the eligible land cover

You cannot do this action around ponds associated with industrial features such as effluent ponds, balancing ponds or small water supply reservoirs.

Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Arable land used to grow crops	Arable land	Land use codes for arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01

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: Ineligible – you must not enter any area with an historic or archaeological feature into this action. This only affects the area where the feature is located in a land parcel. You can apply for this action on the remaining area in the land parcel if it’s eligible.

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 establish and maintain a grass strip around a pond that:

- is at least 10m wide along its entire length and up to 20m wide (on average in each land parcel) – it can be more than 20m wide, but you’ll only be paid for the 20m width
- extends between the pond edge and the edge of the arable land

The grass strip does not need to surround the entire pond. You can choose how much of the pond to buffer.

To establish the grass strip, you must either:

- allow the area to regenerate naturally
- sow the area

Once it’s established, you must manage it in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action’s aim.

You must make sure the grass strip is in addition to any regulatory requirements relating to buffer strips.

You must not:

- cut the grass strip, except to prevent scrub from developing on more than half of its area
- cut the strip during the bird breeding season, as [birds, nests and eggs are protected by law](#)
- apply fertilisers or manures
- apply pesticides, except for herbicides to weed wipe or spot treat to control [injurious weeds](#), [invasive non-native species](#), or nettles

You can maintain an existing grass strip to get paid for this action if it:

- meets this action's requirements
- is not already being paid for under another environmental land management scheme option, such as CS option WT2 (buffering in-field ponds and ditches on arable land)

When to do it

You must:

- establish the grass strip within the first 12 months of this action's duration
- maintain the grass strip throughout each subsequent year of this action's 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

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	OFC3, OFC4, OFM4, OFM5, AGF1, AGF2, PRF2, CIPM1, CNUM1, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, NUM1, SAM1
CS options	OR3, OR4, OT3, OT4
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6. 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	<p>An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information.</p> <p>The land type needs to be eligible at the start of this action's duration. If the land type changes because of this action, it will not affect eligibility (for example, allowing scrub to develop).</p>
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information

BFS3: Buffer in-field ponds on improved grassland

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£311 per hectare (ha) per year – calculate the hectarage by:

- measuring the length of the buffer strip in metres (m)
- multiplying that length by the relevant width (10m to 20m) to give the area in m²
- dividing that area by 10,000 to convert it into ha

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's a wide grass buffer strip around a pond that:

- has an intact grass sward throughout the year, without tracks and compacted areas
- is left to develop a mix of tussocky grasses, flowering plants and low scrub
- has minimal poaching by livestock

The purpose of this is to:

- protect ponds from nutrient leaching and sediment runoff
- help improve water quality
- provide a habitat for wildlife

Where you can do this action

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

- adjacent to a pond
- 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, allowing scrub to develop)
- registered with an eligible land cover on your digital maps
- declared with a [land use code](#) which is compatible with the eligible land cover

You cannot do this action around ponds associated with industrial features, such as effluent ponds, balancing ponds or small water supply reservoirs.

Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01

Improved permanent grassland	Permanent grassland	PG01
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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: Ineligible – you must not enter any area with an historic or archaeological feature into this action. This only affects the area where the feature is located in a land parcel. You can apply for this action on the remaining area in the land parcel if it’s eligible.

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 establish and maintain a grass strip around a pond that:

- is at least 10m wide and up to 20m wide (on average in each land parcel) – it can be more than 20m wide, but you’ll only be paid for the 20m width
- extends between the pond edge and the edge of the improved grassland

The grass strip does not need to surround the entire pond. You can choose how much of the pond to buffer.

To establish the grass strip, you must allow the area entered into this action to regenerate naturally. Once it’s established, you must manage it in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action’s aim.

You must make sure the grass strip is in addition to any regulatory requirements relating to buffer strips.

You must not:

- cut the grass strip, except to prevent scrub from developing on more than half of its area
- cut the grass strip during the bird breeding season, as [birds, nests and eggs are protected by law](#)
- let livestock poach more than a third of the grass strip
- apply fertilisers or manures
- apply pesticides, except for herbicides to weed wipe or spot treat to control [injurious weeds](#), [invasive non-native species](#), or nettles

You can maintain an existing grass strip to get paid for this action if it:

- meets this action's requirements
- is not already being paid for under another environmental land management scheme option, such as CS option WT1 (buffering in-field ponds and ditches in improved grassland)

When to do it

You must:

- establish the grass strip within the first 12 months of this action's duration
- maintain the grass strip throughout each subsequent year of this action's 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

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	OFC1, OFM1, AGF1, AGF2, PRF2, CIPM1, CNUM1, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, NUM1, SAM1
CS options	SW15, SW16, OR1, OT1

ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6. 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	<p>An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information.</p> <p>The land type needs to be eligible at the start of this action's duration. If the land type changes because of this action, it will not affect eligibility (for example, allowing scrub to develop).</p>
Eligibility of protected land	<p>Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information.</p> <p>You can apply for this action on the area in a land parcel that does not contain an historic or archaeological feature.</p>

BFS4: Protect in-field trees on arable land

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£553 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's an uncultivated, naturally regenerated grass buffer which:

- is around an in-field tree on arable land
- has minimal weeds and bare ground

The purpose of this is to:

- protect the tree roots from damage by agricultural cultivation
- retain the trees as important features in the local landscape
- provide standing and fallen deadwood habitats for invertebrates

Where you can do this action

To be eligible for this action, the tree can be dead or alive. It must:

- be in-field
- have a trunk that's at least 30cm diameter at around 1.5m above ground level (also known as diameter breast height)
- not be part of a group or line of 4 or more trees with overlapping canopies

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

- 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, allowing scrub to develop)
- 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 arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops

Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01

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 a 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

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:

- allow a naturally regenerated grass buffer to establish around the in-field tree
- protect the tree from damage by livestock and wild animals
- make sure tree guards do not damage growing trees

The grass buffer area around the in-field tree must be wide enough that it can reasonably be expected to protect the tree's roots.

The width that's likely to achieve this will depend on the tree's diameter breast height (DBH). This means the grass buffer around the in-field tree will usually be at least:

- 10m if the tree's DBH is 30cm to 99cm – which means the area per tree will be 0.03ha
- 20m if the tree's DBH is 100cm to 199cm – which means the area per tree will be 0.12ha
- 30m (0.28ha) if the tree's DBH is 200cm or more – which means the area per tree will be 0.28ha

Once the grass buffer is established, you must maintain it in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim.

You must not:

- plough, cultivate, re-seed, harrow or roll
- 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
- carry out supplementary feeding in a way that causes poaching on the grass buffer
- remove any tree limbs, including lower limbs or mature ivy growth

You can maintain an existing grass buffer around an in-field tree to get paid for this action if it:

- meets this action's requirements
- is not already being paid for under another environmental land management scheme option, such as Countryside Stewardship option BE1 (protection of in-field trees on arable land)

When to do it

You must:

- establish the grass buffer within 12 months of this action's start date
- maintain the grass buffer throughout each subsequent year of this action's 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 or other documentation

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

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer

companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	OFC3, OFC4, OFM4, OFM5, PRF2, CIPM1, CNUM1, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, NUM1, SAM1
CS options	OR3, OR4, OT3, OT4
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6. 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information. The land type needs to be eligible at the start of this action's duration. If the land type changes because of this action, it will not affect eligibility (for example, allowing scrub to develop).
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
What to do	Updated wording about the tree's diameter breast height (DBH) and its relationship to area per tree
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

BFS5: Protect in-field trees on intensive grassland

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£295 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's an uncultivated, naturally regenerated grass buffer which:

- is around an in-field tree on grassland that's managed intensively
- has minimal weeds and bare ground

The purpose of this is to:

- protect the tree roots from damage by agricultural cultivation
- retain the trees as important features in the local landscape
- provide standing and fallen deadwood habitats for invertebrates

Where you can do this action

To be eligible for this action, the tree can be alive or dead. It must:

- be in-field
- have a trunk that's at least 30 centimetres (cm) diameter at around 1.5 metres (m) above ground level (also known as diameter breast height)
- not be part of a group or line of 4 or more trees with overlapping canopies

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

- typically receiving at least 100 kilograms (kg) per ha per year of nitrogen – 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
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01

Improved permanent grassland	Permanent grassland	PG01
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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 a 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

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:

- allow a naturally regenerated grass buffer to establish around the in-field tree
- protect the tree from damage by livestock and wild animals
- make sure tree guards do not damage growing trees

The grass buffer area around the in-field tree must be wide enough that it can reasonably be expected to protect the tree's roots.

The width that's likely to achieve this will depend on the tree's diameter breast height (DBH). This means the grass buffer around the in-field tree will usually be at least:

- 10m if the tree's DBH is 30cm to 99cm – which means the area per tree will be 0.03ha
- 20m if the tree's DBH is 100cm to 199cm – which means the area per tree will be 0.12ha
- 30m if the tree's DBH is 200cm or more – which means the area per tree will be 0.28ha

Once the grass buffer is established, you must maintain it in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim.

You must not:

- plough, cultivate, re-seed, harrow or roll
- 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
- carry out supplementary feeding in a way that causes poaching on the grass buffer
- remove any tree limbs, including lower limbs or mature ivy growth

You can maintain an existing grass buffer around an in-field tree to get paid for this action if it:

- meets this action's requirements
- is not already being paid for under another environmental land management scheme option, such as Countryside Stewardship option BE1 (protection of in-field trees on arable land)

When to do it

You must:

- establish the grass buffer within 12 months of this action's start date
- maintain the grass buffer throughout each subsequent year of this action's 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 that land entered into this action is typically receiving at least 100 kilograms (kg) per ha per year of nitrogen.

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 or other documentation

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

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	OFC1, OFM1, PRF2, CIPM1, CNUM1, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, NUM1, SAM1
CS options	OR1, OT1
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6. 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
How much you'll be paid	Deleted hectare calculation as covered under 'What to do'
Where you can do this action	Eligible land will typically be receiving at least 100 kilograms (kg) per ha per year of nitrogen. This replaces references to 'intensive grassland'
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information

Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
What to do	Updated wording about the tree's diameter breast height (DBH) and its relationship to area per tree
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

BFS6: 6m to 12m habitat strip next to watercourses

Duration

5 years

How much you'll be paid

£742 per hectare (ha) per year – calculate the hectareage by:

- measuring the length of the strip in metres (m)
- multiplying that length by the relevant width (6m to 12m) to give the area in m²
- dividing that area by 10,000 to convert it into ha

Action's aim

This action's aim is that, throughout the year, there's a habitat strip next to a watercourse:

- with a mosaic of grassland vegetation and naturally colonised or planted native tree and scrub species, which are near the watercourse (riparian) and have an open canopy
- with tussocky grasses allowed to develop
- without livestock, tracks or compacted areas

The purpose of this is to:

- reduce soil erosion and nutrient loss
- increase water filtration
- slow down water runoff
- provide shade to the watercourse
- provide habitats and food for wildlife
- form links between other habitats

Where you can do this action

You can do this action on agricultural land next to a watercourse (ditch, river, stream or canal) located below the moorland line that's:

- 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 arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01
Improved permanent grassland	Permanent grassland	PG01
Scrub	Scrub – ungrazeable Notional – scrub	WO25 NF03

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: Ineligible – you must not enter any area with an historic or archaeological feature into this action. This only affects the area where the feature is located in a land parcel. You can apply for this action on the remaining area in the land parcel if it’s eligible.

Available area you can enter into this action

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 establish and maintain a habitat strip that:

- is at least 6m wide and up to 12m wide (on average in each land parcel) – it can be more than 12m wide, but you’ll only be paid for the 12m width
- buffers a ditch, river, stream or canal

To establish the habitat strip, you must do one or a combination of both of the following:

- allow trees and scrub to regenerate naturally
- plant a variety of native riparian tree and shrub species

You can remove soil compaction to prepare land for this action (if needed).

Once the habitat strip is established, you must manage it in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim. This includes:

- cutting woody growth to create and maintain an open canopy along the bank so there's dappled shade for the watercourse
- controlling the spread of injurious weeds, nettles or invasive non-native species
- removing cut material (when you're cutting) to control woody growth or the spread of injurious weeds, nettles or invasive non-native species
- leaving any standing and fallen deadwood in place, if it's safe to do so
- leaving any mature and veteran trees in place, if it's safe to do so

You must not do the following on the habitat strip:

- allow livestock to access it
- use it for regular vehicular access, turning or storage (for example, storing bales or machinery)
- apply fertilisers or manures
- apply pesticides, except for herbicides to weed wipe or spot treat to control [injurious weeds](#), [invasive non-native species](#), or nettles
- create or maintain hard standing, boardwalks or closely mown access routes running parallel to the ditch, river, stream or canal

In addition, you must not cut or remove vegetation unless you're doing it to:

- control woody growth or the spread of injurious weeds, nettles or invasive non-native species,
- maintain existing access routes that are at an angle of 90 degrees to the watercourse
- help establish the habitat strip on previously arable land

You can maintain an existing habitat strip to get paid for this action if it:

- meets this action's requirements
- is not already being paid for under another environmental land management scheme option, such as CS option SW11 (riparian management strip)

When to do it

You must:

- establish the habitat strip within the first 12 months of this action's duration
- maintain the habitat strip throughout each subsequent year of this action's 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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	OFC1, OFC3, OFM1, OFM4, CIPM1, CNUM1, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, NUM1, SAM1
CS options	SW15, SW16, OR1, OT1
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6. 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligible land	Scrub is an eligible land type
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information. You can apply for this action on the area in a land parcel that does not contain an historic or archaeological feature.
What to do	Storing bales or machinery added as an example of 'storage'
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	PRF2 removed from SFI 2024 actions
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

SFI actions for waterbodies

WBD1: Manage ponds

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£257 per pond per year, with a maximum of 3 ponds per hectare (ha)

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's a pond containing clear and clean water with:

- a range of semi-aquatic vegetation allowed to develop around the pond edge
- submerged and floating pond plants

The purpose of this is to:

- increase biodiversity
- help improve water quality
- provide habitats for native aquatic species

Where you can do this action

You can do this action on eligible ponds located on land that's:

- 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

An eligible pond for this action must be:

- more than 25 square metres up to 2 ha (at the point you apply for an SFI agreement)
- under your management control – this includes the whole of the pond edge and the water in the pond

The following ponds are not eligible for this action:

- ponds used for wastewater, treated effluent discharge activities or road drainage
- sediment ponds, basins, traps or lagoons
- balancing ponds
- ponds which are largely or fully synthetically lined

- ponds which are likely to need fully draining during this action's duration, such as irrigation ponds and fire water ponds
- aquaculture ponds

Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Pond	Pond	WF03

Eligibility of protected land

Sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs): Ineligible – you must not enter ponds into this action that are on an area that's designated as an SSSI.

Historic and archaeological features: Eligible – you must get a 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. You'll enter the number of ponds.

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 pond in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim, including:

- controlling scrub around the pond edge by lightly cutting it or grazing it with livestock to encourage a range of semi-aquatic vegetation to develop
- trying to avoid livestock trampling and poaching the pond edge which can make the water turbid (cloudy)

You must not:

- deepen or change the pond's original profile, including filling it in
- artificially introduce plants or animals to the pond, including fish or waterfowl
- allow supplementary feeding of fish
- feed waterfowl – if there's public access to the pond, try to discourage wildfowl feeding
- add dyes to the water

When to do it

You must do this action from its start date, throughout 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:

- pond management 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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	No SFI 2024 actions
SFI 2023 actions	No SFI 2023 actions
CS options	No CS management options
ES options	No ES options
SFI pilot standards	No SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6. 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligible land	The only eligible land type for this action is a pond, that's registered with a 'pond' land cover on your digital maps and declared with WF03 land use code. All other land types have been removed
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

WBD2: Manage ditches

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£4 per 100 metres (m) for both sides

Action's aim

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

- varied bankside and aquatic vegetation
- undisturbed wildlife habitat

The purpose of this is to:

- maintain vegetation that's typical of wet ditches
- provide habitats for wildlife

Where you can do this action

An eligible ditch for this action must:

- form part of the boundary of a land parcel that's located below the moorland line
- be 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
- have vegetated banks
- regularly contain standing or flowing water

You can only do this action on both sides of the entire length of an eligible ditch. This means you must have management control of both sides of the ditch. You can choose what length to enter.

You can enter both sides of a ditch that borders a neighbour's land 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

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

Eligibility of protected land

Sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs): Ineligible - you must not enter any area that's designated as an SSSI into this action.

Historic and archaeological features: Eligible – you must get a 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.

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 in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim, including:

- cutting vegetation at the top of the ditch bank in rotation, so you only cut up to half the length of the ditch bank in any year of this action's 3-year duration
- carrying out in-channel management on any section of the ditch no more than once during this action's 3-year duration – this includes cleaning out silt or vegetation and cutting vegetation in the ditch channel

To minimise disturbance to wildlife, you must only manage the ditch during the autumn, winter and early spring (usually September to late March).

You must not re-profile or increase the width or depth of the ditch.

When to do it

You must do this action from its start date, throughout each year of its 3-year duration.

If this action's start date means it's too late for you to do this action, you must start doing it within 12 months of the 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

Keep evidence to show what you've done to complete this action, such as:

- ditch management 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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	All SFI 2024 actions, except BND1
SFI 2023 actions	All SFI 2023 actions
CS options	All CS management options, including BE3 (management of hedgerows)
ES options	All ES revenue options, except boundary options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6. 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

WBD3: In-field grass strips

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£765 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's an in-field grass strip:

- on land at risk of soil erosion or surface runoff
- with an intact grass sward throughout the year

The purpose of this is to:

- reduce the quantity of sediment, nutrients and pesticides transported through surface runoff water
- improve water quality
- provide habitats for wildlife
- support an integrated pest management approach if located close to cropped areas

Where you can do this action

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

- identified by you as being at risk of soil erosion or surface 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

This is a 'limited area' action. The total eligible area you enter into any combination of one or more of the 'limited area' actions must not be more than 25% of the total agricultural area of your farm. Read [section 1.3 'SFI actions with a limited area'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details (including a list of the 'limited area' actions).

Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Arable land used to grow crops	Arable land	Land use codes for arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01

Eligibility of protected land

Site of special scientific interest (SSSI) area in a land parcel: 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 environment features: Eligible – you must get a 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

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 establish and maintain an in-field grass strip which has:

- an intact grass sward
- no evidence of damage from vehicle or stock access routes

During late summer after the bird breeding season, you must cut the entire strip to encourage a dense sward with a variety of grasses to grow.

You must not:

- apply fertilisers or manures
- apply pesticides except for herbicides to weed wipe or spot treat to control [injurious weeds](#), [invasive non-native species](#), or nettles
- allow livestock to access the strip

You can maintain an existing in-field grass strip to get paid for this action if it:

- meets this action’s requirements

- is not already being paid for under another environmental land management scheme option, such as CS option SW3 (in-field grass strips)

When to do it

You must:

- establish the in-field grass strip within 12 months of this action's start date
- maintain the in-field grass strip throughout each subsequent year of this action's 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 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
- 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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	OFC3, OFC4, OFM4, OFM5, AGF1, AGF2, PRF2, CIPM1, CNUM1, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, NUM1, SAM1
CS options	OR3, OR4, OT3, OT4
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6. 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

WBD4: Arable reversion to grassland with low fertiliser input

Duration

5 years

How much you'll be paid

£489 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's a dense and diverse grass sward throughout the year which:

- is on land at risk of erosion or surface runoff or that creates a buffer to a sensitive habitat
- has a range of heights during the autumn and winter months
- has minimal bare ground, so the soil is covered by vegetation and is not directly exposed to the elements
- has low fertiliser inputs

The purpose this is to:

- stabilise the soil
- reduce nutrient losses
- reduce the risk of flooding

Where you can do this action

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

- identified by you as being at risk of soil erosion or surface runoff, or is important for buffering 'sensitive habitats' – 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

For the purposes of this action, 'sensitive habitats' include:

- watercourses and waterbodies (streams, rivers, ponds or lakes)
- sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) at risk of diffuse water pollution – you can find these on the [MAGIC website](#)
- priority habitats – you can find these on [Natural England's priority habitat inventory map](#) or the [MAGIC website](#)

Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Arable land used to grow crops	Arable land	Land use codes for arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01

Eligibility of protected land

Site of special scientific interest (SSSI) area in a land parcel: 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 environment features: Eligible – you must get a 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:

- establish a diverse grass sward on land entered into this action
- use a seed mix which includes at least 5 grass species

Once the grass sward is established, you must maintain it. To do this, you must manage it in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim. This includes:

- making sure there's an intact sward throughout the year, with minimal bare ground
- grazing or cutting the sward during the spring and summer months, with cuttings removed in late summer after the bird breeding season

You must not do the following on the grass sward:

- graze it with livestock during the autumn and winter months (usually from early October until mid-March)
- apply pesticides, except for herbicides to weed wipe or spot treat to control [injurious weeds](#), [invasive non-native species](#), or nettles
- apply any fertilisers or manures from late summer until mid-winter (usually from mid-August until the end of January) – this is to reduce the risk of runoff
- apply any livestock manures with 100 kilograms (kg) or more of total nitrogen per ha per year
- where you do not use livestock manures, apply nitrogen fertiliser to supply 50kg or more per ha of total nitrogen per year
- supplementary feed, except for non-energy based mineral blocks

You can maintain an existing grass sward to get paid for this action if it:

- meets this action's requirements
- is not already being paid for under another environmental land management scheme option, such as CS option SW7 (arable reversion to grassland with low fertiliser input)

When to do it

If you're establishing a new grass sward to meet this action, you must:

- sow the mix by early autumn, within 12 months of this action's start date
- maintain it at the same location until this action's end date

If you're maintaining an existing grass sward to meet this action, you must do this until this action's end 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 written evidence that land entered into this action is either:

- at risk of soil erosion or surface runoff - you can use the soil management plan produced for CSAM1 or SAM1 to identify this
- important for buffering sensitive habitats

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 seed mix used
- stocking records to show grazing activity at a land parcel level
- input records of nitrogen application
- 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 this evidence if we ask for it.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	OFC1, OFM1, AGF1, AGF2, PRF1, PRF2, CIPM1, CNUM1, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, NUM1, SAM1
CS options	OR1, OT1
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6. 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do supplemental action WBD9: Nil fertiliser supplement on land entered into this action.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3

- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Action's aim	Deleted 'next to a watercourse'. Added 'so the soil is covered by vegetation' for minimal bare ground
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
What to do	Updated livestock manure application to 100 kilograms (kg) or more of total nitrogen. Updated nitrogen fertiliser to 50kg or more
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	Added supplemental action WB9 (nil fertiliser)
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

WBD5: Manage intensive grassland adjacent to a watercourse

Duration

5 years

How much you'll be paid

£311 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's a dense and diverse grass sward throughout the year which:

- is on land at risk of erosion or surface runoff that's adjacent to a watercourse, or that creates a buffer to a sensitive habitat
- has a range of heights during the autumn and winter months
- has minimal bare ground, so the soil is covered by vegetation and is not directly exposed to the elements
- has low fertiliser inputs

The purpose of this is to:

- reduce soil compaction
- reduce surface runoff and risk of diffuse pollution to the watercourse
- help to reduce the risk of flooding

Where you can do this action

You can do this action on sloping agricultural land which drains directly into a watercourse (stream, river or lake) that's:

- managed intensively – this usually means it's been receiving more than 200 kilograms (kg) nitrogen per ha per year before it's entered into this action
- next to a watercourse and has been identified by you as being at risk of soil erosion or surface runoff, or important for buffering 'sensitive habitats' – 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

For the purposes of this action, 'sensitive habitats' include:

- watercourses and waterbodies (streams, rivers, ponds or lakes)
- sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) at risk of diffuse water pollution – you can find these on the [MAGIC website](#)

- priority habitats – you can find these on [Natural England's priority habitat inventory map](#) or the [MAGIC website](#)

Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Permanent grassland – improved and low input	Permanent grassland	PG01

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 this action will not have a damaging effect – you must get a 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:

- establish a diverse grass sward on land entered into this action
- use a seed mix which includes at least 5 grass species

Once the grass sward is established, you must maintain it. To do this, you must manage it in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim. This includes:

- making sure there's an intact sward throughout the year, with minimal bare ground
- grazing during the spring or summer months, or both seasons
- cutting the sward in late summer, after the bird breeding season, with cuttings removed

You must not do the following on the grass sward:

- graze it with livestock during the autumn and winter months (usually from early October until mid-March)
- apply pesticides, except for herbicides to weed wipe or spot treat to control [injurious weeds](#), [invasive non-native species](#), or nettles
- apply any fertilisers or manures from late summer until mid-winter (usually from mid-August until the end of January) – this is to reduce the risk of runoff
- apply any livestock manures with 100 kilograms (kg) or more of total nitrogen per ha per year
- where you do not use livestock manures, apply nitrogen fertiliser to supply 50kg or more per ha of total nitrogen per year
- supplementary feed, except for non-energy based mineral blocks

You can maintain an existing grass sward to get paid for this action if it:

- meets this action's requirements
- is not already being paid for under another environmental land management scheme option, such as CS option SW8 (management of intensive grassland adjacent to a watercourse)

When to do it

If you're establishing a new grass sward to meet this action, you must:

- sow the mix by early autumn, within 12 months of this action's start date
- maintain the mix at the same location until this action's end date

If you're maintaining an existing grass sward to meet this action, you must do this until this action's end 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 written evidence that land entered into this action is either:

- at risk of soil erosion or surface runoff - you can use the soil management plan produced for CSAM1 or SAM1 to identify this
- important for creating a buffer to sensitive habitats

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 seed mix used
- stocking records to show grazing activity at a land parcel level
- input records of nitrogen application
- 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 this evidence if we ask for it.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	OFC1, OFM1, AGF1, AGF2, PRF1, PRF2, CIPM1, CNUM1, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, NUM1, SAM1
CS options	OR1, OT1
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6. 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do supplemental action WB9 (nil fertiliser supplement) on land entered into this action.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3

- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	Replaced 'intensive grassland' with 'managed intensively – this usually means it's been receiving more than 200 kilograms of nitrogen per ha per year before it's entered into this action'
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
What to do	Updated livestock manure application to 100 kilograms (kg) or more of total nitrogen. Updated nitrogen fertiliser to 50kg or more
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	Added supplemental action WB9 (nil fertiliser)
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

WBD6: Remove livestock from intensive grassland during the autumn and winter (outside SDAs)

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£115 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that, during the autumn and winter months, there's intensive grassland next to a watercourse, with:

- no livestock on it
- minimal waterlogging, compaction and poaching

The purpose of this is to:

- improve soil structure
- reduce surface runoff and risk of diffuse pollution to the watercourse
- help to reduce the risk of flooding

Where you can do this action

You can do this action on agricultural land which drains directly into a watercourse (stream, river or lake) that's:

- located outside [severely disadvantaged areas](#) (SDAs) below the moorland line (SDAs) below the moorland line
- typically receiving at least 100 kilograms (kg) of nitrogen per ha per year
- identified by you as being prone to waterlogging, compaction and poaching – you must keep written 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
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Permanent grassland – improved and low input	Permanent grassland	PG01

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 a 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 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 remove all livestock from the land for at least 5 consecutive months during the autumn and winter months. This period will usually be between October and March.

For the purposes of this action, livestock includes cattle, sheep, goats, ponies and horses, as relevant.

You must keep a written record of:

- grazing activity on each land parcel entered into this action to show you've met the minimum livestock removal period required by this action
- input records showing that the grassland has received at least 100kg of nitrogen per hectare per year

When to do it

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

If this action's start date means it's too late for you to do this action, you must start doing it within 12 months of the action's start date.

In the final year of this action's duration, you must do the action until the end of your chosen minimum 5-month livestock removal period or this action's end date, whichever is earlier.

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

Evidence to keep

You must keep written evidence that land entered into this action is prone to waterlogging, compaction or poaching. You can use the soil management plan produced for CSAM1 or SAM1 to identify this.

You must also keep the required written record of grazing activity and nitrogen application

You must supply this evidence if we ask for it.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	OFC1, OFM1, AGF1, AGF2, PRF1, PRF2, CIPM1, CNUM1, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, NUM1, SAM1
CS options	SW15, SW16, OR1, OT1
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6. 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	<p>Replaced 'intensive grassland' with 'typically receiving at least 100 kilograms (kg) of nitrogen per ha per year'.</p> <p>Added 'identified by you as being prone to waterlogging, compaction and poaching – you must keep evidence of this'.</p> <p>An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information.</p>
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
Evidence to keep	Added that you must keep written evidence that land entered into this action is prone to waterlogging, compaction or poaching

WBD7: Remove livestock from grassland during the autumn and winter (SDAs)

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£115 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that, during the autumn and winter months, there's intensive grassland next to a watercourse, with:

- no livestock on it
- minimal waterlogging, compaction and poaching

The purpose of this is to:

- improve soil structure
- reduce surface runoff and risk of diffuse pollution to the watercourse
- help to reduce the risk of flooding

Where you can do this action

You can do this action on agricultural land which drains directly into a watercourse (stream, river or lake) that's:

- located within a [severely disadvantaged area](#) (SDA) below the moorland line
- identified by you as being prone to waterlogging, compaction and poaching – you must keep written 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
Permanent grassland – improved and low input	Permanent grassland	PG01

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 a 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 available area in a land parcel.

Rotational or static action

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

What to do

You must remove all livestock from the land for the duration of the autumn and winter months. This will usually be from early October until mid-March.

For the purposes of this action, livestock includes cattle, sheep, goats, ponies and horses, as relevant.

You must keep a written record of grazing activity on each land parcel entered into this action to show you've met the livestock removal period required by this action.

When to do it

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

If this action's start date means it's too late for you to do this action, you must start doing it within 12 months of the action's start date.

In the final year of this action's duration, you must do this action until the end of the winter months, or this action's end date, whichever is earlier.

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

Evidence to keep

You must keep written evidence that land entered into this action is prone to waterlogging, compaction or poaching. You can use the soil management plan produced for CSAM1 or SAM1 for this if it identifies this.

You must also keep the required written record of grazing activity.

You must supply this evidence if we ask for it.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	OFC1, OFC2, OFM1, OFM2, AGF1, AGF2, PRF1, PRF2, CIGL3, CIPM1, CNUM1, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, NUM1, IGL3, SAM1
CS options	SW16, OR1, OR2, OT1, OT2
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6. 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information

WBD8: Manage grassland to reduce nutrient levels in groundwater

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£396 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's an intact grass sward throughout the year, with:

- a medium sward height during the winter months
- minimal bare ground
- reduced level of nutrient inputs applied

The purpose of this is to:

- reduce nutrient inputs to grassland in priority Water Framework Directive (WFD) groundwater failure areas
- help slow or reverse nutrient levels in groundwater

Where you can do this action

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

- managed intensively – this usually means it's been receiving more than 200 kilograms (kg) of nitrogen per ha per year before it's entered into this action
- identified as a priority WFD groundwater failure area within the Countryside Stewardship targeting – you can find this on the [MAGIC website](#)
- 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
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Permanent grassland – improved and low input	Permanent grassland	PG01

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 a 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 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:

- make sure there's an intact sward throughout the year
- cut or graze the sward in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim – a medium sward height will usually be an average of around 5 centimetres (cm) to 15cm
- minimise bare ground, so the soil is covered by vegetation and is not directly exposed to the elements

You must not do the following on the grassland:

- plough, cultivate or re-seed it
- carry out supplementary feeding of livestock, except for providing non-energy based mineral blocks
- apply pesticides, except for herbicides to weed wipe or spot treat to control [injurious weeds](#), [invasive non-native species](#), or nettles
- apply manures or fertilisers, apart from when you cut the grassland for hay or silage

When you cut the grassland for hay or silage, you must not apply more than either:

- 12 tonnes of cattle farmyard manure per ha per year
- equivalent amounts of available nutrients as fertiliser or other organic manures as an alternative to cattle farmyard manure

When to do it

You must do this action from its start date, throughout 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

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
- grazing activity at a land parcel level
- 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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	OFC1, OFC3, OFM1, OFM4, AGF1, AGF2, PRF1, PRF2, CIPM1, CNUM1, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, NUM1, SAM1
CS options	OR1, OR3, OT1, OT3
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6. 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	Replaced 'intensive grassland' with 'managed intensively – this usually means it's been receiving more than 200 kilograms of nitrogen per ha per year before it's entered into this action'
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Where you can do this action	Removed conditions relating to recommended fertiliser management system and low intensity farmer
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
What to do	Deleted 'well-rotted' from cattle farmyard manure

WBD9: Nil fertiliser supplement

Duration

5 years

How much you'll be paid

£156 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This supplemental action's aim is that no fertilisers or manures are applied on arable land or permanent grassland.

The purpose of this is to reduce the risk of nitrate loss into ground and surface water.

Where you can do this action

You can only do this supplemental action on eligible land that's entered into one of the following base actions:

- WBD4: Arable reversion to grassland with low fertiliser input
- WBD5: Manage intensive grassland adjacent to a watercourse

You cannot do this supplemental action on land that's already entered into equivalent base actions in a Countryside Stewardship (CS) agreement. This includes:

- SW7: Arable reversion to grassland with low fertiliser input
- SW8: Management of intensive grassland adjacent to a watercourse

Eligible land

Same as your selected base action.

Eligibility of protected land

Same as your selected base action.

Available area you can enter into this action

Same as your selected base action.

Rotational or static action

Same as your selected base action.

What to do

You must not apply any fertilisers or manures on the land entered into this supplemental action.

When to do it

You must do this supplemental action from its start date, throughout each year of its 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

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, as relevant
- 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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	Same as your selected base action
SFI 2023 actions	Same as your selected base action
CS options	Same as your selected base action
ES options	Same as your selected base action
SFI pilot standards	Same as your selected base action

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6. 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Duration	5 years instead of 'same as base action'
Where you can do this action	You cannot do this supplemental action on land that's entered into SW7 or SW8
Eligible land	Added 'your selected' in relation the base action
Eligibility of protected land	Added 'your selected' in relation the base action
Available area	Added 'your selected' in relation the base action
Rotational or static action	Added 'your selected' in relation the base action
Evidence to keep	Added 'as relevant' to field operations at a land parcel level and associated invoices
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	Added 'your selected' in relation the base action

SFI actions for organic farming

OFC1: Organic conversion – improved permanent grassland

Duration

1 year – you can apply for this action for a maximum of 2 consecutive years to cover the period of organic conversion

How much you'll be paid

£187 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that improved and semi-improved permanent grassland is converted from conventional management to organic management.

The purpose of this is to increase the overall area of land registered and managed as organic.

Where you can do this action

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

- registered as 'in conversion' with a [DEFRA-licensed organic control body](#)
- 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

Land is not eligible for this action if you've previously:

- registered it with an organic control body
- received organic conversion aid or funding for it

Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Improved permanent grassland	Permanent grassland	PG01
Semi-improved low input permanent grassland	Permanent grassland	PG01

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 a 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 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:

- follow the organic conversion plan for the land entered into this action and associated livestock, as approved and signed off by your organic control body
- comply with organic standards on land entered into this action from the start of organic conversion period until this action's end date
- complete organic conversion and register the land entered into this action as 'fully organic' before this action's end date

When to do it

You must do this action from its start date, throughout each year of this action's duration until the land is registered as 'fully organic'.

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

Evidence to keep

You must keep:

- a copy of the organic conversion plan approved and signed off by your organic control body
- a valid organic certificate and schedule for all land entered into this action – this must cover at least the full period of this action's duration

- records to show the land is improved permanent grassland or semi-improved low input permanent grassland

You must supply this evidence if we ask for it.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	BFS3, BFS5, BFS6, HEF5, HEF6, HEF8, WBD4, WBD5, WBD6, WBD7, WBD8, AGF1, AGF2, PRF1, PRF2, CIGL1, CIGL2, CIGL3, CLIG3, CIPM1, CNUM1, CNUM2, CSAM1, CSAM3
SFI 2023 actions	IGL1, IGL2, IGL3, LIG1, LIG2, IPM1, NUM1, NUM2, SAM1, SAM3
CS options	BE2, BE5, CT2, CT4, CT5, CT7, GS1, GS2, GS5, GS7, GS8, GS9, GS10, GS11, GS12, GS13, GS14, HS2, HS4, HS5, HS6, HS7, LH3, SW2, SW7, SW8, SW9, SW10, SW11, SW12, SW13, SW15, SW16, WD4, WD5, WD6, WD10, WD11, WD12, WT1, WT7, WT9, SP7
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do one of the following supplemental actions on land entered into this base action:

- SPM2: Keep native breeds on grazed habitats supplement (50-80%)
- SPM3: Keep native breeds on grazed habitats supplement (more than 80%)

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)

- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligible land	Deleted 'semi-improved' and added 'semi-improved low input permanent grassland' (which is defined in section 5.1 in the updated SFI scheme information)
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	Added supplemental actions SPM2 and SPM3

OFC2: Organic conversion – unimproved permanent grassland

Duration

1 year – you can apply for this action for a maximum of 2 consecutive years to cover the period of organic conversion

How much you'll be paid

£96 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that unimproved permanent grassland is converted from conventional management to organic management.

The purpose of this is to increase the overall area of land registered and managed as organic.

Where you can do this action

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

- registered as 'in conversion' with a [DEFRA-licensed organic control body](#)
- 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

Land is not eligible for this action if you've previously:

- registered it with an organic control body
- received organic conversion aid or funding for it

Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Unimproved low input permanent grassland, including rough grazing	Permanent grassland	PG01

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 a 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 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:

- follow the organic conversion plan for the land entered into this action and associated livestock, as approved and signed off by your organic control body
- comply with organic standards on land entered into this action from the start of organic conversion period until this action's end date
- complete organic conversion and register the land entered into this action as 'fully organic' before this action's end date

When to do it

You must do this action from its start date, throughout each year of this action's duration until the land is registered as 'fully organic'.

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

Evidence to keep

You must keep:

- a copy of the organic conversion plan approved and signed off by your organic control body
- a valid organic certificate and schedule for all land entered into this action – this must cover at least the full period of this action's duration
- records to show the land is unimproved low input permanent grassland

You must supply this evidence if we ask for it.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	GRH1, GRH6, HEF5, HEF6, WBD7, PRF2, CIPM1, CLIG3, CNUM1, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, LIG1, LIG2, NUM1, SAM1
CS options	BE4, BE5, CT1, CT3, CT5, GS1, GS2, GS5, GS6, GS7, GS9, GS10, GS13, HS4, HS5, HS7, LH1, LH2, SW10, SW15, SW16, SW18, UP2, WD4, WD5, WD10, WD11, WT6, WT8, WT10, SP7
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do one of the following supplemental actions on land entered into this base action:

- SPM2: Keep native breeds on grazed habitats supplement (50-80%)
- SPM3: Keep native breeds on grazed habitats supplement (more than 80%)

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligible land	Updated land type to unimproved 'low input' permanent grassland (which is defined in section 5.1 in the updated SFI scheme information)
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	Added supplemental actions SPM2 and SPM3. GRH6 added to SFI 2024 actions. SCR2 removed from SFI 2024 actions

OFC3: Organic conversion – rotational land

Duration

1 year – you can apply for this action for a maximum of 2 consecutive years to cover the period of organic conversion

How much you'll be paid

£298 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that land managed as part of a crop rotation is converted from conventional management to organic management.

The purpose of this is to increase the overall area of land registered and managed as organic.

Where you can do this action

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

- registered as 'in conversion' with a [DEFRA-licensed organic control body](#)
- 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

Land is not eligible for this action if you've previously:

- registered it with an organic control body
- received organic conversion aid or funding for it

Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Arable land used to grow crops	Arable land	Land use codes for arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01
Improved permanent grassland, where cultivation is part of the conversion plan	Permanent grassland	PG01

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 a 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

Not applicable – if you apply for this action for a second consecutive year you can either do it at:

- a new location
- the same location

What to do

You must:

- follow the organic conversion plan for the land entered into this action and associated livestock, as approved and signed off by your organic control body
- comply with organic standards on land entered into this action from the start of organic conversion period until this action's end date
- complete organic conversion and register the land entered into this action as 'fully organic' before this action's end date

When to do it

You must do this action from its start date, throughout each year of this action's duration until the land is registered as 'fully organic'.

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

Evidence to keep

You must keep:

- a copy of the organic conversion plan approved and signed off by your organic control body
- a valid organic certificate and schedule for all land entered into this action – this must cover at least the full period of this action's duration

You must supply this evidence if we ask for it.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	AHW1, AHW3, AHW4, AHW5, AHW6, AHW7, AHW8, AHW9, AHW10, AHW11, AHW12, BFS1, BFS2, BFS4, BFS6, OFA1, OFA6, SOH4, WBD3, WBD8, AGF1, AGF2, PRF1, PRF2, PRF3, PRF4, SOH1, SOH2, SOH3, CAHL1, CAHL2, CAHL3, CAHL4, CIGL1, CIGL2, CIGL3, CIPM1, CIPM2, CIPM3, CIPM4, CNUM1, CNUM2, CNUM3, CSAM1, CSAM2, CSAM3
SFI 2023 actions	AHL1, AHL2, AHL3, AHL4, IGL1, IGL2, IGL3, IPM1, IPM2, IPM3, IPM4, NUM1, NUM2, NUM3, SAM1, SAM2, SAM3
CS options	AB3, AB5, AB6, AB7, AB8, AB10, AB11, AB13, AB14, AB16, BE1, GS3, HS3, HS9, SW1, SW2, SW3, SW4, SW5, SW6, SW11, SW13, WD3, WT2, OP1, OP2, OP4, OP5
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	AHW4 and OFA6 added to SFI 2024 actions

OFC4: Organic conversion – horticultural land

Duration

1 year – you can apply for this action for a maximum of 2 consecutive years to cover the period of organic conversion

How much you'll be paid

£874 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that horticultural land used to produce vegetables or salad crops is converted from conventional management to organic management.

The purpose of this is to increase the overall area of land registered and managed as organic.

Where you can do this action

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

- registered as 'in conversion' with a [DEFRA-licensed organic control body](#)
- used to grow at least 1 horticultural crop in each land parcel entered into this action
- 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

Land is not eligible for this action if you've previously:

- registered it with an organic control body
- received organic conversion aid or funding for it

Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Arable land used to grow horticultural crops	Arable land	Land use codes for horticultural arable crops
Permanent horticultural crops	Permanent crops	TC01
Permanent grassland where cultivation is part of the conversion plan	Permanent grassland	PG01

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 a 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

For non-permanent horticultural crops grown on arable land this action is rotational. This means for the second year of organic conversion you can either:

- move its location
- do it at the same location

For permanent horticultural crops, 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:

- follow the organic conversion plan for the land entered into this action and associated livestock, as approved and signed off by your organic control body
- comply with organic standards on land entered into this action from the start of organic conversion period until this action's end date
- complete organic conversion and register the land entered into this action as 'fully organic' before this action's end date

When to do it

You must do this action from its start date, throughout each year of this action's duration until the land is registered as 'fully organic'.

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

Evidence to keep

You must keep:

- a copy of the organic conversion plan approved and signed off by your organic control body
- a valid organic certificate and schedule for all land entered into this action – this must cover at least the full period of this action's duration

You must supply this evidence if we ask for it.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	AHW1, AHW3, AHW5, AHW11, AHW12, BFS1, BFS2, BFS4, WBD3, AGF1, AGF2, PRF1, PRF2, PRF3, CAHL1, CAHL2, CAHL3, CAHL4, CIPM1, CIPM2, CIPM3, CIPM4, CNUM1, CNUM3, CSAM1, CSAM2, SOH2, SOH3
SFI 2023 actions	AHL1, AHL2, AHL3, AHL4, IPM1, IPM2, IPM3, IPM4, NUM1, NUM3, SAM1, SAM2
CS options	AB3, AB5, AB8, AB11, AB16, BE1, HS3, HS9, SW1, SW3, SW4, SW6, WD3, WT2
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
Rotational or static action	For non-permanent horticultural crops, this action is rotational. For permanent horticultural crops, this action is static

OFC5: Organic conversion – top fruit

Duration

1 year – you can apply for this action for a maximum of 3 consecutive years to cover the period of converting to organic

How much you'll be paid

£1,920 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that orchards which produce top fruit and permanent bush crops are converted from conventional management to organic management.

The purpose of this is to increase the overall area of land registered and managed as organic.

Where you can do this action

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

- registered as 'in conversion' with a [DEFRA-licensed organic control body](#)
- used to grow top fruit (such as apples, pears and plums) or bush fruit crops (such as gooseberries and redcurrants) as a commercial crop which is not used to produce alcoholic drinks
- 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

Land is not eligible for this action if you've either:

- previously registered it with an organic control body
- received organic conversion aid or funding for it

Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Permanent horticultural crops	Permanent crops	TC01

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 a 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 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:

- protect the trees from grazing livestock and pests, such as deer and rabbits, to prevent serious damage
- manage weeds and vegetation around the base of establishing trees
- follow the organic conversion plan for the land entered into this action and associated livestock, as approved and signed off by your organic control body
- comply with organic standards on land entered into this action from the start of organic conversion period until this action's end date
- complete organic conversion and register the land entered into this action as 'fully organic' before this action's end date

When to do it

You must do this action from its start date, throughout each year of this action's duration until the land is registered as 'fully organic'.

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

Evidence to keep

You must keep:

- a conversion map showing the planting spacing and species within the orchard – you can mark this on any map
- copies of fruit sale receipts to show that the orchards are in commercial production and not used to produce alcoholic drinks
- a copy of the organic conversion plan approved and signed off by your organic control body
- photographs of the trees entered into this action

- a valid organic certificate and schedule for all land entered into this action – this must cover at least the full period of this action's duration

You must supply this evidence if we ask for it.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	AHW1, PRF1, PRF2, CAHL1, CAHL2, CAHL3, CAHL4, CIPM1, CIPM2, CIPM3, CIPM4, CNUM1, CNUM3, CSAM1, PRF3
SFI 2023 actions	AHL1, AHL2, AHL3, AHL4, IPM1, IPM2, IPM3, IPM4, NUM1, NUM3, SAM1
CS options	AB8, AB16, BE4, BE5
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	Land needs to be used to grow top fruit as a commercial crop which is not used to produce alcoholic drinks

SFI actions in the expanded SFI offer (v1.1b August 2024)

Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	PRF3 added to SFI 2024 actions. OFM6 removed from SFI 2024 actions

OFM1: Organic land management – improved permanent grassland

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£20 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that improved and semi-improved grassland is maintained under organic management.

The purpose of this is to:

- improve soil health
- increase biodiversity
- improve water quality

Where you can do this action

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

- registered as 'fully organic' by a [DEFRA-licensed organic control body](#)
- 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
Improved permanent grassland	Permanent grassland	PG01
Semi-improved low input permanent grassland	Permanent grassland	PG01
Arable land used to grow crops, that you'll convert to permanent grassland	Arable land	Land use codes for arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops

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 a 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 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 comply with the organic standards required by your Defra-licensed organic control body on land entered into this action.

When to do it

You must do this action from its start date, throughout each year of its 3-year duration.

How to do it

You must do this action in a way that meets the required organic standards.

Evidence to keep

You must keep:

- a valid organic certificate and schedule for all land entered into this action – this must cover at least the full period of this action's duration
- records to show the land is improved grassland or semi-improved low input permanent grassland

You must supply this evidence if we ask for it.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer

companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	BFS3, BFS5, BFS6, HEF5, HEF6, WBD4, WBD5, WBD6, WBD7, WBD8, AGF1, AGF2, PRF1, PRF2, CIPM1, CIGL1, CIGL2, CIGL3, CLIG3, CNUM1, CNUM2, CSAM1, CSAM3
SFI 2023 actions	IGL1, IGL2, IGL3, IPM1, LIG1, LIG2, NUM1, NUM2, SAM1, SAM3
CS options	BE2, BE5, CT2, CT4, CT5, CT7, GS1, GS2, GS5, GS7, GS8, GS9, GS10, GS11, GS12, GS13, GS14, HS2, HS4, HS5, HS6, HS7, LH3, SW2, SW7, SW8, SW9, SW10, SW11, SW12, SW13, SW15, SW16, SW18, WD4, WD5, WD6, WD10, WD11, WD12, WT1, WT7, WT9, SP7
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do one of the following supplemental actions on land entered into this base action:

- SPM2: Keep native breeds on grazed habitats supplement (50-80%)
- SPM3: Keep native breeds on grazed habitats supplement (more than 80%)

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information

SFI actions in the expanded SFI offer (v1.1b August 2024)

Eligible land	Updated land type to semi-improved 'low input' permanent grassland (which is defined in section 5.1 in the updated SFI scheme information)
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	Added supplemental actions SPM2 and SPM3. HEF8 removed from SFI 2024 actions

OFM2: Organic land management – unimproved permanent grassland

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£41 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that unimproved grassland, including rough grazing, is maintained under organic management.

The purpose of this is to:

- improve soil health
- increase biodiversity
- improve water quality

Where you can do this action

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

- registered as 'fully organic' by a [Defra-licensed organic control body](#)
- 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
Unimproved low input permanent grassland, including rough grazing	Permanent grassland	PG01

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 a 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 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 comply with the organic standards required by your Defra-licensed organic control body on land entered into this action.

When to do it

You must do this action from its start date, throughout each year of its 3-year duration.

How to do it

You must do this action in a way that meets the required organic standards.

Evidence to keep

You must keep:

- a valid organic certificate and schedule for all land entered into this action – this must cover at least the full period of this action's duration
- records to show the land is unimproved low input permanent grassland or rough grazing

You must supply this evidence if we ask for it.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	GRH1, GRH6, HEF5, HEF6, WBD7, PRF2, CIPM1, CLIG3, CNUM1, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, LIG1, LIG2, NUM1, SAM1

CS options	BE4, BE5, CT1, CT3, CT5, GS1, GS2, GS5, GS6, GS7, GS9, GS10, GS13, HS4, HS5, HS7, LH1, LH2, SW10, SW15, SW16, SW18, UP2, WD4, WD5, WD10, WD11, WT6, WT8, WT10, SP7
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do one of the following supplemental actions on land entered into this base action:

- SPM2: Keep native breeds on grazed habitats supplement (50-80%)
- SPM3: Keep native breeds on grazed habitats supplement (more than 80%)

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Action's aim	Added rough grazing
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	Added supplemental actions SPM2 and SPM3. GRH6 added to SFI 2024 actions

OFM3: Organic land management – enclosed rough grazing

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£97 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that rough grazing is maintained under organic management.

The purpose of this is to:

- improve soil health
- increase biodiversity
- improve water quality

Where you can do this action

You can do this action on land located within [a severely disadvantaged area \(SDA\) above the moorland line](#) that's:

- registered as 'fully organic' by a [Defra-licensed organic control body](#)
- in an enclosed land parcel that's less than 15ha
- 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
Unimproved low input permanent grassland that's rough grazing	Permanent grassland	PG01
Non-agricultural areas, such as scrub, scree, bracken and bog	Relevant non-agricultural land cover	Relevant non-agricultural land use code to match land cover

Eligibility of protected land

SSSI area in a land parcel: 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 environment features: Eligible – you must get a 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 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 comply with the organic standards required by your Defra-licensed organic control body on land entered into this action.

When to do it

You must do this action from its start date, throughout each year of its 3-year duration.

How to do it

You must do this action in a way that meets the required organic standards.

Evidence to keep

You must keep a valid organic certificate and schedule for all land entered into this action – this must cover at least the full period of this action’s duration.

You must supply this evidence if we ask for it.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they’re done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read ‘What to do’ and ‘When to do it’ to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	HEF5, CMOR1
SFI 2023 actions	MOR1
CS options	UP1, UP2

ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do one of the following supplemental actions on land entered into this base action:

- SPM4: Keep native breeds on extensively managed habitats supplement (50-80%)
- SPM5: Keep native breeds on extensively managed habitats supplement (more than 80%)

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligible land	Updated land type to unimproved 'low input' permanent grassland that's rough grazing (which is defined in section 5.1 in the updated SFI scheme information)
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	Added supplemental actions SPM4 and SPM5. UPL1, UPL2, UPL3, UPL7, UPL8, UPL9 and UPL10 removed from SFI 2024 actions

OFM4: Organic land management – rotational land

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£132 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that land managed as part of a crop rotation is maintained under organic management.

The purpose of this is to:

- improve soil health
- increase biodiversity
- improve water quality

Where you can do this action

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

- registered as 'fully organic' by a [Defra-licensed organic control body](#)
- 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 arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01

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 a 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 rotational or static. This means you can either:

- move its location for the second and third years of this action's duration
- do it at the same location each year of this action's duration

What to do

You must comply with the organic standards required by your Defra-licensed organic control body on land entered into this action.

When to do it

You must do this action from its start date, throughout each year of its 3-year duration.

How to do it

You must do this action in a way that meets the required organic standards.

Evidence to keep

You must keep a valid organic certificate and schedule for all land entered into this action. This must cover at least the full period of this action's duration.

You must supply this evidence if we ask for it.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	AHW1, AHW3, AHW4, AHW5, AHW6, AHW7, AHW8, AHW9, AHW10, AHW11, AHW12, BFS1, BFS2, BFS4, BFS6, OFA1, OFA6, SOH4, WBD3, WBD8, AGF1, AGF2, PRF1, PRF2, PRF3, PRF4, SOH1, SOH2, SOH3, CAHL1, CAHL2, CAHL3, CAHL4, CIGL1, CIGL2, CIGL3, CIPM1, CIPM2, CIPM3, CIPM4, CNUM1, CNUM2, CNUM3, CSAM1, CSAM2, CSAM3
SFI 2023 actions	AHL1, AHL2, AHL3, AHL4, IGL1, IGL2, IGL3, IPM1, IPM2, IPM3, IPM4, NUM1, NUM2, NUM3, SAM1, SAM2, SAM3
CS options	AB3, AB5, AB6, AB7, AB8, AB10, AB11, AB13, AB14, AB16, BE1, GS3, HS3, HS9, SW1, SW2, SW3, SW4, SW5, SW6, SW11, SW13, WD3, WT2, OP1, OP2, OP4, OP5
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information

OFM5: Organic land management – horticultural land

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£707 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that horticultural land is maintained under organic management.

The purpose of this is to:

- improve soil health
- increase biodiversity
- improve water quality

Where you can do this action

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

- registered as 'fully organic' by a [Defra-licensed organic control body](#)
- used to grow at least one horticultural crop in each land parcel entered into this action, each year of this action's duration
- 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 horticultural crops	Arable land	Land use codes for horticultural arable crops
Permanent horticultural crops	Permanent crops	TC01

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 a 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

For non-permanent horticultural crops grown on arable land this action is rotational or static. This means you can either:

- move its location for the second and third years of this action's duration
- do it at the same location each year of this action's duration

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

What you must do to get paid

You must comply with the organic standards required by your Defra-licensed organic control body on land entered into this action.

When to do it

You must do this action from its start date, throughout each year of its 3-year duration.

How to do it

You must do this action in a way that meets the required organic standards.

Evidence to keep

You must keep a valid organic certificate and schedule for all land entered into this action. This must cover at least the full period of this action's duration.

You must supply this evidence if we ask for it.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	AHW1, AHW3, AHW5, AHW11, AHW12, BFS1, BFS2, BFS4, WBD3, AGF1, AGF2, PRF1, PRF2, PRF3, CAHL1, CAHL2, CAHL3, CAHL4, CIPM1, CIPM2, CIPM3, CIPM4, CNUM1, CNUM3, CSAM1, CSAM2, SOH2, SOH3

SFI 2023 actions	AHL1, AHL2, AHL3, AHL4, IPM1, IPM2, IPM3, IPM4, NUM1, NUM3, SAM1, SAM2
CS options	AB3, AB5, AB8, AB11, AB16, BE1, HS3, HS9, SW1, SW3, SW4, SW6, WD3, WT2
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
Rotational or static action	For non-permanent horticultural crops, this action is rotational or static. For permanent horticultural crops, this action is static

OFM6: Organic land management – top fruit

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£1,920 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that orchards which produce top fruit and permanent bush crops are maintained under organic management.

- The purpose of this is to:
- improve soil health
- increase biodiversity
- improve water quality

Where you can do this action

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

- registered as 'fully organic' by a [Defra-licensed organic control body](#)
- used to grow top fruit (such as apples, pears and plums) or bush fruit crops (such as gooseberries and redcurrants) as a commercial crop which is not used to produce alcoholic drinks
- 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 horticultural crops	Permanent crops	TC01

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 a 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 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:

- comply with the organic standards required by your Defra-licensed organic control body on land entered into this action
- protect the trees from grazing livestock and pests, such as deer and rabbits, to prevent serious damage
- manage weeds and vegetation around the base of establishing trees

When to do it

You must do this action from its start date, throughout each year of its 3-year duration.

How to do it

You must do this action in a way that meets the required organic standards.

Evidence to keep

You must keep a valid organic certificate and schedule for all land entered into this action – this must cover at least the full period of this action's duration

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

- field operations at a land parcel level and associated invoices
- copies of sales receipts for fruit crops
- photographs and other documentation

You must supply this evidence if we ask for it.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	AHW1, PRF1, PRF2, CAHL1, CAHL2, CAHL3, CAHL4, CIPM1, CIPM2, CIPM3, CIPM4, CNUM1, CNUM3, CSAM1, PRF3
SFI 2023 actions	AHL1, AHL2, AHL3, AHL4, IPM1, IPM2, IPM3, IPM4, NUM1, NUM3, SAM1
CS options	AB8, AB16, BE4, BE5
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	Land needs to be used to grow top fruit as a commercial crop which is not used to produce alcoholic drinks
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	PRF3 added to SFI 2024 actions

OFA1: Overwinter stubble (organic land)

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 post-harvest stubble with some green cover over the autumn and winter months.

The purpose of this is to provide:

- a winter food source for seed-eating farmland birds
- foraging habitats for farmland wildlife

Where you can do this action

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

- identified by you as not being at risk of soil erosion or surface runoff – you must keep evidence of this
- registered as 'fully organic' or 'in conversion' by a [Defra-licensed organic control body](#)
- 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 cereals (not maize, oilseed rape or linseed)	Arable land	Land use codes for arable crops

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 a 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 rotational or static. This means you can either:

- move its location for the second and third years of this action's duration
- do it at the same location each year of this action's duration

What to do

After harvest, you must:

- leave the stubble
- in each land parcel, establish a green overwinter cover crop on the stubble area, such as mustard or fodder radish, so it covers between approximately 10% to 50% of the area entered into this action

You must maintain the stubble area (including the green overwinter cover crop) for a period of time that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim. This will usually be until around mid-February.

You must not do the following on the stubble area (including the green overwinter cover crop):

- top or graze it
- apply any fertilisers, manures or lime
- cultivate it after harvest

When to do it

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

If this action's start date means it's too late for you to do this action, you must start doing it within 12 months of the action's start date.

In the final year of this action's duration, you must do this action until around mid-February or this action's end date, whichever is earlier.

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

For all the land entered into this action, you must keep:

- written evidence that it's not at risk of soil erosion or surface runoff – you can use the soil management plan produced for CSAM1 or SAM1 to identify this
- a valid organic certificate and schedule for it – this must cover at least the full period of this action's duration

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

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

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

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	AHW10, OFC3, OFM4, AGF1, AGF2, PRF1, PRF2, PRF3, PRF4, SOH1, SOH2, SOH3, CIPM1, CIPM3, CIPM4, CNUM1, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, IPM3, IPM4, NUM1, SAM1
CS options	AB14, OR3, OT3
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
What to do	<p>You must maintain the stubble area (including the green overwinter cover crop) for a period of time that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim. This will usually be until around mid-February.</p> <p>You must not do the prohibited activities on the stubble area (including the green overwinter cover crop).</p>
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

OFA3: Supplementary winter bird food (organic land)

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£935 per tonne per year – maximum of 1 tonne of supplementary winter bird food (action AHW2) for every 2 hectares (ha) of winter bird food (action CAHL2 in the expanded SFI offer or AHL2 in the SFI 2023 offer)

Action's aim

This action's aim is that from late winter until mid-spring there's a mix of seeds spread on the ground at multiple feeding areas.

The purpose of this is to provide seed-eating farmland birds with supplementary food when:

- seed is in short supply in the late winter period (known as the hungry gap)
- their breeding season starts in early spring

Where you can do this action

You can only apply for this action if:

- action CAHL2 (winter bird food) or AHL2 in the SFI23 offer is included in your agreement
- the land you've entered into CAHL2 is registered as 'fully organic' or 'in conversion' by a [Defra-licensed organic control body](#)

If the land you've entered into CAHL2 (or AHL2) is not 'fully organic' or 'in conversion' you must apply for AHW2 (supplementary winter bird food) instead.

This action is not available for equivalent actions in a Countryside Stewardship agreement. This includes:

- OP2 (wild bird seed mixture)
- AB9 (winter bird food)

You must do this action on land that's:

- firm and free draining, such as farm tracks or hard standing areas
- close to areas of existing winter bird food, enhanced overwinter stubbles or game cover

What to do

You must spread an organic winter supplementary feeding mix in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim, including:

- dividing the total weight of mix as equally as possible between the multiple feeding areas
- spreading the mix at least once a week from late winter until mid-spring in the following year (usually from early December to late April)

You must use an organic winter supplementary feeding seed mix that contains both:

- cereals (not maize) – these should make up no more than 70% of the total mix by weight
- small non-cereal seeds – these should make up at least 30% of the total mix by weight, with no individual species being more than 50% of the non-cereal element by weight

The small non-cereal seeds element must contain at least 3 of the following species:

- canary seed
- linseed
- oilseed rape
- red millet
- sunflowers
- white millet

If organic seed is unavailable, you must apply to your organic control body for a derogation to use non-organic seed.

You must not:

- use feed hoppers to supply more than around 10% of the seed mix during each feeding period (from late winter to mid-spring)
- use tailings (small seeds and chaff removed from the harvested crops) in the seed mix

You must keep a written 'feeding diary' which includes:

- details of the mix used, including the weight of the cereals and small non-cereal seeds elements and cost
- method of feeding – spreading or hopper
- feeding dates
- amount fed
- location of feeding areas

When to do it

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

If this action's start date means it's too late for you to do this action, you must start doing it within 12 months of the action's start date.

In the final year of this action's duration, you must do this action until mid-spring, or this action's end date, whichever is earlier.

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:

- a valid organic certificate and schedule for all land entered into this action – this must cover at least the full period of this action's duration
- the required written feeding diary – this can be recorded on paper or electronically

If organic seed is unavailable, and you apply to your organic control body for a derogation, you must keep evidence of this.

You must supply this evidence if we ask for it.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	Same as base action
SFI 2023 actions	Same as base action
CS options	Same as base action
ES options	Same as base action

SFI pilot standards	Same as base action
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If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
How much you'll be paid	Added AHL2 in the SFI 2023 offer
Action's aim	Deleted 'firm and free draining, such as farm tracks or hard standing areas' and 'close to areas of winter bird food, enhanced overwinter stubbles or game cover'. Added 'in early spring' to the breeding season.
Where you can do this action	Added AHL2 in the SFI 2023 offer. This action is not available for Countryside Stewardship options OP2 or AB9. You must do this action on land that's firm and free draining and close to areas of existing winter bird food, enhanced overwinter stubbles or game cover.
What to do	You must use an organic winter supplementary feeding seed mix
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

OFA6: Undersown cereal crop (organic land)

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£380 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that by late spring there's a cereal crop undersown with a grass or flower-rich legume ley.

The purpose of this is to provide habitats that benefits animals, including invertebrates and birds that forage within the undersown cereal crop.

Where you can do this action

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

- registered as 'fully organic' or 'in conversion' by a [Defra-licensed organic control body](#)
- 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 cereal crops (not maize)	Arable land	Land use codes for arable crops

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 a 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 rotational or static. This means you can either:

- move its location for the second and third years of this action's duration
- do it at the same location each year of this action's duration

What to do

By late spring, you must undersow an autumn or spring sown cereal crop (not maize) with a grass or flower-rich legume ley.

When to do it

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

If this action's start date means it's too late for you to do this action, you must start doing it within 12 months of the action's start date.

In the final year of this action's duration, you must do this action until late spring or this action's end date, whichever is earlier.

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

Evidence to keep

You must keep a valid organic certificate and schedule for all land entered into this action. This must cover at least the full period of this action's duration.

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 seed invoices for the undersown crop
- photographs or other documentation

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

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	OFC3, OFM4, AGF1, AGF2, PRF1, PRF2, PRF3, PRF4, SOH1, CIPM1, CIPM4, CNUM1, CSAM1, CSAM2, SOH2, SOH3
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, IPM4, NUM1, SAM1, SAM2
CS options	HS3, HS9, OR3, OT3
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information

SFI actions in the expanded SFI offer (v1.1b August 2024)

Other actions or options you can do on the same area	SOH2 and SOH3 added to SFI 2024 actions
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SFI actions for farmland wildlife on arable and horticultural land

CAHL1: Pollen and nectar flower mix

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£739 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's an established pollen and nectar flower mix which:

- is growing in blocks or strips
- produces areas of flowering plants from late spring and during the summer months

The purpose of this is to:

- provide food for beneficial pollinators, such as bumble bees, solitary bees, butterflies and hoverflies
- encourage natural crop pest predators as part of an integrated pest management approach if located close to cropped areas

Where you can do this action

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

- 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

This is a 'limited area' action. The total eligible area you enter into any combination of one or more of the 'limited area' actions must not be more than 25% of the total agricultural area of your farm. Read [section 1.3 'SFI actions with a limited area'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details (including a list of 'limited area' actions).

Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Arable land used to grow crops	Arable land	Land use codes for arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops

Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01
Permanent crops – horticultural and non-horticultural	Permanent crops	TC01

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 a 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

Part of the available area in a land parcel.

Rotational or static action

This action is rotational or static. This means you can either:

- move its location for the second and third years of this action's duration
- do it at the same location each year of this action's duration

What to do

You must establish a nectar flower mix as a block or strip on land entered into this action.

You must use a grass-free seed mix which includes at least 6 flower species, with no individual species being more than 50% of the total mix by weight.

The seed mix must include at least 2 of the following flower species:

- common knapweed
- musk mallow
- oxeye daisy
- wild carrot
- yarrow

Once the pollen and nectar flower mix block or strip is established (usually from the second spring after sowing), you must maintain it. To do this, you must manage it in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim.

You must not do the following on the established pollen and nectar flower mix block or strip:

- cut or graze it with livestock in a way that means this action's aim cannot reasonably be expected to be achieved
- use it for regular vehicular access, turning or storage (for example, storing bales or machinery)
- apply any fertilisers and manures
- apply pesticides, except for herbicides to weed wipe or spot treat to control [injurious weeds](#), [invasive non-native species](#), or nettles

You can maintain an existing pollen and nectar flower mix block or strip to get paid for this action if it:

- meets this action's requirements
- is not already being paid for under another environmental land management scheme option, such as CS option AB1 (nectar flower mix)

When to do it

You must:

- establish the pollen and nectar flower mix block or strip between early spring and early autumn, within 12 months of this action's start date
- maintain the mix at the same location for a period of time that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim – this will usually be until the end of the second summer after sowing
- after this period of time, re-establish the pollen and nectar flower mix block or strip between early spring and early autumn (either at the same location or a different location) and maintain it until this action's end 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 details of the seed mix used
- photographs or other documentation

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

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	OFC3, OFC4, OFC5, OFM4, OFM5, OFM6, AGF1, AGF2, PRF2, CIPM1, CNUM1, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, NUM1, SAM1
CS options	OR3, OR4, OR5, OT3, OT4, OT5
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6. 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information

Rotational or static action	This action is rotational or static. Wording on new and existing pollen and nectar flower mix has been removed
What to do	Storing bales or machinery added as an example of 'storage'
When to do it	Wording updated to reflect that this action is rotational or static for new and existing pollen and nectar flower mix
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

CAHL2: Winter bird food on arable and horticultural land

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£853 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's an established winter bird food mix growing in blocks or strips, with plants that:

- grow and flower during the spring and summer months
- set seed to produce a supply of small seeds from late autumn until late winter

The purpose of this is to:

- provide food resources for smaller farmland birds, especially in late autumn and winter
- encourage flowering plants in the summer, which will benefit insects including bumblebees, solitary bees, butterflies and hoverflies
- support an integrated pest management approach if located close to cropped areas

Where you can do this action

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

- 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

This is a 'limited area' action. The total eligible area you enter into any combination of one or more of the 'limited area' actions must not be more than 25% of the total agricultural area of your farm. Read [section 1.3 'SFI actions with a limited area'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details (including a list of 'limited area' actions).

Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Arable land used to grow crops	Arable land	Land use codes for arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops

Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01
Permanent crops – horticultural and non-horticultural	Permanent crops	TC01

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 a 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

Part of the available area in a land parcel.

Rotational or static action

This action is rotational or static. This means you can either:

- move its location for the second and third years of this action's duration
- do it at the same location each year of this action's duration

What to do

You must establish a winter bird food mix as a block or strip on land entered into this action.

You must use a seed mix which includes at least 6 small seed-bearing crops, which are suitable for smaller farmland bird species. The mix must not include:

- artichokes
- reed canary grass
- giant and intermediate sorghum
- maize
- miscanthus
- sweet clover
- tic beans

If you sow an annual mix, it can include a range of cereals, brassicas or other small-seeded crops. If you sow a 2-year mix, it can also include biennial crops such as kale, stubble turnip or teasel.

Once the winter bird food mix block or strip is established, you must maintain it. To do this, you must manage it in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim.

You must re-establish a 1-year mix annually and 2-year mixes every other year, so they continue to produce an extended supply of small seeds. This can be at the same location or a different location.

You must not use the winter bird food mix block or strip for regular vehicular access, turning or storage (for example, storing bales or machinery).

You can maintain an existing winter bird food mix block or strip to get paid for this action, if it:

- meets this action's requirements
- is not already being paid for under another environmental land management scheme option, such as CS option AB9 (winter bird food)

When to do it

You must:

- establish the winter bird food mix block or strip in time for it to flower in the first summer after sowing (usually this means by the end of June)
- maintain the mix at the same location until late winter (usually around the end of February) in the year after it was sown (for 1-year mixes) or the following year (for 2-year mixes)

If this action's start date means it's too late to establish the winter bird food mix, you must establish it within 12 months of your action's start date.

If you establish the winter bird food mix block or strip after the end of June, you must maintain it at the same location for 2 consecutive winters in order to achieve this action's aim.

In the final year of this action's duration, you must do this action either until late winter, or this action's end date, whichever is earlier.

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 details of the seed mix used
- photographs or other documentation

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

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	OFC3, OFC4, OFC5, OFM4, OFM5, OFM6, AGF1, AGF2, PRF1, PRF2, PRF4, SOH1, SOH2, SOH3, CIPM1, CIPM3, CIPM4, CNUM1, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	SAM1, IPM1, IPM3, IPM4, NUM1
CS options	HS3, HS9, OR3, OR4, OR5, OT3, OT4, OT5
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6. 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can apply for one of the following supplemental actions if CAHL2 (or AHL2 in the SFI23 offer) is included in your agreement:

- AHW2: Supplementary winter bird food
- OFA3: Supplementary winter bird food (organic)

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
Rotational or static action	Wording updated to match other actions which are rotational or static
What to do	Storing bales or machinery added as an example of 'storage'
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	Added supplemental actions AHW2 and OFA3
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

CAHL3: Grassy field corners or blocks

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£590 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's a grassy field corner or block with:

- an intact grass sward throughout the year, without tracks, compacted areas or poaching
- tussocky grass allowed to develop

The purpose of this is to:

- provide year-round habitat for a range of wildlife
- support an integrated pest management approach if located close to cropped areas

Where you can do this action

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

- an eligible land type (as defined in [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

This is a 'limited area' action. The total eligible area you enter into any combination of one or more of the 'limited area' actions must not be more than 25% of the total agricultural area of your farm. Read [section 1.3 'SFI actions with a limited area'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details (including a list of 'limited area' actions).

Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Arable land used to grow crops	Arable land	Land use codes for arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01

Permanent crops – horticultural and non-horticultural	Permanent crops	TC01
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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 a 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

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 establish and maintain grassy field corners or blocks on arable and horticultural land entered into this action.

To establish the grassy field corners or blocks you must either sow them or allow the areas to naturally regenerate.

During the first 12 months after sowing them, or allowing them to naturally regenerate, you can regularly cut or graze them to:

- control annual weeds
- encourage new grass shoots to develop

The grassy field corners or blocks will usually be established around 12 months after they're sown or allowed to regenerate naturally.

Once established, you must maintain the grassy field corners or blocks. To do this, you must manage them in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim.

You must not do the following on the grassy field corners or blocks once they're established:

- graze them with livestock in a way that means this action's aim cannot reasonably be achieved

- cut them, except for localised cutting to control injurious weeds or invasive non-natives, soft and hard rush, or nettles
- use them for regular vehicular access, turning or storage (for example, storing bales or machinery)
- carry out activities that may disturb breeding birds or damage nests, as [birds, nests and eggs are protected by law](#)
- apply any fertilisers, manures or lime
- use pesticides, except for herbicides to weed wipe or spot treat to control [injurious weeds](#), [invasive non-native species](#), or nettles

You can maintain existing grassy field corners or blocks to get paid for this action, if they meet this action's requirements.

When to do it

You must:

- establish the grassy field corners or blocks within 12 months of this action's start date
- maintain the same area of grassy field corners or blocks in each subsequent year of this action's 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 or other documentation

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

Other actions or options you can do with this action

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	OFC3, OFC4, OFC5, OFM4 OFM5, OFM6, AGF1, AGF2, PRF2, CIPM1, CNUM1, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, NUM1, SAM1
CS options	OR3, OR4, OR5, OT3, OT4, OT5
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
What to do	Storing bales or machinery added as an example of 'storage'. Added link to GOV.UK guidance on birds, nests and eggs being protected by law.
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

AHW1: Bumblebird mix

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£747 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's an established multi-annual mix of seed-bearing crops and flower species which:

- is growing in blocks or strips
- produces small seeds for farmland birds from late autumn until late winter
- produces areas of pollen and nectar-rich flowering plants during the growing season

The purpose of this is to:

- provide food resources for farmland birds and nectar feeding insects, such as bumble bees, solitary bees, butterflies and hoverflies
- increase biodiversity
- support an integrated pest management approach if located close to cropped areas

Where you can do this action

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

- 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

This is a 'limited area' action. The total eligible area you enter into any combination of one or more of the 'limited area' actions must not be more than 25% of the total agricultural area of your farm. Read [section 1.3 'SFI actions with a limited area'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details (including a list of 'limited area' actions).

Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Arable land used to grow crops	Arable land	Land use codes for arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops

Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01
Permanent crops – horticultural and non-horticultural	Permanent crops	TC01

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 a 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

Part of the available area in a land parcel.

Rotational or static action

This action is rotational or static. This means you can either:

- move its location for the second year or third years of this action’s duration
- do it at the same location each year of this action’s duration

What to do

You must establish a bumblebird mix as a block or strip on land entered into this action.

You must use a seed mix which as a minimum includes both:

- 6 flower species
- 6 seed-bearing crops, with a maximum of 3 cereal crops from barley, oats, rye, triticale and wheat

Once the bumblebird mix block or strip is established, you must maintain it. To do this, you must manage it in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action’s aim.

You must not apply pesticides, except for herbicides to weed wipe or spot treat to control [injurious weeds](#), [invasive non-native species](#), or nettles.

You can maintain an existing bumblebird mix block or strip to get paid for this action if it:

- meets this action's requirements
- is not already being paid for under another environmental land management scheme option, such as Countryside Stewardship option AB16 (autumn sown bumblebird mix)

When to do it

You must:

- establish the bumblebird mix block or strip between early spring and early autumn, within 12 months of this action's start date
- maintain the mix at the same location for a period of time that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim – this will usually be until the end of the second summer after sowing
- after this period of time, re-establish the bumblebird mix block or strip between early spring and early autumn (either at the same location or a different location) and maintain it until this action's end 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 details of the seed mix used
- photographs or other documentation

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

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	OFC3, OFC4, OFC5, OFM4, OFM5, OFM6, AGF1, AGF2, PRF1, PRF2, CIPM1, CNUM1, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, IPM4, NUM1, SAM1
CS options	OR3, OR4, OR5, OT3, OT4, OT5
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
Rotational or static action	This action is rotational or static. Wording on new and existing bumblebird mix has been removed
What to do	Replaced 'at least' with 'as a minimum'
When to do it	Wording updated to reflect that this action is rotational or static for new and existing bumblebird mix
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

AHW2: Supplementary winter bird food

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£732 per tonne per year – maximum of 1 tonne of supplementary winter bird food (action AHW2) for every 2 hectares (ha) of winter bird food (action CAHL2 in the expanded SFI offer or AHL2 in the SFI23 offer).

Action's aim

This action's aim is that over the winter until mid-spring there's a mix of seeds spread on the ground at multiple feeding areas.:

The purpose of this is to provide seed-eating farmland birds with supplementary food when:

- seed is in short supply in the late winter period (known as the hungry gap)
- their breeding season starts in early spring

Where you can do this action

You can only apply for this action if CAHL2 (winter bird food) or AHL2 in the SFI23 offer is included in your agreement.

This action is not available for equivalent actions in a Countryside Stewardship agreement. This includes:

- OP2 (wild bird seed mixture)
- AB9 (winter bird food)

You must do this action on land that's:

- firm and free draining, such as farm tracks or hard standing areas
- close to areas of existing winter bird food, enhanced overwinter stubbles or game cover

What to do

You must spread a winter supplementary feeding mix in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim, including:

- dividing the total weight of mix as equally as possible between the multiple feeding areas
- spreading the mix at least once a week from over the winter until mid-spring in the following year (usually from early December to late April)

You must use a winter supplementary feeding seed mix that contains both:

- cereals (not maize) – these should make up no more than 70% of the total mix by weight
- small non-cereal seeds – these should make up at least 30% of the total mix by weight, with no individual species being more than 50% of the non-cereal element by weight

The small non-cereal seeds element must contain at least 3 of the following species:

- canary seed
- linseed
- oilseed rape
- red millet
- sunflowers
- white millet

You must not:

- use feed hoppers to supply more than around 10% of the seed mix during each feeding period (from later winter to mid-spring)
- use tailings (small seeds and chaff removed from the harvested crops) in the seed mix

You must keep a written 'feeding diary' which includes:

- details of the mix used, including the weight of the cereals and small non-cereal seeds elements and cost
- feeding dates
- method of feeding – spreading or hopper
- amount fed
- location of feeding areas

When to do it

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

If this action's start date means it's too late for you to do this action, you must start doing it within 12 months of the action's start date.

In the final year of this action's duration, you must do this action until mid-spring, or this action's end date, whichever is earlier.

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 written feeding diary. This can be recorded on paper or electronically. You must supply this evidence if we ask for it.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	Same as base action
SFI 2023 actions	Same as base action
CS options	Same as base action
ES options	Same as base action
SFI pilot standards	Same as base action

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
How much you'll be paid	Added AHL2 in the SFI 2023 offer
Action's aim	Deleted 'firm and free draining, such as farm tracks or hard standing areas' and 'close to areas of winter bird food, enhanced overwinter stubbles or game cover'. Added 'in early spring' to the breeding season.
Where you can do this action	Added AHL2 in the SFI 2023 offer. This action is not available for Countryside Stewardship options OP2 or AB9. You must do this action on land that's firm and free draining and close to areas of existing winter bird food, enhanced overwinter stubbles or game cover.
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

AHW3: Beetle banks

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£764 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's an in-field raised grassy bank, with tussocky grass allowed to develop.

The purpose of this is to:

- provide nesting and foraging habitats for ground-nesting birds, small mammals and insects
- help slow down or stop soil erosion
- support an integrated pest management approach if located close to cropped areas

Where you can do this action

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

- 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 arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01

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: Ineligible – you must not enter any area that contains an historic or archaeological feature into this action. This only affects the area where the feature is located in a land parcel. You can apply for this action on the remaining area in the land parcel if it's eligible.

Available area you can enter into this action

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 establish an in-field beetle bank by:

- creating a raised earth ridge
- sowing a mixture of fine-leaved grasses, such as red fescue, together with some tussock forming varieties like tall fescue, timothy and cocksfoot

You can leave gaps of up to around 40m at each end of the beetle bank to allow machinery access.

Once the grassy mix on the beetle bank is established, you must maintain it in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim.

You must not 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

You can maintain an existing beetle bank to get paid for this action if it:

- meets this action's requirements
- is not already being paid for under another environmental land management scheme option, such as Countryside Stewardship option AB3 (beetle banks)

When to do it

You must:

- establish the beetle bank within 12 months of this action's start date
- maintain the beetle bank throughout each subsequent year of this action's 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 or other documentation

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

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	OFC3, OFC4, OFM4, OFM5, AGF1, AGF2, PRF2, CIPM1, CNUM1, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, NUM1, SAM1
CS options	OR3, OR4, OT3, OT4
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2

- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information. You can apply for this action on the area in a land parcel that does not contain an historic or archaeological feature.
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

AHW4: Skylark plots

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£11 per plot per year (minimum 2 plots per hectare (ha))

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there are fallow plots for nesting skylarks within a winter cereal crop, until the crop is harvested in the summer.

The purpose of this is to provide skylarks with suitable nesting habitats in winter cereal crops throughout their breeding season.

Where you can do this action

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

- identified by you as not being at risk of soil erosion or surface 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

You must not do this action on land that's bounded by tree lines or adjacent to woods, unless the land parcel is larger than 10ha. This is because it increases the risks of predator attack.

Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Arable land used to grow crops	Arable land	Land use codes for arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01

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 a 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 – you'll apply per plot (minimum 2 plots per ha).

Rotational or static action

This action is rotational or static. This means you can either:

- move its location for the second and third years of this action's duration
- do it at the same location each year of this action's duration

What to do

During the autumn and winter, you must create fallow plots within a winter cereal crop.

For each land parcel where you do this action, there must be at least 2 plots per ha of winter cereal crop you're growing. For example, if you're growing 5ha of winter cereal crop in a land parcel, there must be at least 10 plots.

You must make sure that the plots are large enough to meet this action's aim. This will usually mean they need to be at least 3 metres (m) wide and around 16 square m in area.

You must retain the fallow plots until the winter cereal crop is harvested in the summer.

You must not locate the fallow plots in tramlines, boundaries or margins, as this increases risk of attacks on skylark nests by predators.

You can maintain an existing skylark plot to get paid for this action if it:

- meets this action's requirements
- is not already being paid for under another environmental land management scheme option, such as Countryside Stewardship option AB4 (skylark plots)

When to do it

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

If this action's start date means it's too late to establish the skylark plot, you must do this within 12 months of this action's start date.

In the final year of this action's duration, you must do this action until the winter cereal crop is harvested, or this action's end date whichever is earlier.

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

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

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

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	CSAM1, CNUM1, CIPM1, OFM4 and OFC3
SFI 2023 actions	SAM1, IPM4, NUM1, IPM1
CS options	HS3, HS9, OR3 and OT3
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
What to do	Updated example – if you're growing 5ha of winter cereal crop, there must be at least 10 plots
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	CIPM4 removed from SFI 2024 actions

AHW5: Nesting plots for lapwing

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£765 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there are fallow cultivated plots within an arable crop which:

- have enough bare ground for nesting lapwings
- are present from early spring until the arable crop is harvested in the summer

The purpose of this is to provide:

- nesting sites for lapwing
- habitats for other declining farmland birds, farmland wildlife and important arable plants

Where you can do this action

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

- identified by you as not being at risk of soil erosion or surface 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

You must not do this action on land that's within around:

- 100 metres (m) of woods, in-field and hedgerow trees, buildings, overhead power lines, main road and public rights of way
- 200m of wind turbines

Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Arable land used to grow crops	Arable land	Land use codes for arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01

Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01
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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: Ineligible – you must not enter any area that contains an historic or archaeological feature into this action. This only affects the area where the feature is located in a land parcel. You can apply for this action on the remaining area in the land parcel if it’s eligible.

Available area you can enter into this action

Part of the available area in a land parcel.

Rotational or static action

This action is rotational or static. This means you can either:

- move its location for the second and third years of this action’s duration
- do it at the same location each year of this action’s duration

What to do

By early spring, you must establish a fallow cultivated plot within the arable crop.

You must manage the fallow cultivated plot in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action’s aim. This includes managing natural regeneration if it means there is not enough bare ground for nesting birds.

You must retain the fallow cultivated plot until the arable crop is harvested in the summer and the bird nesting season is complete (usually this will be late July).

You can maintain an existing lapwing plot to get paid for this action if it:

- meets this action’s requirements
- is not already being paid for under another environmental land management scheme option, such as Countryside Stewardship option AB5 (lapwing plots)

When to do it

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

If this action’s start date means it’s too late to establish the lapwing plot, you must do this within 12 months of this action’s start date.

In the final year of this action’s duration, you must do this action until the arable crop is harvested in the summer or this action’s end date, whichever is earlier.

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
- photographs or other documentation

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

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	AHW6, AHW7, OFC3, OFC4, OFM4, OFM5, PRF1, PRF2, PRF4, CIPM1, CNUM1, CSAM1, CSAM2
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, IPM4, NUM1, SAM1
CS options	AB2, AB6, AB11, AB14, AB15, HS3, HS9, OR3, OR4, OT3, OT4
ES options	No ES revenue options

SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards
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If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information. You can apply for this action on the area in a land parcel that does not contain an historic or archaeological feature.
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	AHW8, AHW9 and SOH4 removed from SFI 2024 actions

AHW6: Basic overwinter stubble

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£58 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's a post-harvest stubble remaining over the autumn and winter months.

The purpose of this is to provide:

- a winter food source for seed-eating farmland birds
- foraging habitats for farmland wildlife

Where you can do this action

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

- identified by you as not being at risk of soil erosion or surface 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 cereals (not maize or sorghum), oilseed rape or linseed	Arable land	Land use codes for arable crops

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 a 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 rotational or static. This means it can either:

- move location within your crop rotation for the second and third years of this action's duration
- remain at the same location each year of this action's duration

What to do

You must not apply pre-harvest desiccants to the cereal crop, oilseed rape or linseed.

After harvest, you must leave the stubble from a cereal crop, oilseed rape or linseed until around mid-February.

You must not do the following on the stubble area:

- top or graze it
- apply post-harvest herbicides
- apply any fertilisers, manures or lime

When to do it

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

If this action's start date means it's too late for you to do this action, you must start doing it within 12 months of the action's start date.

In the final year of this action's duration, you must do the action until around mid-February or this action's end date, whichever is earlier.

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
- 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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	AHW5, AHW10, AHW11, OFC3, OFM4, AGF1, AGF2, PRF1, PRF2, PRF4, SOH1, SOH2, SOH3, CIPM1, CIPM4, CNUM1, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, IPM4, NUM1, SAM1
CS options	AB5, AB7, AB9, AB10, AB11, AB13, AB14, AB15, HS3, OR3, OT3, SW5
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2

- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
What to do	You must not apply pre-harvest dessicants to the cereal crop, oilseed rape or linseed
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	AHW8, AHW9 and SOH4 removed from SFI 2024 actions
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

AHW7: Enhanced overwinter stubble

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£589 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's a post-harvest stubble remaining during the autumn, winter, spring and summer months.

The purpose of this is to provide:

- a winter food source for seed-eating farmland birds
- spring and summer foraging and nesting habitats for other farmland birds, and habitats for other farmland wildlife

Where you can do this action

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

- identified by you as not being at risk of soil erosion or surface 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 compatible with the eligible land cover

Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Arable land used to grow cereals (not maize or sorghum), oilseed rape or linseed	Arable land	Land use codes for arable crops

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 a 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 is a rotational action – this means you must move its location within your crop rotation for the second and third years of this action's duration.

What to do

After harvest, you must leave the stubble from a cereal crop, oilseed rape or linseed until around mid-summer in the following year.

You must not apply pre-harvest desiccants to the cereal crop, oilseed rape or linseed.

You must not do the following on the stubble area:

- top or graze it
- apply any pesticides, except herbicides to control grass weeds by spraying the affected area from around mid-May
- apply any fertilisers, manures or lime

When to do it

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

If this action's start date means it's too late for you to do this action, you must start doing it within 12 months of the action's start date.

In the final year of this action's duration, you must do the action until around mid-summer or this action's end date, whichever is earlier.

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
- 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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	AHW5, OFC3, OFM4, AGF1, AGF2, PRF1, PRF2, PRF3, PRF4, SOH1, CIPM1, CIPM4, CNUM1, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, NUM1, SAM1
CS options	AB5, AB11, AB14, AB15, HS3, OR3, OT3
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3

- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
What to do	You must not apply pre-harvest dessicants to the cereal crop, oilseed rape or linseed. The other prohibited activities apply to the stubble area
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	AHW10 and AHW11 removed from SFI 2024 actions
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

AHW8: Whole crop spring cereals and overwinter stubble

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£596 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that:

- a spring cereal crop is harvested as whole crop silage (grain and straw together)
- the stubble is left over the autumn and winter months

The purpose of this is to provide:

- late summer, autumn and winter foraging sites for declining and localised farmland birds, small mammals and pollinator species
- overwinter habitat for insects and seed-eating farmland birds

Where you can do this action

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

- identified by you as not being at risk of soil erosion or 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 arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01

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 a 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 rotational or static. This means you can either:

- move its location for the second and third years of this action's duration
- do it at the same location each year of this action's duration

What to do

You must:

- establish a spring cereal crop (not maize or sorghum)
- harvest the cereal crop as whole crop silage
- remove the grain and straw from the land
- after harvest, leave the stubble over the autumn and winter months

As long as this action's aim can reasonably be expected to be achieved, you can:

- undersow a seed mix into the spring cereal crop
- use a blend or mix of cereals

You must not apply insecticides to the spring cereal crop after around mid-March, until it's harvested.

You must not do the following on the stubble area:

- top or graze it
- apply any fertilisers, manures or lime

You must not apply herbicides to the area entered into this action, apart from those containing the following permitted active ingredients:

- amidosulfuron
- clodinafop-propargyl
- fenoxaprop-P-ethyl
- pinoxaden

- tri-alleate

It may not be possible for you to use these permitted active ingredients on all crops. It's your responsibility to confirm whether herbicides are approved for use on the affected crop.

You can use an existing spring cereal crop to get paid for this action if it:

- meets this action's requirements
- is not already being paid for under another environmental land management scheme action or option, such as CS option AB7 (whole crop cereals)

When to do it

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

If this action's start date means it's too late to establish the cereal crop, you must establish it within 12 months of this action's start date.

In the final year of this action's duration, you must do this action until the end of the winter months or this action's end date, whichever is earlier.

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
- photographs or other documentation

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

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	OFC3, OFM4, AGF1, AGF2, PRF1, PRF2, PRF3, PRF4, SOH1, CIPM1, CNUM1, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, NUM1, SAM1
CS options	HS3, HS9, SW5, OR3, OT3
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6. 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Action's aim	Updated 'whole crop' to 'whole crop silage (grain and straw together)'
Where you can do this action	You must keep evidence that the land has been identified by you as not being at risk of soil erosion or runoff. An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information.

Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
What to do	You must harvest the cereal crop as whole crop silage. You must not apply insecticides to the spring cereal crop after around mid-March until it's harvested. On the stubble area, you must not top or graze it or apply any fertilisers, manures or lime.
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	SOH4 removed from SFI 2024 actions
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

AHW9: Unharvested cereal headland

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£1,072 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's an open-structured, spring cereal crop which:

- is growing in strips or plots
- remains unharvested during the summer, autumn and winter months

The purpose of this is to:

- provide a summer food source for farmland birds and insects
- help establish a range of arable plants and other broad-leaved plants
- provide a habitat that's present over the winter for insects and food for seed-eating farmland birds

Where you can do this action

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

- 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

This is a 'limited area' action. The total eligible area you enter into any combination of one or more of the 'limited area' actions must not be more than 25% of the total agricultural area of your farm. Read [section 1.3 'SFI actions with a limited area'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details (including a list of 'limited area' actions).

Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Arable land used to grow spring cereal crops (not maize)	Arable land	Land use codes for arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01

Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01
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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 a 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

Part of the available area in a land parcel.

Rotational or static action

This is a rotational or static action – this means you can either:

- move its location for the second and third years of this action’s duration
- do it at the same location each year of this action’s duration

What to do

You must establish a spring cereal crop (not maize) in strips or plots at a seed rate that’s reduced to a level that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action’s aim.

As long as this action’s aim can reasonably be expected to be achieved, you can:

- undersow a seed mix into the spring cereal crop
- use a blend or mix of cereals:

Once the cereal crop strips or plots are established, you must manage them in a way, and for a period of time, that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action’s aim. This will usually mean keeping them until around mid-February in the year after establishment.

You must not apply the following to the strips or plots:

- any fertilisers, manures or lime
- insecticides after around mid-March

You must not apply herbicides apart from those containing the following permitted active ingredients:

- amidosulfuron
- clodinafop-propargyl
- fenoxaprop-P-ethyl

- pinoxaden
- tri-allate

It may not be possible for you to use these permitted active ingredients on all crops. It's your responsibility to confirm whether herbicides are approved for use on the affected crop.

You can use an existing spring cereal crop strip or plot to get paid for this action if it:

- meets this action's requirements
- is not already being paid for under another environmental land management scheme action or option, such as CS option AB7 (whole crop cereals)

When to do it

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

If this action's start date means it's too late to establish the cereal crop, you must establish it within 12 months of this action's start date.

In the final year of this action's duration, you must do the action until the end of the winter months or this action's end date whichever is earlier.

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 or other documentation

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

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	OFC3, OFM4, SOH1, AGF1, AGF2, PRF2, PRF4, CIPM1, CNUM1, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, NUM1, SAM1
CS options	HS3, HS9, SW5, SW6, OR3, OT3
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
What to do	<p>Replaced 'sow' with 'establish'.</p> <p>You must manage the cereal crop strips or plots for a period of time that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim. This will usually mean keeping them until around mid-February in the year after establishment.</p> <p>Deleted 'until the crop is harvested' for the prohibition on insecticide application</p>

SFI actions in the expanded SFI offer (v1.1b August 2024)

Other actions or options you can do on the same area	Added SOH1 to SFI 2024 actions. SOH4 removed from SFI 2024 actions
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

AHW10: Low input harvested cereal crop

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£354 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's a low input, open-structured cereal crop growing:

- in strips or plots
- during the spring and summer months until it's harvested

The purpose of this is to:

- enable wildflower species to grow within the crop
- provide summer foraging sites for declining and localised farmland birds, such as yellowhammer and reed bunting
- provide habitat for skylarks, farmland wildlife and pollinator species

Where you can do this action

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

- 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 (not maize)	Arable land	Land use codes for arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01

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 a 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 is a rotational or static action – this means you can either:

- move its location for the second and third years of this action's duration
- do it at the same location each year of this action's duration

What to do

You must establish an autumn or spring cereal crop (not maize):

- in strips or plots
- at a seed rate that's reduced to a level that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim

As long as this action's aim can reasonably be expected to be achieved, you can:

- undersow a seed mix into the spring cereal crop
- use a blend or mix of cereals

Once the cereal crop is established, you must manage it in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim until it's harvested.

You must not:

- harvest the crop before it can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim (usually not before around mid-July)
- apply insecticides after around mid-March, until the crop is harvested

You must not apply herbicides, apart from those containing the following permitted active ingredients:

- amidosulfuron
- clodinafop-propargyl
- fenoxaprop-P-ethyl
- pinoxaden
- tri-allate

It may not be possible for you to use these permitted active ingredients on all crops. It's your responsibility to confirm whether herbicides are approved for use on the affected crop.

You can use an existing cereal crop to get paid for this action if it:

- meets this action's requirements
- is not already being paid for under another environmental land management scheme action or option, such as CS option AB14 (harvested low input cereal)

When to do it

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

If this action's start date means it's too late to establish the cereal crop, you must establish it within 12 months of this action's start date.

In the final year of this action's duration, you must do this action until the crop is harvested or this action's end date, whichever is earlier.

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 or other documentation

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

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	AHW6, OFA1, OFC3, OFM4, AGF1, AGF2, PRF1, PRF2, PRF3, PRF4, SOH1, CIPM1, CNUM1, CSAM1, CSAM2
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, NUM1, SAM1, SAM2
CS options	AB2, AB5, AB6, AB9, HS3, HS9, SW6, OP1, OR3, OT3
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligible land	Added 'not maize' to eligible land types
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
What to do	Replaced 'sow' with 'establish'
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	SOH4 removed from SFI 2024 actions
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

AHW11: Cultivated areas for arable plants

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£660 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there are fallow cultivated margins or plots with:

- a fine surface suitable for wild arable plants to establish from the soil seed bank when they're cultivated in the spring or autumn
- natural vegetative cover throughout the growing season until the end of the summer

The purpose of this is to:

- allow scarce and declining wild arable plants to increase their populations over time
- provide areas of less densely vegetated ground for insects, such as bumblebees, solitary bees and hoverflies
- provide summer foraging habitats for farmland birds, such as grey partridge and turtle dove

Where you can do this action

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

- 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

This is a 'limited area' action. The total eligible area you enter into any combination of one or more of the 'limited area' actions must not be more than 25% of the total agricultural area of your farm. Read [section 1.3 'SFI actions with a limited area'](#) in the SFI scheme information for details (including a list of the 'limited area' actions).

Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Arable land used to grow crops	Arable land	Land use codes for arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops

Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01

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 a 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

Part of the available area in a land parcel.

Rotational or static action

This action is rotational or static. This means you can either:

- move its location for the second and third years of this action’s duration
- do it at the same location each year of this action’s duration

What to do

You must create a fallow margin or plot by cultivating it in the spring or autumn in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action’s aim.

You must manage the fallow cultivated margin or plot in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action’s aim.

You must not do the following on the fallow cultivated margin or plot:

- disturb it before the end of the summer months (usually around the end of August)
- use it as regular access tracks for vehicles
- 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

You can use an existing cultivated fallow margin or plot to get paid for this action if it:

- meets this action’s requirements
- is not already being paid for under another environmental land management scheme action or option, such as CS option AB11 (cultivated areas for arable plants)

When to do it

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

If this action's start date means it's too late for you to create the fallow margin or plot, you must create it within 12 months of its start date.

In the final year of this action's duration, you must do the action until the end of the summer months or this action's end date, whichever is earlier.

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 or other documentation

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

You must supply the evidence if we ask for it.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	AHW6, OFC3, OFC4, OFM4, OFM5, AGF1, AGF2, PRF1, PRF2, CIPM1, CNUM1, CSAM1, CSAM2
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, NUM1, SAM1, SAM2
CS options	AB2, AB9, HS3, HS9, SW5, SW6, OR3, OR4, OT3, OT4

ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Action's aim	Added 'when they're cultivated in the spring or autumn'
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

AHW12: Manage woodland edges on arable land

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£428 per hectare (ha) per year - calculate the hectareage by:

- measuring the length of the strip in metres (m)
- multiplying that length by the relevant width (up to 6m) to give the area in m²
- dividing that area by 10,000 to convert it into ha

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's an uncultivated, naturally regenerated strip of scrub and grass mosaic developing between arable land and woodland.

The purpose of this is to provide woodland edge habitat for birds, invertebrates, small mammals and other wildlife.

Where you can do this action

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

- immediately adjacent to predominantly native or [ancient semi-natural woodland](#)
- 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, allowing scrub to develop)
- 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 arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01

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: Ineligible – you must not enter any area that contains an historic or archaeological feature into this action. This only affects the area where the feature is located in a land parcel. You can apply for this action on the remaining area in the land parcel if it's eligible.

Available area you can enter into this action

Part of the available area in a land parcel.

Rotational or static action

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

What to do

You must allow a naturally regenerated scrub and grass mosaic strip to develop that's:

- on arable land, adjacent to the edge of an existing woodland
- up to 6m wide (on average in each land parcel) – it can be more than 6m wide, but you'll only be paid for the 6m width

You must maintain the strip in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim.

You must not:

- 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
- carry out supplementary feeding in a way that causes poaching on the woodland edge
- cut or cultivate the strip in a way that means this action's aim cannot reasonably be achieved

You can maintain an existing woodland strip to get paid for this action if it:

- meets this action's requirements
- is not already being paid for under another environmental land management scheme option, such as Countryside Stewardship option WD3 (woodland edges on arable land)

When to do it

You must:

- allow the woodland edge strip to develop within 12 months of this action's start date
- maintain the woodland edge strip throughout each subsequent year of this action's 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 or other documentation

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

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	OFC3, OFC4, OFM4, OFM5, AGF1, AGF2, CIPM1, CNUM1, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, NUM1, SAM1
CS options	OR3, OR4, OT3, OT4

ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
How much you'll be paid	Deleted 'buffer'
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information. The land type needs to be eligible at the start of this action's duration. If the land type changes because of this action, it will not affect eligibility (for example, allowing scrub to develop).
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information. You can apply for this action on the area in a land parcel that does not contain an historic or archaeological feature.
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	PRF2 removed from SFI 2024 actions
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

SFI actions for moorland

CMOR1: Assess moorland and produce a written record

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£10.60 per hectare (ha) per year and £272 per SFI agreement per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that you understand how your moorland contributes to providing environmental benefits and how it could provide more in the future.

Where you can do this action

You can do this action on land located [above the moorland line](#) that's:

- 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

You cannot enter land above the moorland line into this action if:

- it's a farmyard
- it's used for turf or peat production
- the majority of its area is located below the moorland line
- it's permanent grassland below the moorland line

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Moorland	Permanent grassland	PG01
Non-agricultural areas, such as scrub, scree, bracken and bog	Relevant non-agricultural land cover	Relevant land use codes for non-agricultural land

Eligibility of protected land

Sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs): Eligible – you do not need to get SSSI consent for this action.

Historic and archaeological features: Eligible – you must get a 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 available area in a land parcel.

Rotational or static action

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

What to do

You must complete a survey to identify, assess and record the soil, vegetation and historic and archaeological features across the moorland area entered into this action.

To complete the survey, you must:

- divide the moorland area you enter into this action into blocks of around 10ha
- select a sample point within each 10ha block that's broadly representative of the block's main vegetation and soil types

At each sample point, you must identify, assess and record:

- soil types and condition, including the depth and wetness of any peat
- vegetation types and condition, including their height and structure
- the extent of bare ground
- the presence of historic and archaeological features – these will be identified in your SFI HEFER

You must use the information you've collected during your survey of the moorland to identify and record:

- environmental benefits the moorland is already providing
- opportunities to maintain, enhance or restore the moorland to keep providing environmental benefits or provide more

These environmental benefits include carbon storage, water storage and flow, biodiversity and heritage.

You can use a survey you've previously done of your moorland to get paid for this action if it:

- meets the requirements explained in this action
- was done in the last 12 months

When to do it

Within 12 months of this action's start date you must:

- survey and record the required information for one sample point in each 10ha block of the moorland
- use the information from the survey to assess and record the environmental benefits the moorland already provides
- use this information to produce a record of opportunities to maintain or enhance the moorland to keep providing environmental benefits or provide more

In each subsequent year of this action's duration, you must:

- repeat the survey at a different sample point within each 10ha block, trying to do this at about the same time each year
- use the further surveys to review your record of the environmental benefits the moorland already provides
- review your record of the opportunities to maintain, enhance or restore the moorland to keep providing environmental benefits or provide more

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 a written record of your:

- survey of the moorland
- assessment of the environmental benefits the moorland is already providing
- assessment of opportunities to maintain, enhance or restore the moorland to keep providing environmental benefits or provide more

You must supply this evidence if we ask for it.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	HEF5, HEF6, HEF8, OFM3, UPL1, UPL2, UPL3, UPL7, UPL8, UPL9, UPL10 (if located above the moorland line)
SFI 2023 actions	None
CS options	All CS management options (if located above the moorland line)
ES options	All ES revenue options (if located above the moorland line)
SFI pilot standards	No SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1 and BND2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

UPL1: Moderate livestock grazing on moorland

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£20 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's a moderate livestock density grazing on the moorland, so its habitat is maintained or enhanced alongside farming.

The purpose of this is to:

- prevent expansion of areas of bare ground
- increase surface roughness
- reduce diffuse pollution
- improve water quality and flood risk management
- provide habitats for moorland species
- protect historic and archaeological features

Where you can do this action

You can do this action on land located above the [moorland line](#) that's:

- 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

If a land parcel is located above and below the moorland line, you can enter it into this action if:

- most of the area is above the moorland line
- it's managed as one grazing unit with adjacent land parcels located above the moorland line

Farmyards or land used for turf or peat production are not eligible for this action.

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Permanent grassland	Permanent grassland	PG01

Non-agricultural areas, such as scrub, scree, bracken and bog	Relevant non-agricultural land cover, such as scrub, scree, bracken or bog	Relevant non-agricultural land use code to match land cover
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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 about:

- what it's advisable for you to do before you apply for this action on SSSI land
- how to give notice to Natural England to get SSSI consent
- what stocking information you need to provide with your SSSI notice

Historic and archaeological features: Eligible – you must get a 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 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 make sure that the livestock density across the land entered into this action does not exceed 0.16 grazing livestock units (GLU) per ha at any time.

To convert livestock numbers into GLU, you must use the following values:

- Cattle over 2 years old at the start of an agreement year – 1.0 GLU
- Cattle over 6 months to 2 years old at the start of an agreement year – 0.6 GLU
- Heavy sheep (for example, most lowland sheep, rams and larger hill sheep) – 0.12 GLU
- Light sheep (for example, store lambs and small hill sheep) – 0.08 GLU
- Goat – 0.12 GLU
- Pony or donkey – 0.8 GLU
- Horse – 1.0 GLU

Read the 'advice to help you do this action' to find out how to calculate the livestock density.

You must not carry out supplementary feeding of livestock on land entered into this action, apart from mineral licks.

At the start of each year of this action's duration, you must produce a written stocking calendar for each land parcel entered into this action.

The stocking calendar must show how you plan to meet this action's requirements. It must include:

- land parcel reference number and hectarage
- dates you plan to graze the land parcel during each calendar month
- monthly numbers of livestock which will graze the land parcel, including their type and age bracket

If you manage several adjacent land parcels as one grazing unit, you can keep one stocking calendar for that grazing unit. You must include all the land parcel reference numbers which comprise that grazing unit.

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 are fodder supply issues, so you need to increase the stocking level. 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.

When to do it

You must do this action from its start date, throughout 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 written stocking calendar and supply this evidence if we ask for it. It can be recorded on paper or electronically.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer

companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	HEF5, UPL7, UPL8, UPL9, UPL10, CMOR1
SFI 2023 actions	MOR1
CS options	HS4
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do one of the following supplemental actions (unless indicated otherwise) on land entered into this action:

- UPL4: Keep cattle and ponies on moorland supplement (minimum 30% GLU) – you can also do SPM4 or SPM5 on the same area as UPL4
- UPL5: Keep cattle and ponies on moorland supplement (minimum 70% GLU) – you can also do SPM4 or SPM5 on the same area as UPL5
- UPL6: Keep cattle and ponies on moorland supplement (100% GLU) – you can also do SPM4 or SPM5 on the same area as UPL6
- SPM4: Keep native breeds on extensively managed habitats supplement (50-80%) – you can also do UPL4 or UPL5 or UPL6 on the same area as SPM4
- SPM5: Keep native breeds on extensively managed habitats supplement (more than 80%) – you can also do UPL4 or UPL5 or UPL6 on the same area as SPM5

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	<p>Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information.</p> <p>Added wording to explain you need to read section 10.3 to find out about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what it's advisable for you to do before you apply for this action on SSSI land • how to give notice to Natural England to get SSSI consent • what stocking information you need to provide with your SSSI notice
What to do	<p>Replaced 'Lowland ewe and lamb, or ram' with 'Heavy sheep (for example, most lowland sheep, rams and larger hill sheep)'.</p> <p>Replaced 'Store lamb, hill ewe and lamb or hogg or teg' with 'Light sheep (for example, store lambs and small hill sheep)'.</p>
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	Added supplemental actions UPL4, UPL5, UPL6, SPM4 and SPM5
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

UPL2: Low livestock grazing on moorland

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£53 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's a low livestock density grazing on the moorland, so its habitat is maintained or enhanced alongside farming.

The purpose of this is to:

- prevent expansion of areas of bare ground
- increase surface roughness
- reduce diffuse pollution
- improve water quality and flood risk management
- provide habitats for moorland species
- protect historic and archaeological features

Where you can do this action

You can do this action on land located above the [moorland line](#) that's:

- 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

If a land parcel is located above and below the moorland line, you can enter it into this action if:

- most of the area is above the moorland line
- it's managed as one grazing unit with adjacent land parcels located above the moorland line

Farmyards or land used for turf or peat production are not eligible for this action.

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Permanent grassland	Permanent grassland	PG01
Non-agricultural areas, such as scrub, scree, bracken and bog	Relevant non-agricultural land cover, such as scrub, scree, bracken or bog	Relevant non-agricultural land use code to match land cover

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 about:

- what it's advisable for you to do before you apply for this action on SSSI land
- how to give notice to Natural England to get SSSI consent
- what stocking information you need to provide with your SSSI notice

Historic and archaeological features: Eligible – you must get a 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 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 make sure that the livestock density across the land entered into this action does not exceed 0.08 grazing livestock units (GLU) per ha at any time.

To convert livestock numbers into GLU, you must use the following values:

- Cattle over 2 years old at the start of an agreement year – 1.0 GLU
- Cattle over 6 months to 2 years old at the start of an agreement year – 0.6 GLU
- Heavy sheep (for example, most lowland sheep, rams and larger hill sheep) – 0.12 GLU
- Light sheep (for example, store lambs and small hill sheep) – 0.08 GLU
- Goat – 0.12 GLU
- Pony or donkey – 0.8 GLU
- Horse – 1.0 GLU

Read the 'advice to help you do this action' to find out how to calculate the livestock density.

You must not carry out supplementary feeding of livestock on land entered into this action, apart from mineral licks.

At the start of each year of this action's duration, you must produce a written stocking calendar for each land parcel entered into this action.

The stocking calendar must show how you plan to meet this action's requirements. It must include:

- land parcel reference number and hectarage
- dates you plan to graze the land parcel during each calendar month
- monthly numbers of livestock which will graze the land parcel, including their type and age bracket

If you manage several adjacent land parcels as one grazing unit, you can keep one stocking calendar for that grazing unit. You must include all the land parcel reference numbers which comprise that grazing unit.

If something happens which means you cannot complete this action, you must tell the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) about this in writing as soon as possible. For example:

- if there are fodder supply issues, so you need to increase the stocking level
- you need to carry out supplementary feeding

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 tell the RPA about this.

When to do it

You must do this action from its start date, throughout 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 written stocking calendar and supply this evidence if we ask for it. It can be recorded on paper or electronically.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	HEF5, UPL7, UPL8, UPL9, UPL10, CMOR1
SFI 2023 actions	MOR1
CS options	HS4
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do one of the following supplemental actions (unless indicated otherwise) on land entered into this action:

- UPL4: Keep cattle and ponies on moorland supplement (minimum 30% GLU) – you can also do SPM4 or SPM5 on the same area as UPL4
- UPL5: Keep cattle and ponies on moorland supplement (minimum 70% GLU) – you can also do SPM4 or SPM5 on the same area as UPL5
- UPL6: Keep cattle and ponies on moorland supplement (100% GLU) – you can also do SPM4 or SPM5 on the same area as UPL6
- SPM4: Keep native breeds on extensively managed habitats supplement (50-80%) – you can also do UPL4 or UPL5 or UPL6 on the same area as SPM4
- SPM5: Keep native breeds on extensively managed habitats supplement (more than 80%) – you can also do UPL4 or UPL5 or UPL6 on the same area as SPM5

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information

Eligibility of protected land	<p>Updated link to section 10.3 ‘SSSI consent’ in the SFI scheme information.</p> <p>Added wording to explain you need to read section 10.3 to find out about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what it’s advisable for you to do before you apply for this action on SSSI land • how to give notice to Natural England to get SSSI consent • what stocking information you need to provide with your SSSI notice
What to do	<p>Replaced ‘Lowland ewe and lamb, or ram’ with ‘Heavy sheep (for example, most lowland sheep, rams and larger hill sheep)’.</p> <p>Replaced ‘Store lamb, hill ewe and lamb or hogg or teg’ with ‘Light sheep (for example, store lambs and small hill sheep)’.</p>
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	Added supplemental actions UPL4, UPL5, UPL6, SPM4 and SPM5
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action’s requirements

UPL3: Limited livestock grazing on moorland

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£66 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's a limited livestock density grazing on the moorland, so its habitat is maintained or enhanced alongside farming.

The purpose of this is to:

- prevent expansion of areas of bare ground
- increase surface roughness
- reduce diffuse pollution
- improve water quality and flood risk management
- provide habitats for moorland species
- protect historic and archaeological features

Where you can do this action

You can do this action on land located above the [moorland line](#) that's:

- 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

If a land parcel is located above and below the moorland line, you can enter it into this action if:

- most of the area is above the moorland line
- it's managed as one grazing unit with adjacent land parcels located above the moorland line

Farmyards or land used for turf or peat production are not eligible for this action.

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Permanent grassland	Permanent grassland	PG01

Non-agricultural areas, such as scrub, scree, bracken and bog	Relevant non-agricultural land cover, such as scrub, scree, bracken or bog	Relevant non-agricultural land use code to match land cover
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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 about:

- what it's advisable for you to do before you apply for this action on SSSI land
- how to give notice to Natural England to get SSSI consent
- what stocking information you need to provide with your SSSI notice

Historic and archaeological features: Eligible – you must get a 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 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 make sure that the livestock density across the land entered into this action does not exceed 0.04 grazing livestock units (GLU) per ha at any time.

To convert livestock numbers into GLU, you must use the following values:

- Cattle over 2 years old at the start of an agreement year – 1.0 GLU
- Cattle over 6 months to 2 years old at the start of an agreement year – 0.6 GLU
- Heavy sheep (for example, most lowland sheep, rams and larger hill sheep) – 0.12 GLU
- Light sheep (for example, store lambs and small hill sheep) – 0.08 GLU
- Goat – 0.12 GLU
- Pony or donkey – 0.8 GLU
- Horse – 1.0 GLU

Read the 'advice to help you do this action' to find out how to calculate the livestock density.

You must not carry out supplementary feeding of livestock on land entered into this action, apart from mineral licks.

At the start of each year of this action's duration, you must produce a written stocking calendar for each land parcel entered into this action.

The stocking calendar must show how you plan to meet this action's requirements. It must include:

- land parcel reference number and hectarage
- dates you plan to graze the land parcel during each calendar month
- monthly numbers of livestock which will graze the land parcel, including their type and age bracket

If you manage several adjacent land parcels as one grazing unit, you can keep one stocking calendar for that grazing unit. You must include all the land parcel reference numbers which comprise that grazing unit.

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 are fodder supply issues, so you need to increase the stocking level. 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](#).

When to do it

You must do this action from its start date, throughout 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 written stocking calendar and supply this evidence if we ask for it. It can be recorded on paper or electronically.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer

companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	HEF5, UPL7, UPL8, UPL9, UPL10, CMOR1
SFI 2023 actions	MOR1
CS options	HS4
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do one of the following supplemental actions (unless indicated otherwise) on land entered into this action:

- UPL4: Keep cattle and ponies on moorland supplement (minimum 30% GLU) – you can also do SPM4 or SPM5 on the same area as UPL4
- UPL5: Keep cattle and ponies on moorland supplement (minimum 70% GLU) – you can also do SPM4 or SPM5 on the same area as UPL5
- UPL6: Keep cattle and ponies on moorland supplement (100% GLU) – you can also do SPM4 or SPM5 on the same area as UPL6
- SPM4: Keep native breeds on extensively managed habitats supplement (50-80%) – you can also do UPL4 or UPL5 or UPL6 on the same area as SPM4
- SPM5: Keep native breeds on extensively managed habitats supplement (more than 80%) – you can also do UPL4 or UPL5 or UPL6 on the same area as SPM5

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	<p>Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information.</p> <p>Added wording to explain you need to read section 10.3 to find out about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what it's advisable for you to do before you apply for this action on SSSI land • how to give notice to Natural England to get SSSI consent • what stocking information you need to provide with your SSSI notice
What to do	<p>Replaced 'Lowland ewe and lamb, or ram' with 'Heavy sheep (for example, most lowland sheep, rams and larger hill sheep)'.</p> <p>Replaced 'Store lamb, hill ewe and lamb or hogg or teg' with 'Light sheep (for example, store lambs and small hill sheep)'.</p>
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	Added supplemental actions UPL4, UPL5, UPL6, SPM4 and SPM5
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

UPL4: Keep cattle and ponies on moorland supplement (minimum 30% GLU)

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£7 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This supplemental action's aim is that at least 30% of the grazing livestock units (GLU) on moorland are cattle or ponies, or a combination of both.

The purpose of this is to:

- create a more varied sward structure
- control scrub, bracken and coarse vegetation
- increase wildlife diversity

Where you can do this action

You can only do this supplemental action on eligible land entered into one of the following base actions:

- UPL1: Moderate livestock grazing on moorland
- UPL2: Low livestock grazing on moorland
- UPL3: Limited livestock grazing on moorland

If you apply for this supplemental action, you cannot apply for the following supplemental actions on the same area:

- UPL5: Keep cattle and ponies on moorland supplement (minimum 70% GLU)
- UPL6: Keep cattle and ponies on moorland supplement (minimum 100% GLU)

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

This is the same as your selected base action.

Rotational or static action

This is the same as your selected base action.

What to do

At least 30% of the GLU on land entered into UPL1, UPL2 or UPL3 must be cattle or ponies, or a combination of both.

You must include the following information in the written stocking calendar required for UPL1, UPL2 and UPL3:

- dates you plan to graze the land parcel with cattle, ponies or both during each calendar month
- monthly numbers of cattle, ponies or both, including the age bracket for cattle

When to do it

You must do this action from its start date, throughout 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 written stocking calendar and supply this evidence if we ask for it. It can be recorded on paper or electronically.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI actions	Same as your selected base action
CS options	Same as your selected base action
ES options	Same as your selected base action

SFI pilot standards	Same as your selected base action
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If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do one of the following supplemental actions on the same area as this supplemental action:

- SPM4: Keep native breeds on extensively managed habitats supplement (50-80%)
- SPM5: Keep native breeds on extensively managed habitats supplement (more than 80%)

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Duration	3 years instead of 'same as base action'
Where you can do this action	If you apply for this supplemental action, you cannot apply for UPL5 or UPL6 on the same area
Eligibility of protected land	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action
Available area	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action
Rotational or static action	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action. Added supplemental actions SPM4 and SPM5
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

UPL5: Keep cattle and ponies on moorland supplement (minimum 70% GLU)

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£18 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This supplemental action's aim is that at least 70% of the grazing livestock units (GLU) on moorland are cattle or ponies, or a combination of both.

The purpose of this is to:

- create a more varied sward structure
- control scrub, bracken and coarse vegetation
- increase wildlife diversity

Where you can do this action

You can only do this supplemental action on eligible land entered into one of the following base actions:

- UPL1: Moderate livestock grazing on moorland
- UPL2: Low livestock grazing on moorland
- UPL3: Limited livestock grazing on moorland

If you apply for this supplemental action, you cannot apply for the following supplemental actions on the same area:

- UPL4: Keep cattle and ponies on moorland supplement (minimum 30% GLU)
- UPL6: Keep cattle and ponies on moorland supplement (minimum 100% GLU)

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

This is the same as your selected base action.

Rotational or static action

This is the same as your selected base action.

What to do

At least 70% of the GLU on land entered into UPL1, UPL2 or UPL3 must be cattle or ponies, or a combination of both.

You must include the following information in the written stocking calendar required for UPL1, UPL2 and UPL3:

- dates you plan to graze the land parcel with cattle, ponies or both during each calendar month
- monthly numbers of cattle, ponies or both, including the age bracket for cattle

When to do it

You must do this action from its start date, throughout 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 written stocking calendar and supply this evidence if we ask for it. It can be recorded on paper or electronically.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI actions	Same as your selected base action
CS options	Same as your selected base action
ES options	Same as your selected base action

SFI pilot standards	Same as your selected base action
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If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do one of the following supplemental actions on the same area as this supplemental action:

- SPM4: Keep native breeds on extensively managed habitats supplement (50-80%)
- SPM5: Keep native breeds on extensively managed habitats supplement (more than 80%)

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Duration	3 years instead of 'same as base action'
Where you can do this action	If you apply for this supplemental action, you cannot apply for UPL4 or UPL6 on the same area
Eligibility of protected land	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action
Available area	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action
Rotational or static action	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action. Added supplemental actions SPM4 and SPM5
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

UPL6: Keep cattle and ponies on moorland supplement (100% GLU)

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£23 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This supplemental action's aim is that all the grazing livestock units (GLU) on moorland are cattle or ponies, or a combination of both.

The purpose of this is to:

- create a more varied sward structure
- control scrub, bracken and coarse vegetation
- increase wildlife diversity

Where you can do this action

You can only do this supplemental action on eligible land entered into one of the following base actions:

- UPL1: Moderate livestock grazing on moorland
- UPL2: Low livestock grazing on moorland
- UPL3: Limited livestock grazing on moorland

If you apply for this supplemental action, you cannot apply for the following supplemental actions on the same are:

- UPL4: Keep cattle and ponies on moorland supplement (minimum 30% GLU)
- UPL5: Keep cattle and ponies on moorland supplement (minimum 70% GLU)

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

This is the same as your selected base action.

Rotational or static action

This is the same as your selected base action.

What to do

100% of the GLU on land entered into UPL1, UPL2 or UPL3 must be cattle or ponies, or a combination of both.

You must include the following information in the written stocking calendar required for UPL1, UPL2 and UPL3:

- dates you plan to graze the land parcel with cattle, ponies or both during each calendar month
- monthly numbers of cattle, ponies or both, including the age bracket for cattle

When to do it

You must do this action from its start date, throughout 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 written stocking calendar and supply this evidence if we ask for it. It can be recorded on paper or electronically.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI actions	Same as your selected base action
CS options	Same as your selected base action
ES options	Same as your selected base action

SFI pilot standards	Same as your selected base action
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If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do one of the following supplemental actions on the same area as this supplemental action:

- SPM4: Keep native breeds on extensively managed habitats supplement (50-80%)
- SPM5: Keep native breeds on extensively managed habitats supplement (more than 80%)

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Duration	3 years instead of 'same as base action'
Where you can do this action	If you apply for this supplemental action, you cannot apply for UPL4 or UPL5 on the same area
Eligibility of protected land	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action
Available area	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action
Rotational or static action	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action. Added supplemental actions SPM4 and SPM5
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

UPL7: Shepherding livestock on moorland (no required stock removal period)

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£33 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that livestock grazing on moorland is managed to avoid impacting features which are sensitive to damage from grazing, wherever possible.

The purpose of this is to:

- protect and improve habitats for birds, mammals and insects
- reduce bare ground and soil erosion
- improve water quality
- protect historic and archaeological features

Where you can do this action

You can do this action on land located above the [moorland line](#) that's:

- 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

If a land parcel is located above and below the moorland line, you can enter it into this action if:

- most of the area is above the moorland line
- it's managed as one grazing unit with adjacent land parcels located above the moorland line

Farmyards or land used for turf or peat production are not eligible for this action.

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Permanent grassland	Permanent grassland	PG01
Non-agricultural areas, such as scrub, scree, bracken and bog	Relevant non-agricultural land cover, such as scrub, scree, bracken or bog	Relevant non-agricultural land use code to match land cover

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 about:

- what it's advisable for you to do before you apply for this action on SSSI land
- how to give notice to Natural England to get SSSI consent
- what stocking and shepherding information you need to provide with your SSSI notice

Historic and archaeological features: Eligible – you must get a 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 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

This action does not require you to remove livestock from the moorland, but you can choose to do so, for example, during lambing.

When the livestock are on the moorland, you must take reasonable steps to minimise their access to 'sensitive features' by:

- shepherding or herding them away
- using temporary fencing if that's possible

Sensitive features are areas on the moorland that can easily be damaged by grazing or poaching caused by livestock. They include:

- bare ground, peat soils, gullies and steep slopes
- vegetation on wet peaty areas – such as blanket bog, wet heath, upland flushes, fens and swamps
- woody vegetation – such as fragmented heath, mountain heath and willow scrub, dry heath, long degenerate heather, deciduous woodland, and scrub
- grassy vegetation – such as upland calcareous grassland, limestone pavement, purple moor-grass, rush pasture and Calaminarian grassland
- historic or archaeological features, including scheduled monuments – these are identified on your SFI HEFER

You must not carry out supplementary feeding of livestock on land entered into this action, apart from mineral licks. If you provide mineral licks, you must locate them on areas away from sensitive features.

At the start of each year of this action's duration, you must produce a written stocking and shepherding calendar for each land parcel entered into this action.

The stocking and shepherding calendar must show how you plan to meet this action's requirements, including:

- land parcel reference number and hectarage
- all the sensitive features you've identified in each land parcel – you can use the moorland survey completed for MOR1 or CMOR1 to show this, if it identifies sensitive features
- monthly numbers of livestock which will graze the land parcel, including their type and age bracket
- shepherding or herding activities you plan to carry out when the livestock are on the moorland to avoid damaging the identified sensitive features.

If you manage several adjacent land parcels as one grazing unit, you can keep one stocking and shepherding calendar for that grazing unit. You must include all the land parcel reference numbers which comprise that grazing unit.

When to do it

You must do this action from its start date, throughout 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 written stocking and shepherding record and supply this evidence if we ask for it. It can be recorded on paper or electronically.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	HEF5, UPL1, UPL2, UPL3, CMOR1
SFI 2023 actions	MOR1
CS options	HS4
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do one of the following supplemental actions on land entered into this action:

- SPM4: Keep native breeds on extensively managed habitats supplement (50-80%)
- SPM5: Keep native breeds on extensively managed habitats supplement (more than 80%)

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information

Eligibility of protected land	<p>Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information.</p> <p>Added wording to explain you need to read section 10.3 to find out about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what it's advisable for you to do before you apply for this action on SSSI land • how to give notice to Natural England to get SSSI consent • what stocking and shepherding information you need to provide with your SSSI notice
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	Deleted OFM3 from SFI 2024 actions. Added supplemental actions SPM4 and SPM5
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

UPL8: Shepherding livestock on moorland (remove stock for at least 4 months)

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£43 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that livestock grazing on moorland is managed to avoid impacting features which are sensitive to damage from grazing, wherever possible.

The purpose of this is to:

- protect and improve habitats for birds, mammals and insects
- reduce bare ground and soil erosion
- improve water quality
- protect historic and archaeological features

Where you can do this action

You can do this action on land located above the [moorland line](#) that's:

- 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

If a land parcel is located above and below the moorland line, you can enter it into this action if:

- most of the area is above the moorland line
- it's managed as one grazing unit with adjacent land parcels located above the moorland line

Farmyards or land used for turf or peat production are not eligible for this action.

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Permanent grassland	Permanent grassland	PG01
Non-agricultural areas, such as scrub, scree, bracken and bog	Relevant non-agricultural land cover, such as scrub, scree, bracken or bog	Relevant non-agricultural land use code to match land cover

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 about:

- what it’s advisable for you to do before you apply for this action on SSSI land
- how to give notice to Natural England to get SSSI consent
- what stocking and shepherding information you need to provide with your SSSI notice

Historic and archaeological features: Eligible – you must get a 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 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 remove all livestock, except resident ponies, from land entered into this action for at least 4 consecutive calendar months.

‘Resident ponies’ means ponies which are traditionally kept on the moorland, such as Dartmoor and Exmoor ponies.

When the livestock are on the moorland, you must take reasonable steps to minimise their access to ‘sensitive features’ by:

- shepherding or herding them away
- using temporary fencing if that’s possible

Sensitive features are areas on the moorland that can easily be damaged by grazing or poaching caused by livestock. They include:

- bare ground, peat soils, gullies and steep slopes
- vegetation on wet peaty areas – such as blanket bog, wet heath, upland flushes, fens and swamps
- woody vegetation – such as fragmented heath, mountain heath and willow scrub, dry heath, long degenerate heather, deciduous woodland, and scrub
- grassy vegetation – such as upland calcareous grassland, limestone pavement, purple moor-grass, rush pasture and Calaminarian grassland
- historic or archaeological features, including scheduled monuments – these are identified on your SFI HEFER

You must not carry out supplementary feeding of livestock on land entered into this action, apart from mineral licks. If you provide mineral licks, you must locate them on areas away from sensitive features.

At the start of each year of this action's duration, you must produce a written stocking and shepherding calendar for each land parcel entered into this action.

The stocking and shepherding calendar must show how you plan to meet this action's requirements, including:

- land parcel reference number and hectarage
- all the sensitive features you've identified in each land parcel – you can use the moorland survey completed for MOR1 or CMOR1 to show this, if it identifies sensitive features
- monthly numbers of livestock which will graze the land parcel, including their type and age bracket
- dates you plan to remove livestock and return them to the moorland
- shepherding or herding activities you plan to carry out when the livestock are on the moorland to avoid damaging the identified sensitive features

If you manage several adjacent land parcels as one grazing unit, you can keep one stocking and shepherding calendar for that grazing unit. You must include all the land parcel reference numbers which comprise that grazing unit.

When to do it

You must do this action from its start date, throughout 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 written stocking and shepherding record and supply this evidence if we ask for it. It can be recorded on paper or electronically.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	HEF5, UPL1, UPL2, UPL3, CMOR1
SFI 2023 actions	MOR1
CS options	HS4
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do one of the following supplemental actions on land entered into this action:

- SPM4: Keep native breeds on extensively managed habitats supplement (50-80%)
- SPM5: Keep native breeds on extensively managed habitats supplement (more than 80%)

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information

Eligibility of protected land	<p>Updated link to section 10.3 ‘SSSI consent’ in the SFI scheme information.</p> <p>Added wording to explain you need to read section 10.3 to find out about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what it’s advisable for you to do before you apply for this action on SSSI land • how to give notice to Natural England to get SSSI consent • what stocking and shepherding information you need to provide with your SSSI notice
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	Deleted OFM3 from SFI 2024 actions. Added supplemental actions SPM4 and SPM5
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action’s requirements

UPL9: Shepherding livestock on moorland (remove stock for at least 6 months)

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£45 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that livestock grazing on moorland is managed to avoid impacting habitats which are sensitive to damage from grazing, wherever possible.

The purpose of this is to:

- protect and improve habitats for birds, mammals and insects
- reduce bare ground and soil erosion
- improve water quality
- protect historic and archaeological features

Where you can do this action

You can do this action on land located above the [moorland line](#) that's:

- 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

If a land parcel is located above and below the moorland line, you can enter it into this action if:

- most of the area is above the moorland line
- it's managed as one grazing unit with adjacent land parcels located above the moorland line

Farmyards or land used for turf or peat production are not eligible for this action.

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Permanent grassland	Permanent grassland	PG01
Non-agricultural areas, such as scrub, scree, bracken and bog	Relevant non-agricultural land cover, such as scrub, scree, bracken or bog	Relevant non-agricultural land use code to match land cover

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 about:

- what it's advisable for you to do before you apply for this action on SSSI land
- how to give notice to Natural England to get SSSI consent
- what stocking and shepherding information you need to provide with your SSSI notice

Historic and archaeological features: Eligible – you must get a 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 enter into this action

Total 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 remove all livestock, except resident ponies, from land entered into this action for at least 6 consecutive calendar months.

'Resident ponies' means ponies which are traditionally kept on the moorland, such as Dartmoor and Exmoor ponies.

When the livestock are on the moorland, you must take reasonable steps to minimise their access to 'sensitive features' by:

- shepherding or herding them away
- using temporary fencing if that's possible

Sensitive features are areas on the moorland that can easily be damaged by grazing or poaching caused by livestock. They include:

- bare ground, peat soils, gullies and steep slopes
- vegetation on wet peaty areas – such as blanket bog, wet heath, upland flushes, fens and swamps
- woody vegetation – such as fragmented heath, mountain heath and willow scrub, dry heath, long degenerate heather, deciduous woodland, and scrub
- grassy vegetation – such as upland calcareous grassland, limestone pavement, purple moor-grass, rush pasture and Calaminarian grassland
- historic or archaeological features, including scheduled monuments – these are identified on your SFI HEFER

You must not carry out supplementary feeding of livestock on land entered into this action, apart from mineral licks. If you provide mineral licks, you must locate them on areas away from sensitive features.

At the start of each year of this action's duration, you must produce a written stocking and shepherding calendar for each land parcel entered into this action.

The stocking and shepherding calendar must show how you plan to meet this action's requirements, including:

- land parcel reference number and hectarage
- all the sensitive features you've identified in each land parcel – you can use the moorland survey completed for MOR1 or CMOR1 to show this, if it identifies sensitive features
- monthly numbers of livestock which will graze the land parcel, including their type and age bracket
- dates you plan to remove livestock and return them to the moorland
- shepherding or herding activities you plan to carry out when the livestock are on the moorland to avoid damaging the identified sensitive features

If you manage several adjacent land parcels as one grazing unit, you can keep one stocking and shepherding calendar for that grazing unit. You must include all the land parcel reference numbers which comprise that grazing unit.

When to do it

You must do this action from its start date, throughout 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 written stocking and shepherding record and supply this evidence if we ask for it. It can be recorded on paper or electronically.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	HEF5, UPL1, UPL2, UPL3, CMOR1
SFI 2023 actions	MOR1
CS options	HS4
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do one of the following supplemental actions on land entered into this action:

- SPM4: Keep native breeds on extensively managed habitats supplement (50-80%)
- SPM5: Keep native breeds on extensively managed habitats supplement (more than 80%)

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information

Eligibility of protected land	<p>Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information.</p> <p>Added wording to explain you need to read section 10.3 to find out about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what it's advisable for you to do before you apply for this action on SSSI land • how to give notice to Natural England to get SSSI consent • what stocking and shepherding information you need to provide with your SSSI notice
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	Deleted OFM3 from SFI 2024 actions. Added supplemental actions SPM4 and SPM5
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

UPL10: Shepherding livestock on moorland (remove stock for at least 8 months)

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£48 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that livestock grazing on moorland is managed to avoid impacting habitats which are sensitive to damage from grazing, wherever possible.

The purpose of this is to:

- protect and improve habitats for birds, mammals and insects
- reduce bare ground and soil erosion
- improve water quality
- protect historic and archaeological features

Where you can do this action

You can do this action on land located above the [moorland line](#) that's:

- 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

If a land parcel is located above and below the moorland line, you can enter it into this action if:

- most of the area is above the moorland line
- it's managed as one grazing unit with adjacent land parcels located above the moorland line

Farmyards or land used for turf or peat production are not eligible for this action.

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Permanent grassland	Permanent grassland	PG01
Non-agricultural areas, such as scrub, scree, bracken and bog	Relevant non-agricultural land cover, such as scrub, scree, bracken or bog	Relevant non-agricultural land use code to match land cover

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 about:

- what it's advisable for you to do before you apply for this action on SSSI land
- how to give notice to Natural England to get SSSI consent
- what stocking and shepherding information you need to provide with your SSSI notice

Historic and archaeological features: Eligible – you must get a 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 enter into this action

Total 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 remove all livestock, except resident ponies, from land entered into this action for at least 8 consecutive calendar months.

'Resident ponies' means ponies which are traditionally kept on the moorland, such as Dartmoor and Exmoor ponies.

When the livestock are on the moorland, you must take reasonable steps to minimise their access to 'sensitive features' by:

- shepherding or herding them away
- using temporary fencing if that's possible

Sensitive features are areas on the moorland that can easily be damaged by grazing or poaching caused by livestock. They include:

- bare ground, peat soils, gullies and steep slopes
- vegetation on wet peaty areas – such as blanket bog, wet heath, upland flushes, fens and swamps
- woody vegetation – such as fragmented heath, mountain heath and willow scrub, dry heath, long degenerate heather, deciduous woodland, and scrub
- grassy vegetation – such as upland calcareous grassland, limestone pavement, purple moor-grass, rush pasture and Calaminarian grassland
- historic or archaeological features, including scheduled monuments – these are identified on your SFI HEFER

You must not carry out supplementary feeding of livestock on land entered into this action, apart from mineral licks. If you provide mineral licks, you must locate them on areas away from sensitive features.

At the start of each year of this action's duration, you must produce a written stocking and shepherding calendar for each land parcel entered into this action.

The stocking and shepherding calendar must show how you plan to meet this action's requirements, including:

- land parcel reference number and hectarage
- all the sensitive features you've identified in each land parcel – you can use the moorland survey completed for MOR1 or CMOR1 to show this, if it identifies sensitive features
- monthly numbers of livestock which will graze the land parcel, including their type and age bracket
- dates you plan to remove livestock and return them to the moorland
- shepherding or herding activities you plan to carry out when the livestock are on the moorland to avoid damaging the sensitive features

If you manage several adjacent land parcels as one grazing unit, you can keep one stocking and shepherding calendar for that grazing unit. You must include all the land parcel reference numbers which comprise that grazing unit.

When to do it

You must do this action from its start date, throughout 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 written stocking and shepherding record and supply this evidence if we ask for it. It can be recorded on paper or electronically.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	HEF5, UPL1, UPL2, UPL3, CMOR1
SFI 2023 actions	MOR1
CS options	HS4
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do one of the following supplemental actions on land entered into this action:

- SPM4: Keep native breeds on extensively managed habitats supplement (50-80%)
- SPM5: Keep native breeds on extensively managed habitats supplement (more than 80%)

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information

Eligibility of protected land	<p>Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information.</p> <p>Added wording to explain you need to read section 10.3 to find out about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what it's advisable for you to do before you apply for this action on SSSI land • how to give notice to Natural England to get SSSI consent • what stocking and shepherding information you need to provide with your SSSI notice
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	Deleted OFM3 from SFI 2024 actions. Added supplemental actions SPM4 and SPM5
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

SFI actions for precision farming

PRF1: Variable rate application of nutrients

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£27 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that precision farming equipment is used to apply all major nutrients:

- at a variable rate, which means the nutrient application rate is automatically varied
- to match the nutrient needs of crops on different areas of land

The purpose of this is to:

- reduce over-application of nutrients
- improve yields from more consistent crop growth and quality
- improve water and air quality

Where you can do this action

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

- receiving applications of at least one major nutrient (nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K) and magnesium (Mg)) at a rate typically above 100 kilograms (kg) N per ha, 40kg P per ha and 40kg K per ha per year
- 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 arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01

Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01
Improved permanent grassland	Permanent grassland	PG01
Horticultural permanent crops	Permanent crops	TC01

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 a 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 rotational or static. This means you can either:

- move its location for the second and third years of this action’s duration
- do it at the same location each year of this action’s duration

What to do

You must apply all major nutrients across the land entered into this action using Variable Rate Application (VRA) equipment.

The VRA equipment must be either:

- pre-programmed with a ‘variable rate file’ using data from zonal soil or crop testing and analysis or remote sensing
- linked to a tractor or sprayer mounted crop reflectance sensor

You must make sure the VRA equipment automatically varies the application rate of the major nutrients in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action’s aim.

For the purposes of this action, major nutrients include nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K) and magnesium (Mg), as relevant, contained in:

- manufactured fertilisers – solid or liquid
- solid manures – such as farmyard manure, poultry litter, sewage sludge or biosolids

- slurry or digestate, including separated liquid

You do not need to use VRA equipment to apply:

- micro-nutrients, such as boron or sulphur
- lime, because is not a nutrient – it helps to increase the availability of major nutrients and controls soil acidity (pH)

‘Zonal’ soil testing means you divide land parcels into soil management zones and take soil samples within each zone.

The data from zonal soil testing and analysis must cover a minimum of P, K, Mg and pH. You can use existing zonal soil testing analysis if it:

- meets this action’s requirements
- is less than 5 years old

When to do it

You must do this action from its start date, throughout 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:

- invoices for zonal soil testing and analysis
- the ‘variable rate file’ uploaded to the VRA equipment
- an ‘as applied’ VRA record at a land parcel level
- field operations at a land parcel level and associated invoices
- contractor’s invoice if you use a contractor to do this action

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	AHW1, AHW5, AHW6, AHW7, AHW8, AHW10, AHW11, OFA1, OFA6, OFC1, OFC3, OFC4, OFC5, OFM1, OFM4, OFM5, OFM6, SOH4, WBD4, WBD5, WBD6, WBD7, WBD8, AGF1, AGF2, PRF2, PRF3, PRF4, SOH1, SOH2, SOH3, CAHL2, CIGL2, CIPM1, CIPM3, CIPM4, CNUM1, CNUM2, CSAM1, CSAM2, CSAM3
SFI 2023 actions	AHL2, IGL2, IPM1, IPM3, IPM4, NUM1, NUM2, SAM1, SAM2, SAM3
CS options	AB1, AB2, AB5, AB6, AB7, AB8, AB9, AB11, AB13, AB14, AB15, AB16, GS3, GS4, HS2, HS3, HS9, SW5, SW6, SW7, SW8, SW9, SW10, SW12, SW13, OP1, OP2, OP4, OP5, OR1, OR3, OR4, OR5, OT1, OT3, OT4, OT5
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	SFI pilot arable and horticultural soil standard – all levels SFI pilot arable and horticultural land standard – introductory and intermediate levels SFI pilot improved grassland standard – introductory and intermediate levels SFI pilot improved grassland soils standard – all levels

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Action's aim	Added 'major', as this action applies to all major nutrients
Where you can do this action	<p>Land needs to be receiving applications of at least one major nutrient (nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K) and magnesium (Mg)) at a rate typically above 100 kilograms (kg) N per ha, 40kg P per ha and 40kg K per ha per year'. This replaces 'more than 12 tonnes of cattle farmyard manure (or equivalent amounts of available nutrients)'.</p> <p>An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information.</p>
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
What to do	<p>Updated wording to make it clear this action applies to all major nutrients (N, P, K and Mg, as relevant).</p> <p>You do not need to use VRA equipment to apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • micro-nutrients, such as boron or sulphur • lime, because is not a nutrient – it helps to increase the availability of major nutrients and controls soil acidity (pH) <p>You can use existing zonal testing analysis if it meets this action's requirements and it's less than 5 years old.</p>
Evidence to keep	The 'as applied' VRA record needs to be at a land parcel level
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

PRF2: Camera or remote sensor guided herbicide spraying

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£43 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that camera or remote sensing guided technology is used to apply systemic herbicides to control weeds, so they're targeted precisely.

The purpose of this is to:

- reduce the volume of herbicide applied
- increase biodiversity
- improve water quality, soil quality and productivity
- support an integrated pest management approach

Where you can do this action

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

- receiving systemic herbicides to control weeds which camera or remote sensing guided technology can recognise
- 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 land cover

Camera recognition is currently available for:

- docks and nettles in grass or leys containing clover
- all weeds in maize
- certain crops grown on wide row spacings (such as potatoes)
- stubbles – where there's green growth

Remote sensing technology uses artificial intelligence to recognise target weeds.

Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Arable land used to grow crops	Arable land	Land use codes for arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops

Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01
Permanent grassland – improved and low input	Permanent grassland	PG01
Permanent crops	Permanent crops	Land use codes for permanent crops

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 a 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 rotational or static. This means you can either:

- move its location for the second and third years of this action’s duration
- do it at the same location each year of this action’s duration

What to do

You must apply systemic (contact) herbicides on land entered into this action using camera or remote sensing technology that:

- identifies specific weeds to be controlled
- automatically switches on individual nozzles to apply the herbicides directly to the identified weeds

Systemic herbicides kill the whole weed, from leaf to root.

You must only carry out a ‘blanket’ application of herbicides if you’re applying:

- glyphosate to destroy a cover crop or create a stale seedbed before drilling
- residual herbicides before sown crop plants or weeds emerge (‘pre-emergence’) – this can be at the same time the crop is established (drilled or planted) or within a few days of establishment
- pre-harvest herbicide or desiccant to combinable crops

A 'blanket' application means you apply herbicides uniformly across an area, rather than targeting the application to identified weeds.

When to do it

You must do this action from its start date, throughout each year of its 3-year duration.

How to do it

You must follow this action's requirements – these are identified by a 'must.'

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:

- 'as applied' data, such as a map showing where individual nozzles switch on to apply herbicide
- a record of any permitted blanket application of herbicide, including the date it was applied
- contractor's invoice if you use a contractor to do this action

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	AHW1, AHW3, AHW5, AHW6, AHW7, AHW8, AHW9, AHW10, AHW11, BFS1, BFS2, BFS3, BFS4, BFS5, HEF5, HEF6, HEF8, OFA1, OFA6, OFC1, OFC2, OFC3, OFC4, OFC5, OFM1, OFM2, OFM4, OFM5, OFM6, SOH4, WBD3, WBD4, WBD5, WBD6, WBD7, WBD8, AGF1, AGF2, PRF1, PRF3, PRF4, SOH1, SOH2, SOH3, CAHL1, CAHL2, CAHL3, CAHL4, CIGL1, CIGL2, CIGL3, CIPM1, CIPM2, CIPM3, CIPM4, CLIG3, CNUM1, CNUM2, CNUM3, CSAM1, CSAM2, CSAM3

SFI 2023 actions	AHL1, AHL2, AHL3, AHL4, IGL1, IGL2, ILG3, IPM1, IPM2, IPM3, IPM4, LIG1, LIG2, NUM1, NUM2, NUM3, SAM1, SAM2, SAM3
CS options	AB1, AB2, AB3, AB5, AB6, AB7, AB8, AB9, AB10, AB11, AB13, AB14, AB15, AB16, BE1, BE2, GS1, GS2, GS3, GS4, GS5, HS2, HS3, HS4, HS5, HS6, HS9, SW1, SW2, SW3, SW4, SW5, SW6, SW7, SW8, SW9, SW10, SW13, SW15, SW16, WT1, WT2, OP1, OP2, OP4, OP5, OR1, OR2, OR3, OR4, OR5, OT1, OT2, OT3, OT4, OT5
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	SFI pilot arable and horticultural soil standard – all levels SFI pilot arable and horticultural land standard – all levels SFI pilot improved grassland standard – all levels SFI pilot improved grassland soils standard – all levels

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 ‘Eligible land in other funding schemes’](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 ‘Eligible land types for SFI’ in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 ‘SSSI consent’ in the SFI scheme information
What to do	You can carry out a ‘blanket’ application of herbicides if you’re applying residual herbicides before sown crop plants or weeds emerge (‘pre-emergence’). This can be at the same time the crop is established (drilled or planted) or within a few days of establishment
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action’s requirements

PRF3: Non-mechanical robotic weeding

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£101 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that non-mechanical robotic weeding technology is used to control weeds, so there's minimal use of herbicides.

The purpose of this is to:

- improve productivity
- improve water and soil quality
- increase biodiversity
- support an integrated pest management approach

Where you can do this action

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

- 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 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 arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01
Permanent horticultural crops	Permanent crops	TC01

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 a 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

For arable and non-permanent horticultural crops, including temporary grassland, this action is rotational. This means you can either:

- move its location for the second and third years of this action's duration
- do it at the same location each year of this action's duration

For permanent horticultural crops, 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 control weeds on land entered into this action using a non-mechanical robotic weeder that:

- identifies and locates weeds
- destroys weeds using a laser or high voltage electricity

If the land is being used to grow arable or non-permanent horticultural crops, you must do this action on one crop from when it's sown until it's harvested.

For the purposes of this action, an arable or non-permanent horticultural crop includes:

- combinable crops, such as cereals and oilseed rape
- root crops
- field vegetables and salad crops
- soft fruit crops which do not occupy the land for 5 years or more and provide repeated harvests (also known as permanent crops)

You can choose which arable or non-permanent horticultural crop to do this action on, but it must be a 'cash crop'. This means it's a crop grown to be harvested for commercial use.

You can apply residual herbicides to your chosen arable or non-permanent horticultural crop before the sown crop plants or weeds emerge ('pre-emergence'). This can be at the same time the crop is established (drilled or planted) or within a few days of establishment.

'Residual' herbicides are long-lasting selective herbicides which control certain weed species without harming the crop.

You must not use any other herbicides on land entered into this action.

When to do it

For arable or non-permanent horticultural crops, you must do this action on at least one crop that's sown during each year of this action's 3-year duration. You can harvest it in a subsequent year of this action's duration if you sow the next crop for this action in the same year.

This means you must do this action on a crop that's sown during:

- the first year of this action's duration – you can harvest it in the second year of this action's duration
- the second year of this action's duration – you can harvest it in the third year of this action's duration
- the third year of this action's duration – you must do this action until you harvest the crop or this action's end date, whichever is earlier

If you're already growing an arable or non-permanent horticultural crop on the land entered into this action when the action starts, you must do this action on a crop that's sown within 12 months of the action's start date.

For grassland or permanent horticultural crops, you must do this action from its start date, throughout each year of this action's 3-year duration.

How to do it

You must follow this action's requirements – these are identified by a 'must.'

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:

- data from the tractor's or non-mechanical weeder's job recording system identifying the weeder, the date and areas weeded
- field operations at a land parcel level, including the land parcel reference number and the dates the arable crop was sown and harvested (where relevant)
- contractor's invoice if you use a contractor to do this action

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	AHW7, AHW8, AHW10, OFA1, OFA6, OFC3, OFC4, OFC5, OFM4, OFM5, OFM6, SOH4, AGF1, AGF2, PRF1, PRF2, SOH1, SOH2, SOH3, CIPM1, CIPM3, CIPM4, CNUM1, CSAM1, CSAM2, CSAM3
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, IPM3, IPM4, NUM1, SAM1, SAM2, SAM3
CS options	AB6, AB7, AB13, AB14, GS3, SW5, SW6, SW12, OP1, OP5, OR3, OR4, OR5, OT3, OT4, OT5
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information

What to do	You can apply residual herbicides at the same time the crop is established (drilled or planted) or within a few days of establishment
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	OFC5 and OFM6 added to SFI 2024 actions. OR5 added to CS options
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

PRF4: Mechanical robotic weeding

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£150 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that mechanical robotic weeding technology is used to control weeds, so there's minimal use of herbicides.

The purpose of this is to:

- improve productivity, water and soil quality
- increase biodiversity
- support an integrated pest management approach

Where you can do this action

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

- 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

It will not usually be possible for you to do this action on combinable crops.

Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Arable land used to grow crops, excluding temporary grassland	Arable land	Land use codes for arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops
Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01

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 a 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 rotational or static. This means you can either:

- move its location for the second and third years of this action's duration
- do it at the same location each year of this action's duration

What to do

You must control weeds on land entered into this action using a mechanical robotic weeder that:

- weeds between and within the rows of one crop
- has camera or GPS-guided hoes which physically remove the weeds from the ground

You must do this action on one crop from when it's sown until it's harvested.

For the purposes of this action, a crop includes:

- root crops
- field vegetables and salad crops
- soft fruit crops which do not occupy the land for 5 years or more and provide repeated harvests (also known as 'permanent crops')

You can choose which crop to do this action on, but it must be a 'cash crop'. This means it's a crop grown to be harvested for commercial use.

You can apply residual herbicides to the crop before the sown crop plants or weeds emerge ('pre-emergence'). This can be at the same time the crop is established (drilled or planted) or within a few days of establishment.

'Residual' herbicides are long-lasting selective herbicides which control certain weed species without harming the crop.

You must not use any other herbicides on the crop from when it's sown until it's harvested.

When to do it

You must do this action on at least one crop that's sown during each year of this action's 3-year duration. You can harvest it in a subsequent year of this action's duration if you sow the next crop for this action in the same year.

This means you must do this action on a crop that's sown during:

- the first year of this action's duration – you can harvest it in the second year of this action's duration
- the second year of this action's duration – you can harvest it in the third year of this action's duration
- the third year of this action's duration – you must do this action until you harvest that crop or this action's end date, whichever is earlier

If you're already growing a crop on the land entered into this action when this action starts, you must do this action on a crop that's sown within 12 months of this action's start date.

How to do it

You must follow this action's requirements – these are identified by a 'must.'

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:

- data from the tractor's job recording system identifying the mechanical robotic weeder, the date and areas weeded
- field operations at a land parcel level, including the land parcel reference number and the dates the crop was sown and harvested
- contractor's invoice if you use a contractor to do this action

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	AHW5, AHW6, AHW7, AHW8, AHW9, AHW10, OFA1, OFA6, OFC3, OFM4, SOH4, AGF1, AGF2, PRF1, PRF2, SOH1, SOH2, SOH3, CAHL2, CIPM1, CIPM3, CIPM4, CNUM1, CSAM1, CSAM2
SFI 2023 actions	AHL2, IPM1, IPM3, IPM4, NUM1, SAM1, SAM2
CS options	AB2, AB5, AB6, AB7, AB10, AB14, HS3, HS9, SW5, SW6, SW12, OP1, OP2, OP4, OP5, OR3, OT3
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Where you can do this action	It will not usually be possible for you to do this action on combinable crops.
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
What to do	Deleted combinable crops, as it will not usually be possible for you to do this action on these crops. You can apply residual herbicides at the same time the crop is established (drilled or planted) or within a few days of establishment.

Other actions or options you can do on the same area	Deleted OR4 and OT4 from CS options
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

SFI actions for farmland wildlife and habitats on grassland

CIGL1: Take grassland field corners or blocks out of management

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£333 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there are grassland field corners or blocks taken out of management, so tussocky grass can develop.

The purpose of this is to:

- provide year-round habitat for a range of wildlife
- support an IPM approach if located close to cropped areas

Where you can do this action

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

- 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

This is a 'limited area' action. The total eligible area you enter into any combination of one or more of the 'limited area' actions must not be more than 25% of the total agricultural area of your farm. Read [section 1.3 'SFI actions with a limited area'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details (including a list of the 'limited area' actions).

Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Improved permanent grassland	Permanent grassland	PG01

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: Ineligible – you must not enter any area with an historic or archaeological feature into this action. This only affects the area where the feature is located in a land parcel. You can apply for this action on the remaining area in the land parcel if it's eligible.

Available area you can enter into this action

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 leave grassland field corners or blocks entered into this action unmanaged, so they're uncut and un-grazed.

You must not do the following on the unmanaged grassland field corners or blocks:

- graze them with livestock – you can apply for [Capital Grants](#) for fencing to help you do this
- cut them, except for localised cutting to control injurious weeds or invasive non-natives, soft or hard rush, or nettles
- carry out activities that may disturb breeding birds or damage nests as [birds, nests and eggs are protected by law](#)
- 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

You can maintain existing grassy field corners or blocks to get paid for this action, if they meet this action's requirements.

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 or other documentation

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

Other actions or options you can do with this action

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	OFC1, OFC3, OFM1, OFM4, AGF1, AGF2, PRF2, CIPM1, CNUM1, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, NUM1, SAM1
CS options	OR1, OR3, OT1, OT3
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information. You can apply for this action on the area in a land parcel that does not contain an historic or archaeological feature.
What to do	Added link to Capital Grants. Added link to GOV.UK guidance on birds, nests and eggs being protected by law.
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

CIGL2: Winter bird food on improved grassland

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£515 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's improved grassland, which is maintained so it's left to go to seed during the autumn and winter months.

The purpose of this is to provide winter food for farmland birds.

Where you can do this action

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

- 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

This is a 'limited area' action. The total eligible area you enter into any combination of one or more of the 'limited area' actions must not be more than 25% of the total agricultural area of your farm. Read [section 1.3 'SFI actions with an area limit'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details (including a list of the 'limited area' actions).

Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Improved permanent grassland	Permanent grassland	PG01

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 a 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

Part of the available area in a land parcel.

Rotational or static action

This action is rotational or static. This means you can either:

- move its location for the second and third years of this action's duration
- do it at the same location each year of this action's duration

What to do

You must maintain improved grassland entered into this action.

To maintain the improved grassland, you must manage it in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim. This includes:

- cutting it for silage or hay in a way that allows it to go to seed
- leaving it un-grazed after the final cut for silage and hay

If you're already maintaining improved grassland, you can use it to get paid for this action if it:

- meets this action's requirements
- is not already being paid for under another environmental land management scheme option, such as CS option GS3 (ryegrass seed-set as winter food for birds)

When to do it

If you're doing this action on the same area of land for its 3-year duration, you must:

- start maintaining the improved grassland within 12 months of this action's start date
- continue to maintain the area of improved grassland in each subsequent year of this action's duration

If you're rotating this action around your farm, each year of this action's duration you must do the actions for a period of time that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim.

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 or other documentation

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

Other actions or options you can do with this action

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	OFC1, OFC3, OFM1, OFM4, AGF1, AGF2, PRF1, PRF2, CIPM1, CNUM1, CSAM1, SOH1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, NUM1, SAM1
CS options	HS3, HS9, OR1, OR3, OT1, OT3
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

CLIG3: Manage grassland with very low nutrient inputs

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£151 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's grassland which produces a sward with:

- flowering grasses and wildflowers from late spring and during the summer months
- a variety of plant heights by autumn
- some covering of flowering grasses and wildflowers left to go to seed
- tussocky grass allowed to develop

The purpose of this is to:

- provide nectar and shelter for invertebrates and a food supply for farmland birds
- support an integrated pest management approach if located close to cropped areas
- minimise nutrients being carried in surface water runoff to watercourses

Where you can do this action

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

- 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
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Improved and low input permanent grassland	Permanent grassland	PG01

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 a 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 available area in a land parcel, apart from if CIGL1 (take grassland field corners or blocks out of management) is located in the same land parcel. In this case CLIG3 can be on part of the 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 minimise the use of nutrient inputs on the grassland entered into this action by applying no more than either:

- 12 tonnes per ha of cattle farmyard manure
- equivalent amounts of available nutrients as fertiliser or in other organic manures as an alternative to cattle farmyard manure

You must also do the following on the grassland:

- graze it with livestock or cut it in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim
- minimise bare ground, so the soil is covered by vegetation and is not directly exposed to the elements

There must be an intact grass sward throughout the year, without compacted areas or poaching. You can carry out supplementary feeding of livestock on the grassland, but you must make sure this does not cause poaching.

You must not do the following on the grassland:

- apply digestate or any other industrial by-product, including paper waste
- carry out mechanical activities, including hay and silage cutting, in a way that may disturb breeding birds or damage nests as [birds, nests and eggs are protected by law](#)
- carry out drainage works
- plough, cultivate or re-seed it
- apply pesticides, except for herbicides to weed wipe or spot treat to control [injurious weeds](#), [invasive non-native species](#), or nettles

- allow areas of scrub to develop on land with historic or archaeological features

If you cut the grassland for conserved forage, you must:

- not graze or cut it for a continuous period of at least 7 weeks during the spring and summer months before taking the forage cut, to allow the sward to develop flowering grasses and wildflowers
- in each land parcel, leave an uncut margin around the edge of the area entered into this action when it's cut for conserved forage, to help provide shelter for invertebrates

After you've cut the area for conserved forage, you must manage it in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim.

If you're already managing grassland with very low nutrient inputs, you can use it to get paid for this action if it:

- meets this action's requirements
- is not already being paid for under another environmental land management scheme agreement option, such as CS option GS2 (permanent grassland with very low inputs (outside SDAs)) or GS5 (permanent grassland with very low inputs (SDAs))

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 or other documentation

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

Other actions or options you can do with this action

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	OFC1, OFC2, OFM1, OFM2, AGF1, AGF2, PRF2, CIPM1, CNUM1, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, NUM1, SAM1
CS options	OR1, OR2, OT1, OT2, SW15, SW16,
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do one of the following supplemental actions (unless indicated otherwise) on land entered into this base action:

- GRH7: Hay making supplement – you can also do GRH11 on the same area as GRH7
- GRH8: Hay making supplement (late cut) – you can also do GRH11 on the same area as GRH8
- GRH10 (lenient grazing supplement)
- GRH11: Cattle grazing supplement (non-moorland) – you can also do GRH7 or GRH8 on the same area as GRH11
- SPM2: Keep native breeds on grazed habitats supplement (50-80%)
- SPM3: Keep native breeds on grazed habitats supplement (more than 80%)

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
What to do	Added link to GOV.UK guidance on birds, nests and eggs being protected by law
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	Added supplemental actions GRH7, GRH8, GRH10, GRH11, SPM2 and SPM3
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

GRH1: Manage rough grazing for birds

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£121 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

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

- a sward that has a range of heights
- areas of very short grass for bird feeding and nesting from the spring
- areas of surface water and wet features during the autumn and winter months
- minimal scrub, bracken and dense rush

The purpose of this is to provide habitats for upland breeding birds and other wildlife.

Where you can do this action

You can do this action on agricultural land located within a [less favoured area](#) (LFA) below the moorland line that's:

- a land parcel of at least 2ha
- 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

To be eligible for this action, the land must be at least one of the following:

- 'Upland breeding bird areas for CS' – you can find this on the [MAGIC website](#) (it's not the same as 'Priority Species for CS Targeting')
- adjacent to a site of special scientific interest (SSSI) – you can find this on the [MAGIC website](#)
- high or medium priority on the 'Flood Risk Management Priorities (England)' data layer – you can find this on the [MAGIC website](#)
- adjacent to or includes a watercourse
- part of the [Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme](#) – you must be able to provide evidence of this from the relevant Peat Partnership

Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Permanent grassland	Permanent grassland	Permanent grassland

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 a 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 grassland by grazing or cutting it in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action’s aim.

You must not:

- graze or cut the grassland in a way that means this action’s aim cannot reasonably be achieved
- carry out mechanical activities in a way that may disturb breeding birds or damage nests, as [birds, nests and eggs are protected by law](#)
- apply digestate or any other industrial by-product, including paper waste
- apply any fertilisers and manures
- 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, except for providing non-energy based mineral blocks
- allow areas of scrub to develop on land containing historic or archaeological features
- carry out drainage works or change existing drainage, without written permission before work starts

You can maintain an existing area of rough grazing to get paid for this action if it:

- meets this action’s requirements

- is not already being paid for under another environmental land management scheme option, such as Countryside Stewardship option UP2 (manage rough grazing for birds)

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
- a grazing activity record if livestock are grazed on the area
- photographs and other documentation to show management undertaken

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	OFC2, OFM2, CIPM1, CNUM1, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, NUM1, SAM1
CS options	OR2, OT2, OT6

ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do one of the following supplemental actions on land entered into this base action:

- GRH11: Cattle grazing supplement (non-moorland)
- SPM4: Keep native breeds on extensively managed habitats supplement (50-80%)
- SPM5: Keep native breeds on extensively managed habitats supplement (more than 80%)

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	Deleted MOR1 from SFI 2023 actions. Added supplemental actions GRH11, SPM4 and SPM5. PRF2 deleted from SFI 2024 actions
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

GRH6: Manage priority habitat species-rich grassland (endorsed)

Duration

5 years

How much you'll be paid

£646 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's priority habitat species-rich grassland with:

- a good cover of flowering grasses and wildflowers from late spring and during the summer months, including 4 frequently occurring and 2 occasionally occurring 'indicator' species typical of your type of priority habitat grassland
- a variety of plant heights appropriate for your type of priority habitat grassland 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 your type of priority habitat grassland
- scattered areas of scrub and rushes, as appropriate for your type of priority habitat grassland
- any historic or archaeological features left undamaged

The purpose of this is to:

- maintain and improve the biodiversity of priority habitat grassland
- increase the number and frequency of important plant species
- benefit priority species, such as bumblebees, butterflies, birds or bats
- protect historic or archaeological features, where present on the land

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 'How endorsement works for this action'
- 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 arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops
Temporary grassland*	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow*	Arable land	FA01

*only on land where you're restoring or creating priority habitat species-rich grassland

How endorsement works for this action

The required endorsement for this action will be done by either:

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

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

- already [priority habitat species-rich grassland](#) – it does not need to be mapped on the Priority Habitat Inventory (PHI)
- has potential for the restoration or creation of priority habitat species-rich grassland

For the purposes of this action, types of 'priority habitat species-rich grassland' include:

- lowland calcareous grassland
- lowland dry acid grassland
- lowland meadows
- upland hay meadows
- purple moor-grass and rush pasture

The adviser may contact you to visit your land to endorse this action.

If you're intending to restore or create priority habitat species-rich grassland, you must provide the adviser with a map and soil analysis for the land before the visit.

Your map must show the location of either:

- the species-poor permanent grassland which you want to restore to priority habitat species-rich grassland

- the arable land, temporary grassland or land lying fallow where you want to create priority habitat species-rich grassland

To allow the adviser to confirm whether your land has good potential for the introduction of wildflowers, your soil analysis must:

- 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.

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 a 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 maintain either:

- existing priority habitat species-rich grassland
- priority habitat species-rich grassland you're restoring or creating

To do this, you must do the following on the area entered into this action:

- 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 priority habitat species-rich grassland – read the 'advice to help you do this action' to find out which 'indicator' species and vegetation heights are typical for each type of priority habitat species-rich grassland
- make sure there's an intact grass 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 and soft and hard 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 on your type of priority habitat species-rich grassland – read the 'advice to help you do this action' to find out what's appropriate for your type of species-rich grassland
- maintain a continuous sward on any historic and archaeological features, with minimal scrub, bracken and bare ground – if you cut the sward, you must avoid damaging the features

In years when you cut the area for hay or haylage, you must:

- not graze the area for a continuous period of at least 8 weeks during the spring and summer months before you harvest the hay or haylage crop – this is to allow flowering grasses and wildflowers to develop
- harvest the hay or haylage crop after enough flowering grasses and wildflowers have set seed to reasonably achieve this action's aim – in the majority of cases, this will usually be mid to late July (but you must not cut it earlier than the end of June on land outside severely disadvantaged areas (SDAs) or mid-July on land in an SDA)
- in each land parcel, leave an uncut margin around the edge of the area entered into this action to provide shelter for invertebrates and small mammals
- apply no more than 6 tonnes per ha per year (or no more than 12 tonnes per ha every 2 years) of cattle, sheep or horse farmyard manure – you must not increase your application rate if it's currently less than this

If, in a particular year, you believe that you have an exceptional case to cut earlier than the end of June or mid-July (as relevant), and the timing can still reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim, you must:

- [notify the Rural Payments Agency \(RPA\) about this](#) in writing before you cut the area – use 'SFI GRH6 early cutting' as the subject heading
- supply evidence with your written notification to show how the timing of the cutting can still reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim – the RPA may review this evidence if they check you're complying with your SFI agreement

For such exceptional cases, you can cut the area for hay or haylage once you've notified the RPA and supplied the required evidence.

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

- plough, cultivate or reseed it, unless you're restoring or creating priority habitat species-rich grassland (as confirmed in this action's written endorsement)
- carry out supplementary feeding, except for mineral blocks
- carry out mechanical activities, including hay and haylage cutting, in a way that may disturb breeding birds or damage nests
- apply digestate or any other industrial by-product, including paper waste
- apply inorganic fertiliser or manures, apart from cattle, sheep or horse farmyard manure in years when the land is cut for hay or haylage

- apply pesticides, except for herbicides to weed wipe or spot treat to control [injurious weeds](#), [invasive non-native species](#), or nettles – unless the use of herbicides will affect wildflowers in the sward
- damage any archaeological or historic features
- carry out drainage works, including modifying existing drainage
- top more than half of the total area, except in patches to control injurious weeds, invasive species, bracken or areas dominated by rushes

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	CSAM1, CNUM1, CIPM1, OFC2, OFM2
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, NUM1, SAM1
CS options	OR2, OT2

ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6. 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do one of the following supplemental actions (unless indicated otherwise) on land entered into this base action:

- GRH7: Hay making supplement – you can also do GRH11 on the same area as GRH7
- GRH8: Hay making supplement (late cut) – you can also do GRH11 on the same area as GRH8
- GRH11: Cattle grazing supplement (non-moorland) – you can also do GRH7 or GRH8 on the same area as GRH11
- SPM2: Keep native breeds on grazed habitats supplement (50-80%)
- SPM3: Keep native breeds on grazed habitats supplement (more than 80%)

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

GRH7: Haymaking supplement

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£157 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's a crop of field-dried hay, grown and harvested, with wildflowers and grasses allowed to flower and set seed.

The purpose of this is to:

- help to conserve plants in traditionally managed hay meadows
- provide pollen and nectar for bees and other insects
- improve water quality
- maintain traditional landscape character

Where you can do this action

You can only do this supplemental action on eligible land entered into one of the following base actions:

- CLIG3: Manage grassland with very low nutrient inputs (or LIG1 and LIG2 in the SFI 2023 offer)
- GRH6: Manage priority habitat species-rich grassland

You cannot do this supplemental action on land that's already entered into the following equivalent base actions in a Countryside Stewardship agreement:

- GS2 (permanent grassland with very low inputs – outside SDAs)
- GS5 (permanent grassland with very low inputs – SDAs)

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.

Rotational or static action

This action is rotational or static. This means that after the first year of this action's duration you can either:

- move its location around the land entered into the relevant base action for subsequent years of this action's duration
- do it at the same location each year

What to do

You must not graze or cut the sward 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 the sward to develop flowering grasses and wildflowers.

The minimum 8-week period required by this supplemental action replaces the minimum 7-week period in base action CLIG3. This applies to the area of land entered into this supplemental action.

You must allow the flowers and grasses to set seed. This will usually mean you must harvest the hay crop no earlier than:

- late June on land outside the severely disadvantaged areas (SDAs)
- mid-July on land in an SDA, where grass grows more slowly

When you harvest the hay crop, you must:

- in each land parcel, leave an uncut margin around at least half of the edge of the area entered into this action to provide shelter for invertebrates and small mammals
- 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 in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve the relevant base action's aim. This will usually be by aftermath grazing or taking a second cut.

When to do it

You must do this action each year of its 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
- a grazing activity record if livestock are grazed on the area
- photographs and other documentation to show management undertaken

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	Same as your selected base action
SFI 2023 actions	Same as your selected base action
CS options	Same as your selected base action
ES options	Same as your selected base action
SFI pilot standards	Same as your selected base action

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Duration	3 years instead of 'same as base action'

Where you can do this action	Added LIG1, LIG2 and GRH6 as base actions. You cannot do this supplemental action on land in GS2 and GS5
Eligibility of protected land	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action
Available area	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action
What to do	<p>The minimum 8-week period required by this supplemental action replaces the minimum 7-week period in base action CLIG3. This applies to the area of land entered into this supplemental action.</p> <p>Removed requirement to graze with livestock or take a second cut after you've removed the hay crop. Instead, you must manage the sward in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve the relevant base action's aim. This will usually be by aftermath grazing or taking a second cut.</p>
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

GRH8: Haymaking supplement (late cut)

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£187 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This supplemental action's aim is that a crop of herb-rich hay is made, with wildflowers and grasses allowed to flower and set seed.

The purpose of this is to:

- support later flowering plant species
- allow wading birds, such as curlew, to nest successfully
- help to conserve plants seen in traditionally managed hay meadows
- provide pollen and nectar for bees and other insects
- improve water quality
- maintain traditional landscape character

Where you can do this action

You can only do this supplemental action on eligible land that's entered into one of the following base actions:

- CLIG3: Manage grassland with very low nutrient inputs (or LIG1 and LIG2 in the SFI 2023 offer)
- GRH6: Manage priority habitat species-rich grassland

You cannot do this action on land that's already entered into the following equivalent base actions in a Countryside Stewardship agreement:

- GS2 (permanent grassland with very low inputs – outside SDAs)
- GS5 (permanent grassland with very low inputs – SDAs) in a Countryside Stewardship (CS) 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 the base action.

Rotational or static action

This action is rotational or static. This means that after the first year of this action's duration you can either:

- move its location around the land entered into the relevant base action for subsequent years of this action's duration
- do it at the same location each year

What to do

You must not graze or cut the sward for at least 9 weeks during the spring and summer months before you harvest the hay crop. This is to allow the sward to develop flowering grasses and wildflowers.

For land entered into this supplemental action, the minimum 9-week period replaces the:

- minimum 7-week period required by base action CLIG3
- minimum 8-week period required by base action GRH6

You must allow the flowers and grasses to set seed. This will usually mean harvesting the hay crop no earlier than mid-July

You must:

- in each land parcel, leave an uncut margin around at least half of the edge of the area entered into this action when you harvest the crop to provide shelter for invertebrates and small mammals
- 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 in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve the relevant base action's aim. This will usually be by aftermath grazing or taking a second cut.

When to do it

You must do this action each year of its 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
- a grazing activity record if livestock are grazed on the area
- photographs and other documentation to show management undertaken

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	Same as your selected base action
SFI 2023 actions	Same as your selected base action
CS options	Same as your selected base action
ES options	Same as your selected base action
SFI pilot standards	Same as your selected base action

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Duration	3 years instead of 'same as base action'

Where you can do this action	Added LIG1, LIG2 and GRH6 as base actions. You cannot do this supplemental action on land in GS2 and GS5
Eligibility of protected land	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action
Available area	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action
What to do	<p>The minimum 9-week period required by this supplemental action replaces the minimum 7-week period in base action CLIG3 and the minimum 8-week period in base action GRH6. This applies to the area of land entered into this supplemental action.</p> <p>Removed requirement to graze with livestock or take a second cut after you've removed the hay crop. Instead, you must manage the sward in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve the relevant base action's aim. This will usually be by aftermath grazing or taking a second cut.</p>
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

GRH10: Lenient grazing supplement

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£28 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This supplemental action's aim is that there's a sward with a range of shorter and taller grasses.

The purpose of this is to:

- create habitats for spiders and other insects (including grasshoppers and beetles)
- provide spring and summer invertebrate food for birds (such as yellowhammers, reed buntings and skylarks)

Where you can do this action

You can only do this supplemental action on eligible land entered into the base action CLIG3: Manage grassland with very low nutrient inputs (or LIG1 and LIG2 in the SFI 2023 offer).

The land parcel must meet one of the following conditions:

- have at least one boundary that's a hedgerow
- there's scrub cover close to the parcel (usually around 200 metres away)

You cannot do this action on land that's already entered into the following equivalent base actions in a Countryside Stewardship agreement:

- GS2 (permanent grassland with very low inputs – outside SDAs)
- GS5 (permanent grassland with very low inputs – SDAs)

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 as your selected base action.

Rotational or static action

Same as your selected base action.

What to do

During the growing season, you must manage the sward in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim. This includes lightly grazing it with cattle, or a combination of cattle and sheep.

You must not cut the area for hay or silage.

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:

- stocking records to show grazing activity at a land parcel level
- field operations at a land parcel level and associated invoices
- photographs or other documentation to show management undertaken

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	Same as your selected base action
SFI 2023 actions	Same as your selected base action

CS options	Same as your selected base action
ES options	Same as your selected base action
SFI pilot standards	Same as your selected base action

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Duration	3 years instead of 'same as base action'
Where you can do this action	Added LIG1 and LIG2 as base actions. You cannot do this supplemental action on land in GS2 or GS5
Eligibility of protected land	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action
Available area	Same as or less than your selected base action
Rotational or static action	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

GRH11: Cattle grazing supplement (non-moorland)

Duration

5 years

How much you'll be paid

£59 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that an annual average of at least 60% of the grazing livestock units (GLU) on the grassland are cattle.

The purpose of this is to:

- create a more varied sward structure
- control scrub, bracken and coarse vegetation
- increase wildlife diversity

Where you can do this action

You can only do this supplemental action on eligible land that's entered into one of the following base actions:

- CLIG3: Manage grassland with very low nutrient inputs (or LIG1 and LIG2 in the SFI 2023 offer)
- GRH1: Manage rough grazing for birds
- GRH6: Manage priority habitat species-rich grassland

You cannot do this action on land that's already entered into the following equivalent base actions in a Countryside Stewardship agreement:

- GS2 (permanent grassland with very low inputs – outside SDAs) or GS5 (permanent grassland with very low inputs – SDAs)
- UP2 (management of rough grazing for birds)

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 as or less than your selected base action.

Rotational or static action

This action is rotational or static. This means you can either:

- move its location around the land entered into the relevant base action for the second and third years of this action's duration
- do it at the same location each year of this action's duration

What to do

Each year, an average of at least 60% of the GLU on land entered into the relevant base action must be cattle.

You must keep a written stocking record for each land parcel entered into this action. The record must include:

- the land parcel reference number and its hectareage
- the dates when grazing has taken place during each calendar month
- the monthly numbers of livestock, including their type and age bracket

To convert livestock numbers into GLU, you must use the following values:

- Cattle over 2 years old at the start of an agreement year – 1.0 GLU
- Cattle over 6 months to 2 years old at the start of an agreement year – 0.6 GLU
- Lowland ewe and lamb, or ram – 0.12 GLU
- Store lamb, hill ewe and lamb or hogg or teg – 0.08 GLU
- Goat – 0.12 GLU
- Pony or donkey – 0.8 GLU
- Horse – 1.0 GLU

Read the 'advice to help you do this action' to find out how to calculate the livestock density.

When to do it

You must do this action each year of its 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 stocking record and supply this evidence if we ask for it. It can be recorded on paper or electronically.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	Same as your selected base action
SFI 2023 actions	Same as your selected base action
CS options	Same as your selected base action
ES options	Same as your selected base action
SFI pilot standards	Same as your selected base action

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Duration	5 years instead of 'same as base action'
Where you can do this action	Added LIG1 and LIG2 as base actions. You cannot do this supplemental action on land in GS2 and GS5
Eligibility of protected land	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action
Available area	Same or less than your selected base action
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

SCR1: Create scrub and open habitat mosaics

Duration

5 years

How much you'll be paid

£588 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's a mosaic of scrub, grasses and other flowering plants with:

- scrub cover allowed to develop, and managed so the mosaic is maintained
- a variety of species, heights, and structure
- growing trees and deadwood, where relevant

The purpose of this is to:

- provide pollen and nectar sources for beneficial insects, such as bumble bees, solitary bees and butterflies
- provide food and habitats for birds and mammals
- improve the quality of woodland edges and transitions between other habitats
- protect soils and watercourses by reducing soil erosion

Where you can do this action

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

- got existing scrub cover on less than 10% of its area
- 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](#) that's 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 arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01

Permanent horticultural crops	Permanent crops	TC01
Improved permanent grassland	Permanent grassland	PG01
Scrub	Scrub – ungrazeable Notional – scrub	WO25 NF03

Eligibility of protected land

Sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs): Ineligible – you must not enter any area that’s designated as an SSSI into this action.

Historic and archaeological features: Ineligible – you must not enter any area that contains an historic or archaeological feature into this action. This only affects the area where the feature is located in a land parcel. You can apply for this action on the remaining area in the land parcel if it’s eligible.

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 area entered into this action in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action’s aim, including:

- allowing scrub to regenerate naturally or by planting a variety of native scrub species, or a combination of both, so scrub cover develops on between 10% and 60% of the area
- controlling wild herbivores to allow scrub to develop and establish
- leaving any standing and fallen deadwood in place, if it’s safe to do so
- leaving any mature and veteran trees in place, if it’s safe to do so
- making sure tree guards do not damage growing trees, and removing them once trees are established

You must not:

- cut vegetation, unless it’s to control injurious weeds and invasive non-native species including non-native trees, soft and hard rush, or nettles
- graze with livestock
- apply 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
- plough, cultivate, re-seed, harrow or roll

- release gamebirds
- use supplementary feed for game birds
- carry out drainage works or change existing drainage, without written permission before work starts

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 or other documentation

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

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	CIPM1, CNUM1, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, NUM1, SAM1
CS options	No CS revenue options
ES options	No ES revenue options

SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards
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If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	You can apply for this action on the area in a land parcel that does not contain an historic or archaeological feature
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

SCR2: Manage scrub and open habitat mosaics

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£350 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's a mosaic of scrub, grasses and other flowering plants, with:

- scrub cover managed to maintain the mosaic
- a variety of shrub species, heights and structure
- growing trees and deadwood, where relevant

The purpose of this is to:

- provide pollen and nectar sources for beneficial insects, such as bumble bees, solitary bees and butterflies
- provide food and habitats for birds and mammals
- improve the quality of woodland edges and transitions between other habitats
- protect soils and watercourses by reducing soil erosion

Where you can do this action

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

- got existing scrub cover on at least 10% of its area
- 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
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01
Permanent horticultural crops	Permanent crops	TC01
Permanent grassland	Permanent grassland	PG01

Scrub	Scrub – ungrazeable Notional - scrub	WO25 NF03
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Eligibility of protected land

Sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs): Ineligible – you must not enter any area that’s designated as an SSSI into this action.

Historic and archaeological features: Ineligible – you must not enter any area that contains an historic or archaeological feature into this action. This only affects the area where the feature is located in a land parcel. You can apply for this action on the remaining area in the land parcel if it’s eligible.

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 area entered into this action in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action’s aim, including:

- managing the scrub and non-woody grassy vegetation by patchy cutting or light cattle grazing to maintain the mosaic
- managing the scrub so there’s dense and scattered scrub on between 10% and 60% of the area, as well as open areas
- managing the non-woody vegetation in a way that allows for scrub regeneration and produces a varied sward
- leaving any standing and fallen deadwood in place, if it’s safe to do so
- leaving any mature and veteran trees in place, if it’s safe to do so

You must not:

- graze or cut the area in a way that means this action’s aim cannot reasonably be achieved
- graze the area with sheep, because their grazing habits would not achieve this action’s aim
- plough, cultivate or re-seed
- carry out mechanical activities, such as cutting, in a way that may disturb breeding birds or damage nests, as [birds, nests and eggs are protected by law](#)
- apply 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
- release gamebirds

- carry out supplementary feeding of grazing livestock or game birds, except for providing non-energy mineral blocks
- carry out drainage works or change existing drainage, without written permission before work starts

You can maintain an existing area of scrub and open habitat mosaics to get paid for this action if it:

- meets this action's requirements
- is not already being paid for under another environmental land management scheme option, such as Countryside Stewardship option WD7 (management of successional areas and scrub)

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:

- stocking records to show grazing activity at a land parcel level
- field operations at a land parcel level and associated invoices
- photographs or other documentation

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

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	CIPM1, CNUM1, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, NUM1, SAM1
CS options	No CS revenue options
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do one of the following supplemental actions on land entered into this base action:

- SPM4: Keep native breeds on extensively managed habitats supplement (50-80%)
- SPM5: Keep native breeds on extensively managed habitats supplement (more than 80%)

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	You can apply for this action on the area in a land parcel that does not contain an historic or archaeological feature
What to do	Added the reason why you must not use sheep to graze. Added link to GOV.UK guidance on birds, nests and eggs being protected by law. You can provide non-energy mineral blocks.

SFI actions in the expanded SFI offer (v1.1b August 2024)

Other actions or options you can do on the same area	SPM4 and SPM5 added as supplemental actions
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

SFI actions for heritage

HEF1: Maintain weatherproof traditional farm or forestry buildings

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£5 per square metre (m²) per year – you must only include the area of the building's ground floor, not any area from other floors or areas outside the building.

You'll enter the hectareage equivalent of the building's ground floor m² in your SFI application. Divide the m² area by 10,000 to convert it into hectares.

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there are:

- traditional farm or forestry buildings maintained in good condition
- where relevant, preserved and accessible features used by bats, owls and kestrels

The purpose of this is to:

- enhance the local landscape
- preserve places for wildlife

Where you can do this action

To be eligible for this action, the traditional farm or forestry building, or parts of a building, must:

- have been built using traditional methods, such as timber, brick, stone, tile or slate
- have been built before 1940 for agricultural or forestry use, such as housing machinery or animals, or storing crops or processing crops, food or forest products
- still be in agricultural or forestry use on your farm or land holding, whether or not this was the original use
- be in good condition – this means the fabric of the building is intact, so it's weatherproof

You must have management control of the eligible farm or forestry building for the 3-year duration of this action.

You cannot do this action if the building:

- is a metal-framed Dutch barn
- was constructed as a dwelling
- is a farmhouse, residential or domestic building

Eligibility of protected land

Sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs): Not applicable

Historic and archaeological features: Eligible – you must get a 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 you'll enter the area in m².

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

To maintain the traditional farm or forestry building in good condition, you must:

- complete a visual building maintenance assessment to check the building's condition and identify any areas that need routine maintenance work or minor repairs to keep it weatherproof
- carry out any necessary routine maintenance work and minor repairs on a 'like for like' basis using traditional materials and methods (unless non-traditional material has previously been used)
- maintain any existing areas where a non-traditional material has previously been used to repair or re-clad the building, such as corrugated iron sheeting to cover roofs

To make sure there are preserved and accessible features for bats, owls and kestrels, you must:

- complete a visual building wildlife assessment to identify any existing use of the building by these species
- retain any existing features used by these species that you've identified in the building wildlife assessment
- install an owl, bat or kestrel box if you've identified they're required in the building wildlife assessment – you can apply for funding for wildlife boxes in [Capital Grants](#)

If you identify bat activity, you must:

- get advice from a licensed ecological consultant before you carry out routine maintenance work or minor repairs on the building
- follow any advice from the ecological consultant about when work can be undertaken on the building's fabric
- comply with the relevant legal requirements for advice and licences – read [section 10 'Get all necessary regulatory consents, permissions and licences in place'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more information

You must produce:

- a photographic record of the condition of the building as at this action's start date
- a written or photographic record of each visual building maintenance assessment you complete, including details of any areas of the building that need routine maintenance work or minor repairs to keep it weatherproof and the date you identify this need
- a written or photographic record of the routine maintenance work or minor repairs completed, including when the work was done
- a written record of the building wildlife assessment

You must not sell the building, or convert it to non-agricultural or forestry use during this action's 3-year duration

When to do it

You must:

- complete the visual building maintenance assessment and building wildlife assessment at least once each year of this action's 3-year duration
- carry out any necessary routine maintenance work or minor repairs within 12 months of identification, or by this action's end date if the need for maintenance work or minor repairs is identified during the final year of this action's duration – unless bat activity has been identified and the ecologist's advice is to carry out works later
- install owl, bat or kestrel boxes, as relevant, within 12 months of this action's start date, if you've identified they're required in the building wildlife assessment

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 records identified in 'what to do'
- any receipted invoices (or bank statements where a receipted invoice is unavailable), consents or permissions connected with the work on the traditional farm or forestry building
- a record of advice you've received from a licensed ecological consultant and any required wildlife licence, if you've identified bat activity in the building wildlife assessment

You must supply this evidence if we ask for it.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	No SFI revenue actions
SFI 2023 actions	No SFI revenue actions
CS options	No CS revenue options
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Action's aim	Deleted 'using traditional methods and materials'. Added 'where relevant' to features used by bats, owls and kestrels

What to do	<p>You must use traditional materials, unless non-traditional material has previously been used.</p> <p>Updated wording on what you must do if you identify bat activity.</p> <p>Added wording on timing of carrying out maintenance work or minor repairs if bat activity has been identified.</p>
Advice to help you do this action	<p>Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements</p>

HEF2: Maintain weatherproof traditional farm or forestry buildings in remote areas

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£8 per square metre (m²) per year – you must only include the area of the building's ground floor, not any area from other floors or areas outside the building.

You'll enter the hectareage equivalent of the building's ground floor m² in your SFI application. Divide the m² area by 10,000 to convert it into hectares.

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there are:

- traditional farm or forestry buildings maintained in good condition
- where relevant, preserved and accessible features used by bats, owls and kestrels

The purpose of this is to:

- enhance the local landscape
- preserve places for wildlife

Where you can do this action

To be eligible for this action, the traditional farm or forestry building, or parts of a building, must:

- be at least 400m from the main farmstead
- by the shortest practicable route, be at least 200m from a metalled public road – this means it's got a hard surface, such as asphalt, concrete, paving stones, bricks or cobbles
- have been built using traditional methods, such as timber, brick, stone, tile or slate
- have been built before 1940 for agricultural or forestry use, such as housing machinery or animals, or storing crops or processing crops, food or forest products
- still be in agricultural or forestry use on your farm or land holding, whether or not this was the original use
- be in good condition – this means the fabric of the building is intact, so it's weatherproof

You must have management control of the eligible farm or forestry building for the 3-year duration of this action.

You cannot do this action if the building:

- is a metal-framed Dutch barn
- was constructed as a dwelling
- is a farmhouse, residential or domestic building

Eligibility of protected land

Sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs): Not applicable

Historic and archaeological features: Eligible – you must get a 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 you'll enter the area in m².

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

To maintain the traditional farm or forestry building in good condition, you must:

- complete a visual building maintenance assessment to check the building's condition and identify any areas that need routine maintenance work or minor repairs to keep it weatherproof
- carry out any necessary routine maintenance work and minor repairs on a 'like for like' basis using traditional materials and methods (unless non-traditional material has previously been used)
- maintain any existing areas where a non-traditional material has previously been used to repair or re-clad the building, such as corrugated iron sheeting to cover roofs

This includes fixtures, fittings and features such as mounting blocks and stack or stook bases.

To make sure there are preserved and accessible features for bats, owls and kestrels, you must:

- complete a visual building wildlife assessment to identify any existing use of the building by these species
- retain any existing features used by these species that you've identified in the building wildlife assessment
- install an owl, bat or kestrel box if you've identified they're required in the building wildlife assessment – you can apply for funding for wildlife boxes in [Capital Grants](#)

If you identify bat activity, you must:

- get advice from a licensed ecological consultant before you carry out routine maintenance work or minor repairs on the building
- follow any advice from the ecological consultant about when work can be undertaken on the building's fabric
- comply with the relevant legal requirements for advice and licences – read [section 10 'Get all necessary regulatory consents, permissions and licences in place'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more information

You must produce:

- a photographic record of the condition of the building as at this action's start date
- a written or photographic record of each visual building maintenance assessment you complete, including details of any areas of the building that need routine maintenance work or minor repairs to keep it weatherproof and the date you identify this need
- a written or photographic record of the routine maintenance work or minor repairs completed, including when the work was done
- a written record of the building wildlife assessment

You must not sell the building or convert it to non-agricultural or forestry use during this action's 3-year duration.

When to do it

You must:

- complete the visual building maintenance assessment and building wildlife assessment at least once each year of this action's 3-year duration
- carry out any necessary routine maintenance work or minor repairs within 12 months of identification, or by this action's end date if the need for maintenance work or minor repairs is identified during the final year of this action's duration – unless bat activity has been identified and the ecologist's advice is to carry out works later
- install owl, bat or kestrel boxes, as relevant, within 12 months of this action's start date, if you've identified they're required in the building wildlife assessment

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 records identified in 'what to do'
- any receipted invoices (or bank statements where a receipted invoice is unavailable), consents or permissions connected with the work on the traditional farm or forestry building
- a record of advice you've received from a licensed ecological consultant and any required wildlife licence, if you've identified bat activity in the building wildlife assessment

You must supply this evidence if we ask for it.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	No SFI revenue actions
SFI 2023 actions	No SFI revenue actions
CS options	No CS revenue options
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6. 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Action's aim	Deleted 'using traditional methods and materials'. Added 'where relevant' to features used by bats, owls and kestrels

What to do	<p>You must use traditional materials, unless non-traditional material has previously been used.</p> <p>Updated wording on what you must do if you identify bat activity.</p> <p>Added wording on timing of carrying out maintenance work or minor repairs if bat activity has been identified.</p>
Advice to help you do this action	<p>Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements</p>

HEF5: Control scrub on historic and archaeological features

Duration

5 years

How much you'll be paid

£215 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's a well-managed, intact grass sward growing over the historic or archaeological feature throughout the year, with minimal scrub cover and bare ground.

The purpose of this is to:

- protect historic and archaeological features
- reduce the risk of root damage to historic and archaeological features
- reduce diffuse pollution and soil erosion, depending on the site's location
- help maintain and conserve landscape character

Where you can do this action

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

- identified on your SFI Historic Environment Farm Environment Record (HEFER) as containing an historic or archaeological feature – you must get a SFI HEFER before you apply for this action
- got existing scrub cover on more than 5% of its area
- 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](#) that's compatible with the eligible land cover

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Permanent grassland	Permanent grassland	PG01
Scrub	Scrub – ungrazeable Notional - scrub	WO25 NF03

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 a 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 area containing the historic or archaeological feature in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim. This includes:

- maintaining an intact grass sward
- minimising bare ground and soil erosion
- removing around a quarter of the scrub during the autumn and winter months each year
- preventing and controlling scrub regrowth

You must not:

- cut and remove scrub between early March and late September
- grub out stumps and roots
- plough, cultivate, re-seed, harrow or roll the area entered into this action
- carry out supplementary feeding on or within around 6m of the historic or archaeological feature
- locate vehicle or stock access routes within around 6m of the historic or archaeological feature (existing surfaced tracks can be used)

Before you remove scrub or trees, you must get any relevant consents, permissions or licences. For example, you may need to apply for:

- a [felling licence from the Forestry Commission](#)
- a [forestry environmental impact assessment \(EIA\)](#) from the Forestry Commission
- an [agriculture EIA 'screening decision'](#) from Natural England

Read [section 10 'Get all necessary regulatory consents, permissions and licences in place'] in the SFI scheme information.

When to do it

You must do this action from its start date, throughout each year of this action's 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 of the historic or archaeological feature and the extent of scrub cover before you start doing this action

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	OFC1, OFC2, OFM1, OFM2, OFM3, PRF2, UPL1, UPL2, UPL3, UPL7, UPL8, UPL9, UPL10, CIPM1, CNUM1, CMOR1, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, NUM1, MOR1, SAM1
CS options	UP1, OR1, OR2, OT1, OT2, OT6
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
What to do	Added agriculture EIA 'screening decision' from Natural England to relevant consents, permissions or licences you may need to apply for. Added link to section 10 'Get all necessary regulatory consents, permissions and licences in place' in the SFI scheme information.
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

HEF6: Manage historic and archaeological features on grassland

Duration

5 years

How much you'll be paid

£55 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's a well-managed, intact grass sward or vegetation throughout the year which:

- covers an historic or archaeological feature
- has minimal bare ground, scrub, bracken or pernicious weeds

The purpose of this is to:

- protect historic and archaeological features
- help maintain and conserve landscape character

Where you can do this action

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

- identified on your SFI Historic Environment Farm Environment Record (HEFER) as containing an historic or archaeological feature – you must get a SFI HEFER before you apply for this action
- 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](#) that's compatible with the eligible land cover

You cannot do this action on land parcels of more than 15ha above the moorland line.

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Permanent grassland	Permanent grassland	PG01

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 a 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 area containing the historic or archaeological feature in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim. This includes:

- maintaining a continuous grass sward or vegetation cover
- minimising bare ground, scrub, bracken and pernicious weeds

You must not:

- plough, cultivate, re-seed, harrow or roll the grassland
- carry out supplementary feeding on or within around 6 metres (m) of the historic or archaeological feature
- locate vehicle or stock access routes within around 6m of the historic or archaeological feature (existing surfaced tracks can be used)

Before you remove scrub or trees, you must get any relevant consents, permissions or licences. For example, you may need to apply for:

- a [felling licence from the Forestry Commission](#)
- a [forestry environmental impact assessment \(EIA\)](#) from the Forestry Commission
- an [agriculture EIA 'screening decision'](#) from Natural England

Read [section 10 'Get all necessary regulatory consents, permissions and licences in place'] in the SFI scheme information.

When to do it

You must do this action from its start date, throughout each year of this action's 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 or other documentation

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

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	OFC1, OFC2, OFM1, OFM2, PRF2, CIPM1, CMOR1, CNUM1, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, MOR1, NUM1, SAM1
CS options	OR1, OR2, OT1, OT2
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6. 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3

- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
What to do	Added consents, permissions or licences you may need to apply for before you remove scrub or trees. Added link to section 10 'Get all necessary regulatory consents, permissions and licences in place' in the SFI scheme information.
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	UPL1, UPL2 and UPL3 removed from SFI 2024 actions
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

HEF8: Maintain designed or engineered waterbodies

Duration

5 years

How much you'll be paid

£2,512 per hectare (ha) per year – you can only include the land area where you'll do this action (not the area of water)

You can calculate the hectareage by:

- measuring the length of the buffer strip in metres (m)
- multiplying that length by the relevant width (4m to 20m) to give the area in m²
- dividing that area by 10,000 to convert it into ha

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's a designed or engineered historic waterbody with:

- an intact vegetated grass buffer strip around the water body and any associated features throughout the year
- minimal bare ground and scrub
- the majority of the water surface not permanently shaded
- associated structural water control features maintained

The purpose of this is to:

- protect the banks and associated historic built water control features of designed or engineered historic water bodies
- maintain or strengthen the role of the water control features in water quality management
- conserve the character of the waterbody
- help to maintain and conserve landscape character

Where you can do this action

You can do this action on land which contains an eligible designed or engineered water body and is:

- 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

An eligible designed or engineered water body for this action must have an artificially retained area of open standing water. There may be associated structural water control features, such as leats and culverts.

The following waterbodies are not eligible for this action:

- field ponds dug to below the water table
- water meadows (both bedwork and catch meadow systems)
- water bodies that are covered by the [Reservoirs Act 1975](#)
- raised water bodies the Environment Agency has identified as high risk under the [Flood and Water Management Act 2010](#)

Eligible land

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Permanent grassland – improved and low input	Permanent grassland	PG01
Woodland	Woodland	WO12

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 a 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

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 establish and maintain a permanently vegetated buffer strip that's:

- at least 4m wide along its entire length and up to 20m wide (on average in each land parcel)
- on the perimeter or bank around the water body and around any associated water control features

You must maintain the buffer strip in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim, including:

- minimising bare ground and compaction
- minimising scrub on the banks of the water body
- making sure there's no more than a quarter of the water body permanently shaded by vegetation or tree growth
- removing all cut material

To maintain the structural features associated with the water body, you must:

- complete a visual assessment of the features to check their condition and identify any required maintenance works and minor repairs – you must produce a [structures maintenance record](#)
- carry out maintenance works and minor repairs on structural features associated with the water body on a 'like-for-like' basis
- keep any non-traditional material that was previously used to repair or re-clad the features

You must not:

- alter the depth, shape, profile and design of the built water body and associated engineering
- erect new fences

You can maintain an existing vegetated buffer strip to get paid for this action if it:

- meets this action's requirements
- is not already being paid for under another environmental land management scheme option, such as Countryside Stewardship option HS6 (maintenance of designed/engineered water bodies)

When to do it

You must:

- establish the buffer strip within 12 months of this action's start date
- maintain the buffer strip throughout each subsequent year of this action's duration
- complete the visual assessment of the structural features associated with the water body at least once during each year of this action's 5-year duration
- carry out any necessary maintenance works and minor repairs within 12 months of identification, or by this action's end date if you identify the need for maintenance or repair during the final year of this action's 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 structures maintenance 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 or other documentation

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

You must supply the evidence if we ask for it.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	OFC1, OFM1, AGF1, AGF2, PRF2, CMOR1
SFI 2023 actions	MOR1
CS options	WD2, OR1, OT1
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6. 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

SFI actions in the expanded SFI offer (v1.1b August 2024)

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

SFI actions for species recovery and management

SPM2: Keep native breeds on grazed habitats supplement (50-80%)

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£92 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This supplemental action's aim is that at least 50% of the grazing livestock units (GLU) on low input grassland habitats are rare native breeds of livestock.

The purpose of this is to maintain or increase the number of rare native breed grazing livestock.

Where you can do this action

You can only do this supplemental action on eligible land that you're grazing with livestock, which is entered into one of the following base actions:

- CLIG3: Manage grassland with very low nutrient inputs (or LIG1 and LIG2 in the SFI 2023 offer)
- AGF1: Maintain very low density in-field agroforestry on less sensitive land
- AGF2: Maintain low density in-field agroforestry on less sensitive land
- GRH6: Manage priority habitat species-rich grassland
- OFC1: Organic conversion – improved permanent grassland
- OFC2: Organic conversion – unimproved permanent grassland
- OFM1: Organic land management – unimproved permanent grassland
- OFM2: Organic land management – improved permanent grassland

You cannot do this action on land that's already entered into the following equivalent base actions in a Countryside Stewardship agreement:

- GS2 (permanent grassland with very low inputs – outside SDA)
- GS5 (permanent grassland with very low inputs – SDAs)
- OR1 (organic conversion – improved permanent grassland)
- OR2 (organic conversion – unimproved permanent grassland)
- OT1 (organic land management – improved permanent grassland)
- OT2 (organic land management – unimproved permanent grassland)

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 as your selected base action.

Rotational or static action

Same as your selected base action.

What to do

During each grazing season, at least 50% of the total GLU on land entered into the relevant base action must be both:

- pedigree rare native breeds – this means they're registered in a recognised pedigree breeding book
- on the [UK native animal breeds at risk \(NBAR\) list](#)

Where relevant, the stocking density (total GLU) on land entered into this action must be as required in the applicable base action.

To convert livestock numbers into GLU, you must use the following values:

- Cattle over 2 years old at the start of an agreement year – 1.0 GLU
- Cattle over 6 months to 2 years old at the start of an agreement year – 0.6 GLU
- Heavy sheep (for example, most lowland sheep, rams and larger hill sheep) – 0.12 GLU
- Light sheep (for example, store lambs and small hill sheep) – 0.08 GLU
- Goat – 0.12 GLU
- Pony or donkey – 0.8 GLU
- Horse – 1.0 GLU

Read the 'advice to help you do this action' to find out how to calculate the livestock density.

You must produce the following written records:

- a monthly record of grazing animals at the parcel level
- unique individual animal movement identification numbers for each eligible animal
- any changes to the original documentation since the action's start date, such as replacement animals
- the unique individual permanent NBAR breed identification numbers for each eligible animal – either the pedigree registration number or birth notification number
- breed registration records and proof of animal provenance, parentage and availability for each animal

When to do it

You must do this action each year of its 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 written records and supply this evidence if we ask for it.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	Same as your selected base action
SFI 2023 actions	Same as your selected base action
CS options	Same as your selected base action
ES options	Same as your selected base action
SFI pilot standards	Same as your selected base action

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Duration	3 years instead of 'same as base action'
Action's aim	Replaced 'sensitive' with 'low input' grassland
Where you can do this action	Added LIG1, LIG2 and GRH6 as base actions. You cannot do this supplemental action on land in GS2, GS5, OR1, OR2, OT1 or OT2
Eligibility of protected land	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action
Available area	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action
Rotational or static action	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action
What to do	Replaced 'Lowland ewe and lamb, or ram' with 'Heavy sheep (for example, most lowland sheep, rams and larger hill sheep)'. Replaced 'Store lamb, hill ewe and lamb or hogg or teg' with 'Light sheep (for example, store lambs and small hill sheep)'
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

SPM3: Keep native breeds on grazed habitats supplement (more than 80%)

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£146 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This supplemental action's aim is that more than 80% of grazing livestock units (GLU) on low input grassland habitats are rare native breeds of livestock.

The purpose of this is to maintain or increase the number of rare native breed grazing livestock.

Where you can do this action

You can only do this supplemental action on eligible land that you're grazing with livestock, which is entered into one of the following base actions:

- CLIG3: Manage grassland with very low nutrient inputs (or LIG1 and LIG2 in the SFI 2023 offer)
- AGF1: Maintain very low density in-field agroforestry on less sensitive land
- AGF2: Maintain low density in-field agroforestry on less sensitive land
- GRH6: Manage priority habitat species-rich grassland
- OFC1: Organic conversion – improved permanent grassland
- OFC2: Organic conversion – unimproved permanent grassland
- OFM1: Organic land management – unimproved permanent grassland
- OFM2: Organic land management – improved permanent grassland

You cannot do this action on land that's already entered into the following equivalent base actions in a Countryside Stewardship agreement:

- GS2 (permanent grassland with very low inputs – outside SDAs)
- GS5 (permanent grassland with very low inputs – SDAs)
- OR1 (organic conversion – improved permanent grassland)
- OR2 (organic conversion – unimproved permanent grassland)
- OT1 (organic land management – improved permanent grassland)
- OT2 (organic land management – unimproved permanent grassland)

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 as your selected base action.

Rotational or static action

Same as your selected base action.

What to do

During each grazing season, more than 80% of total GLU on land entered into the relevant base action must be both:

- pedigree rare native breeds – this means they're registered in a recognised pedigree breeding book
- on the [UK native animal breeds at risk \(NBAR\) list](#)

Where relevant, the stocking density (total GLU) on land entered into this action must be as required in the applicable base action.

To convert livestock numbers into GLU, you must use the following values:

- Cattle over 2 years old at the start of an agreement year – 1.0 GLU
- Cattle over 6 months to 2 years old at the start of an agreement year – 0.6 GLU
- Heavy sheep (for example, most lowland sheep, rams and larger hill sheep) – 0.12 GLU
- Light sheep (for example, store lambs and small hill sheep) – 0.08 GLU
- Goat – 0.12 GLU
- Pony or donkey – 0.8 GLU
- Horse – 1.0 GLU

Read the 'advice to help you do this action' to find out how to calculate the livestock density.

You must produce the following written records:

- a monthly record of grazing animals at the parcel level
- unique individual animal movement identification numbers for each eligible animal
- any changes to the original documentation since the action's start date, such as replacement animals
- the unique individual permanent NBAR breed identification numbers for each eligible animal - either the pedigree registration number or birth notification number
- breed registration records and proof of animal provenance, parentage and availability for each animal

When to do it

You must do this action each year of its 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 written records and supply this evidence if we ask for it.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	Same as your selected base action
SFI 2023 actions	Same as your selected base action
CS options	Same as your selected base action
ES options	Same as your selected base action
SFI pilot standards	Same as your selected base action

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Duration	3 years instead of 'same as base action'
Action's aim	Replaced 'sensitive' with 'low input' grassland
Where you can do this action	Added LIG1, LIG2 and GRH6 as base actions. You cannot do this supplemental action on land in GS2, GS5, OR1, OR2, OT1 or OT2
Eligibility of protected land	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action
Available area	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action
Rotational or static action	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action
What to do	Replaced 'Lowland ewe and lamb, or ram' with 'Heavy sheep (for example, most lowland sheep, rams and larger hill sheep)'. Replaced 'Store lamb, hill ewe and lamb or hogg or teg' with 'Light sheep (for example, store lambs and small hill sheep)'
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

SPM4: Keep native breeds on extensively managed habitats supplement (50-80%)

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£7 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This supplemental action's aim is that at least 50% of the grazing livestock units (GLU) on moorland or lowland heathland habitats are rare native breeds of livestock.

The purpose of this is to maintain or increase the number of rare native breed grazing livestock.

Where you can do this action

You can only do this supplemental action on eligible land that you're grazing with livestock, which is entered into one of the following base actions:

- AGF1: Maintain very low density in-field agroforestry on less sensitive land
- AGF2: Maintain low density in-field agroforestry on less sensitive land
- UPL1: Moderate livestock grazing on moorland
- UPL2: Low livestock grazing on moorland
- UPL3: Limited livestock grazing on moorland
- UPL7: Shepherding livestock on moorland (no required stock removal period)
- UPL8: Shepherding livestock on moorland (remove stock for at least 4 months)
- UPL9: Shepherding livestock on moorland (remove stock for at least 6 months)
- UPL10: Shepherding livestock on moorland (remove stock for at least 8 months)
- SCR2: Manage scrub and open habitat mosaics
- OFM3: Organic land management – enclosed rough grazing
- GRH1: Manage rough grazing for birds

You cannot do this action on land that's already entered into an equivalent base action in a Countryside Stewardship agreement. This includes:

- WD7: Management of successional areas and scrub
- WD8: Creation of successional areas and scrub
- OT6: Organic land management – enclosed rough grazing
- UP2: Management of rough grazing for birds

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 as your selected base action.

Rotational or static action

This is the same as your selected base action.

What to do

Each grazing season, at least 50% of the total GLU on land entered into this action must be:

- pedigree rare native breeds – this means they're registered in a recognised pedigree breeding book
- on the [UK native animal breeds at risk \(NBAR\) list](#)

Where relevant, the stocking density (total GLU) on land entered into this action must be as required in the applicable base action.

To convert livestock numbers into GLU, you must use the following values:

- Cattle over 2 years old at the start of an agreement year – 1.0 GLU
- Cattle over 6 months to 2 years old at the start of an agreement year – 0.6 GLU
- Heavy sheep (for example, most lowland sheep, rams and larger hill sheep) – 0.12 GLU
- Light sheep (for example, store lambs and small hill sheep) – 0.08 GLU
- Goat – 0.12 GLU
- Pony or donkey – 0.8 GLU
- Horse – 1.0 GLU

Read the 'advice to help you do this action' to find out how to calculate the livestock density.

You must produce the following written records:

- a monthly record of grazing animals at the parcel level
- unique individual animal movement identification numbers for each eligible animal
- changes to the original documentation since the action's start date, such as replacement animals
- the unique individual permanent NBAR breed identification numbers for each eligible animal - either the pedigree registration number or birth notification number

- breed registration records and proof of animal provenance, parentage and availability for each animal

When to do it

You must do this action each year of its 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 written records and supply this evidence if we ask for it.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	Same as your selected base action
SFI 2023 actions	Same as your selected base action
CS options	Same as your selected base action
ES options	Same as your selected base action
SFI pilot standards	Same as your selected base action

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Duration	3 years instead of 'same as base action'
Where you can do this action	Deleted SCR1
Where you can do this action	You cannot do this supplemental action on land that's already in an equivalent base action in a CS agreement. This includes WD7, WD8, OT6 and UP2
Eligibility of protected land	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action
Available area	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action
Rotational or static action	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action
What to do	Replaced 'Lowland ewe and lamb, or ram' with 'Heavy sheep (for example, most lowland sheep, rams and larger hill sheep)'. Replaced 'Store lamb, hill ewe and lamb or hogg or teg' with 'Light sheep (for example, store lambs and small hill sheep)'
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

SPM5: Keep native breeds on extensively managed habitats supplement (more than 80%)

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£11 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This supplemental action's aim is that more than 80% of grazing livestock units (GLU) on moorland or lowland heathland habitats are rare native breeds of livestock.

The purpose of this is to maintain or increase the number of rare native breed grazing livestock.

Where you can do this action

You can only do this supplemental action on eligible land that you're grazing with livestock, which is entered into one of the following base actions:

- AGF1: Maintain very low density in-field agroforestry on less sensitive land
- AGF2: Maintain low density in-field agroforestry on less sensitive land
- UPL1: Moderate livestock grazing on moorland
- UPL2: Low livestock grazing on moorland
- UPL3: Limited livestock grazing on moorland
- UPL7: Shepherding livestock on moorland (no required stock removal period)
- UPL8: Shepherding livestock on moorland (remove stock for at least 4 months)
- UPL9: Shepherding livestock on moorland (remove stock for at least 6 months)
- UPL10: Shepherding livestock on moorland (remove stock for at least 8 months)
- SCR2: Manage scrub and open habitat mosaics
- OFM3: Organic land management – enclosed rough grazing
- GRH1: Manage rough grazing for birds

You cannot do this action on land that's already entered into an equivalent base action in a Countryside Stewardship agreement. This includes:

- WD7: Management of successional areas and scrub
- WD8: Creation of successional areas and scrub
- OT6: Organic land management – enclosed rough grazing
- UP2: Management of rough grazing for birds

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 as your selected base action.

Rotational or static action

This is the same as your selected base action.

What to do

Each grazing season, more than 80% of total GLU on land entered into this action must be:

- pedigree rare native breeds – this means they're registered in a recognised pedigree breeding book
- on the [UK native animal breeds at risk \(NBAR\) list](#)

Where relevant, the stocking density (total GLU) on land entered into this action must be as required in the applicable base action.

To convert livestock numbers into GLU, you must use the following values:

- Cattle over 2 years old at the start of an agreement year – 1.0 GLU
- Cattle over 6 months to 2 years old at the start of an agreement year – 0.6 GLU
- Heavy sheep (for example, most lowland sheep, rams and larger hill sheep) – 0.12 GLU
- Light sheep (for example, store lambs and small hill sheep) – 0.08 GLU
- Goat – 0.12 GLU
- Pony or donkey – 0.8 GLU
- Horse – 1.0 GLU

Read the 'advice to help you do this action' to find out how to calculate the livestock density.

You must produce the following written records:

- a monthly record of grazing animals at the parcel level
- unique individual animal movement identification numbers for each eligible animal
- changes to the original documentation since the action's start date, such as replacement animals
- the unique individual permanent NBAR breed identification numbers for each eligible animal - either the pedigree registration number or birth notification number

- breed registration records and proof of animal provenance, parentage and availability for each animal

When to do it

You must do this action each year of its 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 written records and supply this evidence if we ask for it.

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	Same as your selected base action
SFI 2023 actions	Same as your selected base action
CS options	Same as your selected base action
ES options	Same as your selected base action
SFI pilot standards	Same as your selected base action

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Duration	3 years instead of 'same as base action'
Where you can do this action	Deleted SCR1
Where you can do this action	You cannot do this supplemental action on land that's already in an equivalent base action in a CS agreement. This includes WD7, WD8, OT6 and UP2
Eligibility of protected land	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action
Available area	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action
Rotational or static action	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action
What to do	Replaced 'Lowland ewe and lamb, or ram' with 'Heavy sheep (for example, most lowland sheep, rams and larger hill sheep)'. Replaced 'Store lamb, hill ewe and lamb or hogg or teg' with 'Light sheep (for example, store lambs and small hill sheep)'
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	Added 'your selected' in relation to the base action
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

SFI actions for integrated pest management

CIPM1: Assess integrated pest management and produce a plan

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£1,129 for the assessment and plan per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that you:

- understand the benefits, costs, impacts and risks of your current approach to crop pest, weed and disease management for your land
- effectively plan how to adopt a range of integrated pest management (IPM) methods appropriate to your farm

Where you can do this action

You can do this action on all agricultural land located below the moorland line. The IPM assessment and plan should cover all of the relevant areas of your farm.

This is an 'agreement level' SFI action. This means you apply to include it in your agreement instead of entering specific areas of land.

You can only apply for this action:

- if at least one land parcel is linked to your Single Business Identifier (SBI), so it's shown on your digital maps
- in one SFI agreement – once you've included it in an agreement, you cannot apply for this action again until after its 3-year duration in that agreement ends

Eligibility of protected land

Sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs): Eligible – you do not need to get SSSI consent for this action as it's an assessment and plan.

Historic and archaeological features: Eligible – you do not need to get a SFI HEFER for this action as it's an assessment and plan.

Available area you can enter into this action

Not applicable as this is an agreement level SFI action.

Rotational or static action

Not applicable as this is an agreement level SFI action.

What to do

You must arrange for a member of the BASIS Professional Register who's qualified with the relevant BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection for the crops you're growing (a 'BASIS qualified adviser') to visit your farm to:

- assess your current approach to crop pest, weed and disease management for your land
- identify and discuss opportunities for using IPM on that land
- help you to produce a written IPM plan

You must make sure that the BASIS qualified adviser does what's required above.

If you're a BASIS qualified adviser, as defined above, you can complete this action yourself.

You can use an existing written IPM plan, informed by an IPM assessment, to get paid for this action if it was:

- carried out by a BASIS qualified adviser
- written within the last 12 months

When to do it

You must make sure that a BASIS qualified adviser visits your farm to:

- complete the IPM assessment and help you produce a written IPM plan within 12 months of this action's start date
- reassess your approach to crop pest, weed and disease management and review your written IPM plan in each subsequent year of this action's 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:

- a written record of your IPM plan, including the IPM assessment
- evidence that the adviser is a BASIS qualified adviser, such as their name and BASIS registration number

You must supply this evidence if we ask for it.

Other actions or options you can do with this action

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI actions	All SFI actions, except CMOR1 or MOR1
CS options	All CS management options
ES options	All ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	All SFI pilot standards

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

CIPM2: Flower-rich grass margins, blocks or in-field strips

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£798 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's an established multi-annual flower-rich grass mix which:

- is growing in margins, blocks or in-field strips
- produces flowering plants during the spring and summer months, into early autumn

The purpose of this is to:

- encourage natural crop pest predators as part of an integrated pest management approach if located close to cropped areas
- provide habitat and foraging sites for invertebrates, including natural crop pest predators, wild pollinators such as bumblebees, solitary bees, butterflies and hoverflies, and farmland birds

Where you can do this action

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

- 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

This is a 'limited area' action. The total eligible area you enter into any combination of one or more of the 'limited area' actions must not be more than 25% of the total agricultural area of your farm. Read [section 1.3 'SFI actions with a limited area'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details (including a list of the 'limited area' actions).

Eligible land type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Arable land used to grow crops	Arable land	Land use codes for arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01

Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01
Permanent crops – horticultural and non-horticultural	Permanent crops	Land use codes for permanent crops

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 a 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

Part of the available area in a land parcel.

Rotational or static action

This action is rotational or static. This means you can either:

- move its location for the second and third years of this action’s duration
- do it at the same location each year of this action’s duration

What to do

You must establish a flower-rich grass mix as a margin, block or in-field strip on land entered into this action.

You must use a seed mix which includes at least both:

- 4 grass species (not ryegrass) – these should make up no more than 90% of the total mix by weight
- 10 wildflower species – with no individual flower species being more than 25% of the total wildflower species element by weight

Once the flower-rich grass margin, block or in-field strip is established (usually from the second spring after sowing), you must maintain it. To do this you must manage it in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action’s aim.

You must not do the following on the established flower-rich grass margin, block or in-field strip:

- cut or graze it with livestock in a way that means this action’s aim cannot reasonably be expected to be achieved
- use them for regular vehicular access, turning or storage (for example, storing bales or machinery)

- mechanically apply any fertilisers and manures
- apply pesticides, except for herbicides to weed wipe or spot treat to control [injurious weeds](#), [invasive non-native species](#), or nettles

You can maintain an existing flower-rich grass margin, block or in-field strip to get paid for this action, if it:

- meets this action's requirements
- is not already being paid for under another environmental land management scheme option, such as CS option AB8 (flower rich margins and plots)

When to do it

If you're establishing a new flower-rich grass margin, block or in-field strip to meet this action, you must:

- sow the mix by early autumn, within 12 months of this action's start date
- maintain the mix at the same location until this action's end date

If you're maintaining an existing flower-rich grass margin, block or in-field strip to meet this action, you must do this until this action's end date. You may need to oversow it within 12 months of this action's start date, so it can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim.

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 details of the seed mix used
- photographs or other documentation

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

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	OFC3, OFC4, OFC5, OFM4, OFM5, OFM6, AGF1, AGF2, PRF2, CSAM1, CIPM1, CNUM1
SFI 2023 actions	SAM1, IPM1, NUM1
CS options	OR3, OR4, OR5, OT3, OT4, OT5
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
Rotational or static action	This action is rotational or static

What to do	Storing bales or machinery added as an example of 'storage'
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

CIPM3: Companion crop on arable and horticultural land

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£55 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's companion crop growing with a main arable or horticultural crop.

The purpose of this is to do one or more of the following:

- support an integrated pest management (IPM) approach by acting as a trap crop for pests or by suppressing weeds
- provide a habitat for birds and invertebrates, including pollinators and natural crop pest predators
- manage nutrient efficiency
- protect soil and improve its condition

Where you can do this action

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

- 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 type	Eligible land cover	Compatible land use code
Arable land used to grow crops	Arable land	Land use codes for arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01
Permanent crops – horticultural	Permanent crops	TC01

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 a 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 rotational or static. This means you can either:

- move its location for the second and third years of this action's duration
- do it at the same location each year of this action's duration

What to do

You must establish a companion crop on land entered into this action, so it's growing with the main arable or horticultural crop.

The companion crop does not have to be present for the full growing period of the arable or horticultural crop, as long as it's managed in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve the action's aim and its intended purpose.

You can establish the companion crop by:

- trap cropping – sowing a trap crop to attract crop pests away from the main arable or horticultural crop
- inter-cropping – sowing the companion crop with the main arable or horticultural crop
- undersowing – sowing a companion crop to form a living mulch beneath the arable or horticultural crop

You must avoid growing deep rooted species of companion crop on any area within a land parcel with historic or archaeological features identified in your SFI HEFER. Read [section 5.6 'Land with historic or archaeological features'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can use an existing companion crop to get paid for this action if it meets this action's requirements.

When to do it

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

If this action's start date means it's too late for you to do this action, you must start doing it within 12 months of the action's start date.

For example, if you've already sown the main arable and horticultural crop before this action starts, you can establish the companion crop 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
- 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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	OFA1, OFC3, OFC4, OFC5, OFM4, OFM5, OFM6, AGF1, AGF2, PRF1, PRF2, PRF3, PRF4, SOH1, SOH2, SOH3, CAHL2, CIPM1, CIPM4, CNUM1, CSAM1, CSAM2
SFI 2023 actions	AHL2, IPM1, IPM4, NUM1, SAM1, SAM2
CS options	HS3, HS9, OP1, OR3, OR4, OR5, OT3, OT4, OT5, SW6

ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	SFI pilot arable and horticultural soils standard – all levels

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	Deleted 'only if CIPM3 is done during the summer months' as that's already covered in the text for this section. SW6 added to CS options
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

CIPM4: No use of insecticide on arable crops and permanent crops

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£45 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that no plant protection products containing insecticide are applied on an arable crop or permanent crops.

The purpose of this is to:

- support an integrated pest management approach by managing crop pests in a more sustainable way
- improve water and air quality
- increase biodiversity

Where you can do this action

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

- 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 (not temporary grassland or fallow land)	Arable land	Land use codes for arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops
Permanent crops – horticultural and non-horticultural (not miscanthus)	Permanent crops	Land use codes for permanent crops

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 a 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

For arable crops (including non-permanent horticultural crops) this action is rotational. This means you can either:

- do it at the same location each year of this action's duration
- move its location for the second and third years of this action's duration

For permanent crops, 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 not apply any plant protection products containing insecticide on land entered into this action, including:

- insecticide seed dressings
- nematicides and acaricides
- other insecticides, such as silica insecticides and orange oil

You can apply herbicides, fungicides or plant growth regulators.

If the land is being used to grow arable crops (including non-permanent horticultural crops), you must do this action on one 'cash crop' from when it's sown until it's harvested.

A 'cash crop' means a crop grown to be harvested for commercial use.

For the purposes of this action, an arable crop includes:

- combinable crops, such as cereals and oilseed rape
- root crops
- field vegetables and salad crops
- soft fruit crops which do not occupy the land for 5 years or more and provide repeated harvests (also known as permanent crops)

You can choose which arable crop to do this action on, but it must not be:

- a cover crop which you will not harvest for commercial sale
- a short-term specialist crop, such as crops which are only in the ground for around 2 months

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. 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.

When to do it

For arable crops, you must do this action on at least one crop that's sown during each year of this action's 3-year duration. You can harvest it in a subsequent year of this action's duration if you sow the next crop for this action in the same year.

This means you must do this action on a crop that's sown during:

- the first year of this action's duration – you can harvest it in the second year of this action's duration
- the second year of this action's duration – you can harvest it in the third year of this action's duration
- the third year of this action's duration – you must do this action until you harvest the crop or this action's end date (whichever is earlier)

If you're already growing an arable crop on the land entered into this action when the action starts, you must do this action on a crop that's sown within 12 months of the action's start date.

For permanent crops, you must do this action from its start date, throughout each year of this action's 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 or other documentation

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

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	AHW6, AHW7, OFA1, OFA6, OFC3, OFC4, OFC5, OFM4, OFM5, OFM6, SOH4, AGF1, AGF2, PRF1, PRF2, PRF3, PRF4, SOH1, SOH2, SOH3, CAHL2, CIPM1, CIPM3, CNUM1, CSAM1, CSAM2
SFI 2023 actions	AHL2, IPM1, IPM3, NUM1, SAM1, SAM2
CS options*	AB2, AB9, HS3, HS9, OP1, OP2, OP5, OR3, OR4, OR5, OT3, OT4, OT5, SW5, SW6
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	SFI pilot arable and horticultural land standard – all levels

(*the other Arable CS options not contained in the table above prohibit the use of insecticides as part of the CS option, so cannot be located on the same area as CIPM4 as they're either incompatible or you'd be paid twice for doing the same activity)

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
What to do	Plant protection products containing insecticide includes insecticide seed dressings
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	AHW7 added to SFI 2024 actions
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

SFI actions for nutrient management

CNUM1: Assess nutrient management and produce a review report

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£652 for the assessment and review report per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that you assess your current approach to nutrient usage and effectively plan how to:

- manage your nutrient usage more efficiently and effectively
- optimise your use of organic sources of crop nutrition

Where you can do this action

You can do this action on all agricultural land located below the moorland line. The nutrient management (NM) assessment and review report should cover all of the relevant areas of your farm.

This is an 'agreement level' SFI action. This means you apply to include it in your agreement instead of entering specific areas of land.

You can only apply for this action:

- if at least one land parcel is linked to your Single Business Identifier (SBI), so it's shown on your digital maps
- in one SFI agreement – once you've included it in an agreement, you cannot apply for this action again until after its 3-year duration in that agreement ends

Eligibility of protected land

Sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs): Eligible – you do not need to get SSSI consent for this action as it's an assessment and review report.

Historic and archaeological features: Eligible – you do not need to get a SFI HEFER for this action as it's an assessment and review report.

Available area you can enter into this action

Not applicable as this is an agreement level SFI action.

Rotational or static action

Not applicable as this is an agreement level SFI action.

What to do

You must arrange for a member of the BASIS Professional Register who's qualified under the Fertiliser Advisers Certification and Training Scheme (a 'FACTS qualified adviser') to visit your farm to:

- assess your current nutrient use and needs for your farm
- identify and discuss opportunities to increase efficiency of your nutrient usage, and maximise the use of natural sources of crop nutrients on that land
- help you produce a written NM review report

You must make sure that the FACTS qualified adviser does what's required above.

If you're a FACTS qualified adviser, as defined above, you can complete this action yourself.

You can use an existing written NM review report, informed by an NM assessment, to get paid for this action if it was:

- carried out by a FACTS qualified adviser
- written within the last 12 months

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

When to do it

You must make sure that a FACTS qualified adviser visits your farm to:

- complete the NM assessment and help you produce a written NM review report within 12 months of this action's start date
- reassess your nutrient use and needs for your land and review your NM review report in each subsequent year of this action's 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:

- a written record of your NM review report, including the NM assessment
- evidence that the adviser is a FACTS qualified adviser, such as their name and BASIS or FACTS registration number

You must supply this evidence if we ask for it.

Other actions or options you can do with this action

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI actions	All SFI actions, except CMOR1, MOR1 or NUM1
CS options	All CS management options
ES options	All ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	All SFI pilot standards

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

CNUM2: Legumes on improved grassland

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£102 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there are legumes growing from spring until early autumn.

The purpose of this is to:

- manage nutrient efficiency
- protect the soil surface
- provide root growth that maintains soil structure, supports soil biology, and minimise nutrient leaching, soil erosion and runoff
- support an integrated pest management approach if located close to cropped areas

Where you can do this action

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

- 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
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Improved permanent grassland	Permanent grassland	PG01

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: Ineligible – you must not enter any area with an historic or archaeological feature into this action. This only affects the area where the

feature is located in a land parcel. You can apply for this action on the remaining area in the land parcel if it's eligible.

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 rotational or static. This means you can either:

- move its location for the second and third years of this action's duration
- do it at the same location each year of this action's duration

What to do

You must establish and maintain legumes on improved grassland entered into this action.

You can use one or more type of legume, such as:

- red clover
- white clover
- alsike clover
- sainfoin
- lucerne
- bird's foot trefoil

You can establish the legumes by:

- adding them to an existing grass sward
- sowing a mix of grass and legumes

Once established, you must maintain the legumes. To do this, you must manage them in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim.

You can maintain existing areas of legumes on improved grassland to get paid this action if they:

- meet this action's requirements
- are not already being for under another environmental land management scheme option, such as CS option GS4 (legume and herb-rich swards)

When to do it

If you're doing this action on the same area of land for this action's 3-year duration, you must:

- establish the legumes within 12 months of this action's start date
- maintain the area of legumes in each subsequent year of this action's duration

If you're rotating this action around your farm, each year of your SFI agreement you must do it for a period of time that could reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim.

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 or other documentation

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

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	OFC1, OFC3, OFM1, OFM4, AGF1, AGF2, PRF1, PRF2, CIPM1, CNUM1, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, NUM1, SAM1
CS options	OR1, OR3, OT1, OT3
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information
Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information. You can apply for this action on the area in a land parcel that does not contain an historic or archaeological feature.
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements

CNUM3: Legume fallow

Duration

3 years

How much you'll be paid

£593 per hectare (ha) per year

Action's aim

This action's aim is that there's an established legume fallow with plants that:

- grow and flower from late spring and during the summer months
- provide green cover over the winter months

The purpose of this is to:

- manage nutrient efficiency and improved soil health
- provide food for farmland wildlife, such as pollen and nectar for pollinators and farmland birds
- support an integrated pest management approach by reducing grass weeds and, if located close to cropped areas, encourage natural crop pest predators

Where you can do this action

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

- 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 arable crops or leguminous and nitrogen-fixing crops
Temporary grassland	Arable land	TG01
Arable land lying fallow	Arable land	FA01
Permanent crops – horticultural	Permanent crops	TC01

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 a 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 rotational or static. This means you can either:

- move its location for the second and third years of this action's duration
- do it at the same location each year of this action's duration

What to do

You must establish a legume fallow on land entered into this action.

You must use a seed mix which contains at least 6 flowering species, including legumes. The seed mix can contain legumes such as:

- alsike clover
- bird's foot trefoil
- black medick
- common vetch
- lucerne

The seed mix can also include:

- non-legume flower species
- grasses, such as cocksfoot or timothy, which can help to control blackgrass

You must avoid growing deep rooted legumes, such as lucerne, on any area in a land parcel that contains historic or archaeological features. These are identified in your SFI HEFER.

Once the legume fallow is established (usually from the second spring after sowing), you must maintain it. To do this, you must manage it in a way, and for a period of time, that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim.

You must not do the following on the established legume fallow:

- graze it with livestock – if you want to do this you may want to consider action CSAM3 (herbal leys) instead which allows grazing activity

- use the area for regular vehicular access, turning or storage (for example, storing bales or machinery)
- cut it, except to prevent blackgrass from setting seed or to control other annual grass weeds
- apply any fertilisers and manures
- apply pesticides, except for herbicides to weed wipe or spot treat to control [injurious weeds](#), [invasive non-native species](#), or nettles

You can maintain an existing legume fallow to get paid for this action if it:

- meets this action's requirements
- is not already being paid for under another environmental land management scheme option, such as CS option AB15 (two year sown legume fallow)

When to do it

You must:

- establish the legume fallow by the autumn, within 12 months of this action's start date
- maintain the legume fallow at the same location for a period of time that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim – this will usually be until the end of the second summer after sowing
- re-establish the legume fallow by the following autumn (either at the same location or a different location) and maintain it until this action's end date

If you want to establish a legume fallow in the spring and remove it in the summer during the same year, you should apply for spring-sown or summer-sown cover crops actions (SOH2 or SOH3).

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 details of the seed mix used
- photographs or other documentation

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

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

You can do the following actions or options on the same area in a land parcel as this action.

Some actions or options can only be done on the same area if they're done at a different time of year to this action. For example, winter cover followed by a summer companion crop. Read 'What to do' and 'When to do it' to find out when this action must be done.

Scheme	Action or option codes
SFI 2024 actions	OFC3, OFC4, OFC5, OFM4, OFM5, OFM6, AGF1, AGF2, PRF2, CIPM1, CNUM1, CSAM1
SFI 2023 actions	IPM1, NUM1, SAM1
CS options	OR3, OR4, OR5, OT3, OT4, OT5
ES options	No ES revenue options
SFI pilot standards	No area-based SFI pilot standards

If an action or option cannot be located on the same area, you may be able to do it on a different area in the same land parcel. Read [section 6 'Eligible land in other funding schemes'](#) in the SFI scheme information for more details.

You can do the following actions or options on the eligible boundaries of a land parcel entered into this action:

- SFI 2024 actions: CHRW1, CHRW2, CHRW3, BND1, BND2 and WBD2
- SFI 2023 actions: HRW1, HRW2, HRW3 up
- CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows)
- the introductory level of the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

Changes made in v1.1 of this SFI action

The following changes have been made in v1.1 of this SFI action.

Heading	Change made
Where you can do this action	An eligible land type is defined in section 5.1 'Eligible land types for SFI' in the SFI scheme information

Eligibility of protected land	Updated link to section 10.3 'SSSI consent' in the SFI scheme information
Rotational or static action	This action is rotational or static. Wording on new and existing legume fallow has been removed
What to do	Storing bales or machinery added as an example of 'storage'
When to do it	Wording updated to reflect that this action is rotational or static for new and existing legume fallow
Other actions or options you can do on the same area	OFM6 added to SFI 2024 actions
Advice to help you do this action	Published voluntary advice to help you do this action. It is not part of this action's requirements