




Sustainable Farming Incentive

EARLY APPLICATION FOR BLACK SHEEP CLIENTS

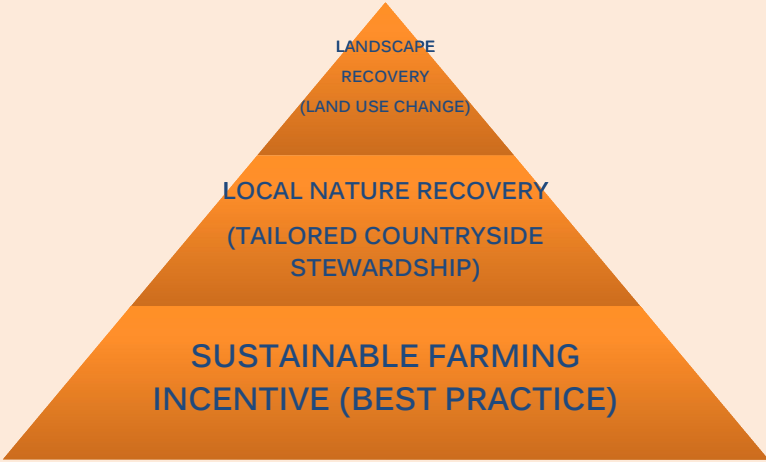


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New Environmental Land Management Scheme



LANDSCAPE RECOVERY
(LAND USE CHANGE)

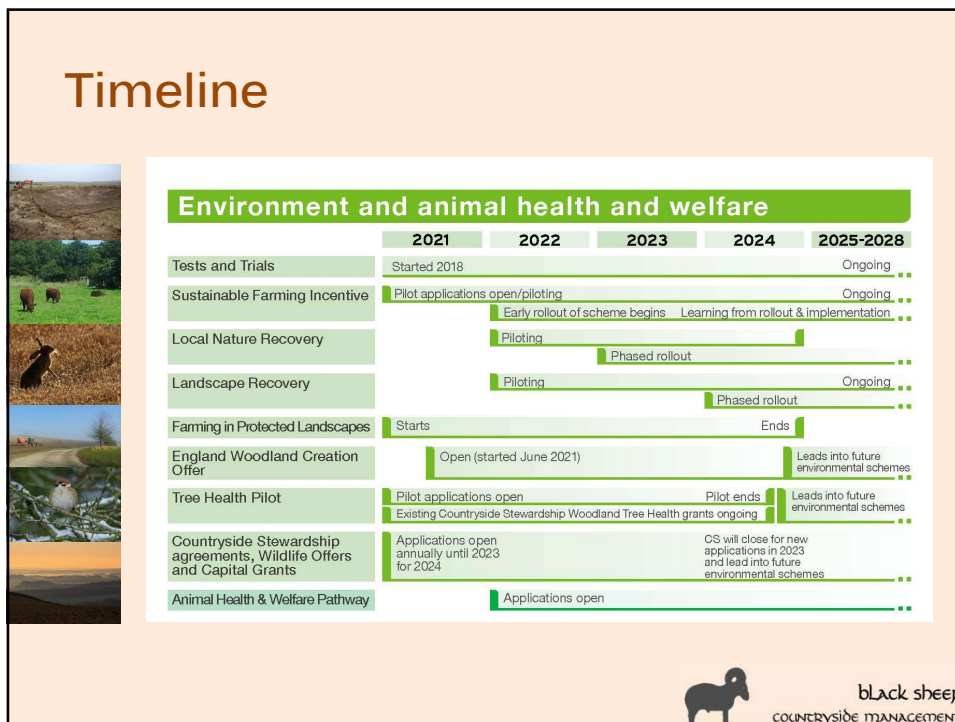
LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY
(TAILORED COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP)

SUSTAINABLE FARMING INCENTIVE (BEST PRACTICE)



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Sustainable Farming Incentive

	2022 (Confirmed)	2023 (indicative)	2024 (indicative)	2025 (indicative)
✓ Arable and horticultural soils (introductory and intermediate levels only)		✓ Soils standards (advanced levels)	✓ Agroforestry	✓ Organic
✓ Improved grassland soils		✓ Nutrient management	✓ Low and no input grassland	✓ On-farm woodland
✓ Moorland and rough grazing (introductory level)		✓ Integrated pest management	✓ Moorland and rough grazing (all levels)	✓ Orchards and specialist horticulture
✓ Annual health and welfare review		✓ Hedgerow standard	✓ Water body buffering	✓ Heritage
			✓ Farmland biodiversity	✓ Dry stone walls

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Eligibility



- 'Management control'
 - Landowners
 - Tenants
 - Licensees
- Land Cover and Land Type (Use) – RPA maps and BPS claim



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Parcel details

Parcel ID: _____

[Help](#)

This is a summary of the information we currently hold for this land parcel.

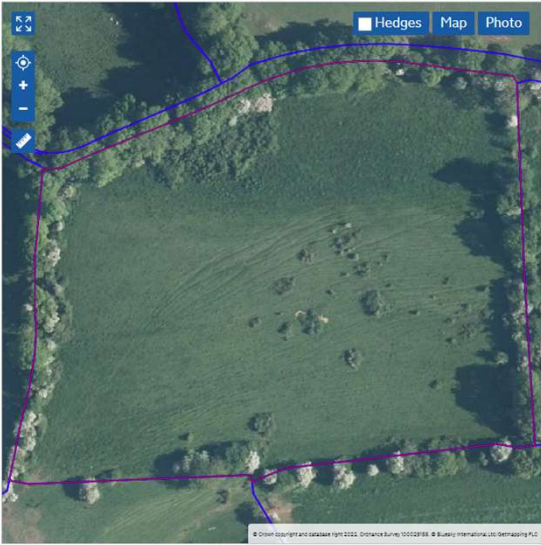
Summary

BPS eligible area (ha)	2.52
Total area (ha)	2.52

Land covers


These are the land covers that we currently have mapped.

Land covers	Total area (ha)
Permanent Grassland	2.52
Total area	2.52



This was valid from 01/01/2020

'Available Area'



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Eligibility



- 'Management control'
 - Landowners
 - Tenants
 - Licensees
- Land Cover and Land Type (Use) – RPA maps and BPS claim
- Non-agricultural areas



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Eligibility

Standard	Eligible land covers	Eligible land type
	Arable Land	Cultivated arable land
	Permanent Crops (only perennial crops)	
	Other (non-agricultural) – Drain/Ditch/Dyke on a boundary	
	Other (non-agricultural) – Track – natural surface	



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Eligibility

Standard	Eligible land covers	Eligible land type
	Arable Land (temporary grassland)	Improved permanent or temporary grassland
	Permanent Grassland	
	Other (non-agricultural) – Drain/Ditch/Dyke on a boundary	
	Other (non-agricultural) – Track – natural surface	



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Eligibility

- 'Management control'
 - Landowners
 - Tenants
 - Licensees
- Land Cover and Land Type (Use) – RPA maps and BPS claim
- Non-agricultural areas
- Conflicts with other AE agreements
- HEFER – recommendations
- SSSI – consent



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Arable and Horticultural Soils Standard Actions - Introductory Level (£22/ha/year):



- Undertake a soil assessment and produce a soil management plan
- Test soil organic matter
- Add organic matter:
 - add organic matter to all land in the standard at least once during the 3-year SFI agreement
 - this can include any kind of organic matter, including sown green cover crops
- 70% winter cover to protect soil:
 - at least 70% of land in the standard must have green cover over the winter months (Dec-Feb)



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Winter cover



“Leafy vegetation that’s sufficiently well grown to protect the soil”

Eligible areas include:

- Autumn sown crops
- New or existing multi-species cover crops and temporary grassland
- 2-metre or 1-metre cross compliance buffers required under GAEC 1
- 2-metre cross compliance green cover requirement under GAEC 7a
- Weedy stubbles



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Winter cover



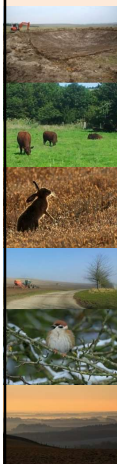
- Critical period is from start of December to end of February
- You can graze the winter cover, but there still needs to be a well-established green cover for the whole winter.
- You must not leave any land bare over winter if it is at high risk of erosion or run-off.



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Arable and Horticultural Soils Standard Actions - Intermediate Level (£40/ha/year):



- Undertake a soil assessment and produce a soil management plan (first 12 months)
- Test soil organic matter (within 5 years)
- Add organic matter:
 - add organic matter to all land in the standard at least once during the 3-year SFI agreement
 - this can include any kind of organic matter, including sown green cover crops
- 70% winter cover to protect soil:
 - at least 50% of land in the standard must have green cover over the winter months (Dec-Feb) as per Introductory Level
 - multi-species cover crops must be established on an additional 20% of the eligible land



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Eligible CS revenue options



- ED1: Educational access
- BE3: Management of hedgerows
- SP10: Administration of group managed agreements supplement
- AB5: Nesting plots for lapwing
- AB11: Cultivated areas for arable plants
- AB14: Harvested low input cereal
- AB12: Supplementary winter feeding for farmland birds
- SP9: Threatened species supplement
- HS3: Reduced-depth, non-inversion cultivation on historic and archaeological features
- HS9: Restricted depth crop establishment to protect archaeology under an arable rotation
- OP3: Supplementary feeding for farmland birds
- OT4: Organic land management – horticulture
- OR3: Organic conversion - rotational land
- OR4: Organic conversion – horticulture

Ineligible areas (including rotational options) are removed when your application is generated



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Improved Grassland Soils Standard



To qualify, land will have been managed in some or all of the following ways:

- regular re-seeding, or has been reseeded within the last 15 years
- regular fertilising with typically at least 100 kg per ha of nitrogen as an artificial compound fertiliser or animal manures and slurries
- boom spraying herbicide to treat weeds
- active, well-maintained field drains
- taking any conserved forage as silage, haylage or hay, usually more than once a year



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Improved Grassland Soils Standard Actions - Introductory Level (£28/ha/year):



- Undertake a soil assessment and produce a soil management plan (first 12 months)
- Test soil organic matter (within 5 years)
- Minimise bare ground:
 - no more than 5% of the total area of land entered into the standard left bare over winter



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Improved Grassland Soils Standard Actions - Intermediate Level (£58/ha/year):



- Undertake a soil assessment and produce a soil management plan (first 12 months)
- Test soil organic matter (within 5 years)
- Minimise bare ground:
 - no more than 5% of the total area of land entered into the standard left bare over winter
- 15% herbal leys:
 - establish or maintain herbal leys on at least 15% of land in this level of the standard within the first 12 months



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Herbal leys

Eligible areas include:

- New or existing herbal leys
- Herbal leys on 2-metre or 1-metre cross compliance buffers required under GAEC 1
- Herbal leys on 2-metre cross compliance green cover requirement under GAEC 7a

Ineligible areas:

- Sites of special scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Historic or archaeological features, as identified on your SFI HEFER

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Eligible CS revenue options

- SW10: Seasonal livestock removal on intensive grassland in SDAs next to streams, rivers and lakes
- BE3: Management of hedgerows
- BE6: Veteran tree surgery
- BE7: Supplement for restorative pruning of fruit trees
- ED1: Educational access
- SP10: Administration of group managed agreements supplement
- SW9: Seasonal livestock removal on intensive grassland
- SP7: Introduction of cattle grazing on Isles of Scilly
- OT1: Organic land management - improved permanent grassland
- OR1: Organic conversion - improved permanent grassland

Ineligible areas (including rotational options) are removed when your application is generated

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Annual health and welfare review



The annual health and welfare review will provide funding to eligible livestock farmers. This funding will cover the cost of an annual review of your livestock by a vet chosen by you.

- £684 for a pig review (min. 50)
- £436 for a sheep review (min. 20)
- £522 for a beef cattle review (min. 10)
- £372 for a dairy cattle review (min. 10)



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How to apply for an SFI agreement



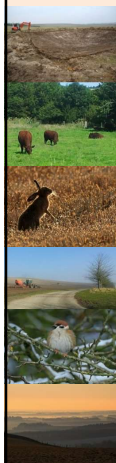
- Online
- Early – before end of June
 - Register with Black Sheep today
 - Business name, farm name, SBI
- Full roll-out will be end of June
- Anyone with correct RPA permissions can apply on your behalf



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Things to consider



- HLS conflicts/eligible options
 - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-an-sfi-standards-agreement-interacts-with-other-funding-schemes#environmental-stewardship>
- Need to think carefully about siting HLS/CS rotational options if you don't intend to include all eligible parcels in SFI standard
- Timing
- Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations for grassland



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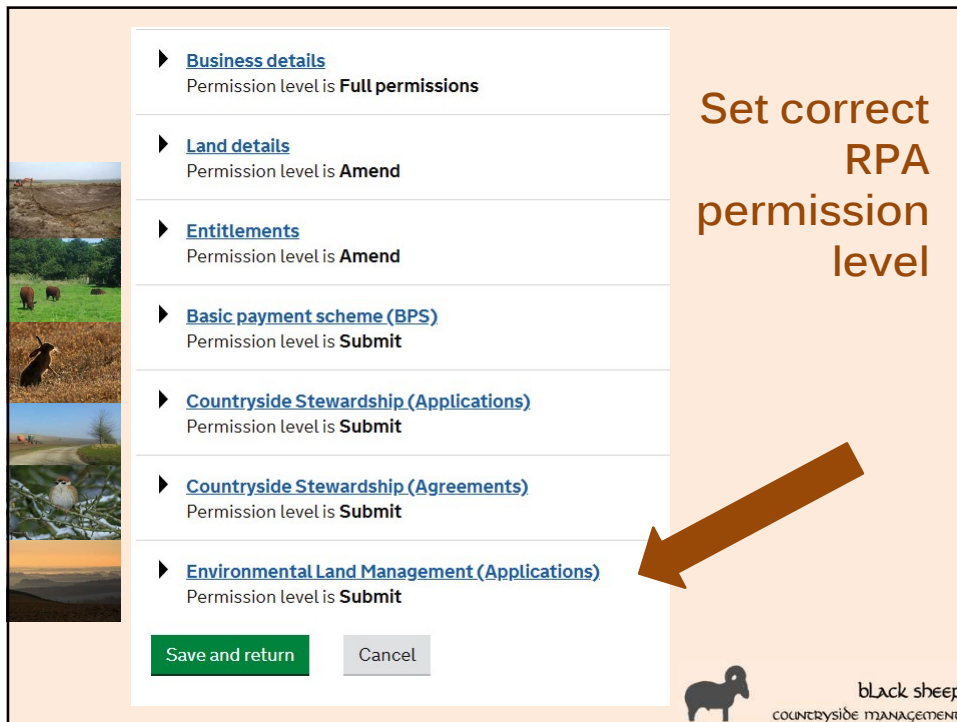
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Review/update Land Covers

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▶ **Business details**
Permission level is **Full permissions**

▶ **Land details**
Permission level is **Amend**

▶ **Entitlements**
Permission level is **Amend**

▶ **Basic payment scheme (BPS)**
Permission level is **Submit**

▶ **Countryside Stewardship (Applications)**
Permission level is **Submit**

▶ **Countryside Stewardship (Agreements)**
Permission level is **Submit**

▶ **Environmental Land Management (Applications)**
Permission level is **Submit**

Save and return Cancel

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Set correct RPA permission level

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Further information

- Arable and Horticultural Soils Standard: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-sfi-arable-and-horticultural-soils-standard>
- Improved Grassland Soils Standard: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-sfi-improved-grassland-soils-standard>
- Interaction with other funding agreements: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-an-sfi-standards-agreement-interacts-with-other-funding-schemes>
- Animal Health and Welfare Review: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sfi-annual-health-and-welfare-review>
- Full guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/sustainable-farming-incentive-guidance>

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