



CHEFFINS

Farm Environment and Sustainability Guide

Maximise your farm's potential



Browse our farm environment services to maximise your farm's potential

With our specialist expertise in farm ecology and conservation we can help you maximise your environmental credentials.

New agricultural policies are being developed which place enhanced focus on environmental schemes, intended to support the rural economy while achieving the goals of the government's 25 Year Environment Plan and commitment to net zero emissions by 2050.

These schemes can provide an important additional income for farm enterprises, and we are on hand to help your business adapt to these new support measures as they evolve.

Environmental Land Management (ELM) Scheme

With environment and sustainability high up on the agenda, the government has rolled out its new ELM scheme as the main mechanism through which future agricultural support will be delivered.

There are three schemes under ELM

- Sustainable Farming Incentive
- Countryside Stewardship (incorporating CS Plus)
- Landscape Recovery

Farmers can enter into agreements to receive payments for the delivery of environmental and sustainable farming measures. These initiatives are being fully rolled out from 2023 with Sustainable Farming Incentive designed to be universally available to all farmers.

Countryside Stewardship Plus is expected to represent an overhaul of the existing Countryside Stewardship scheme which will evolve to retain aspects of it that work well whilst encompassing additions to options and payments where necessary.

Landscape Recovery will be focused towards more radical and large-scale environmental projects and will only be relevant in a select number of cases.



Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI)

The Sustainable Farming Incentive can be used as a mechanism to replace your Basic Payment Scheme income and consists of a set of easily accessible field-scale standards. Each standard contains a group of actions to comply with. Examples of these include:

- Arable and Horticultural Soils
- Improved Grassland Soils
- Hedgerows
- Nutrient Management
- Integrated Pest Management

Example SFI standard: How the Arable and Horticultural Soils Standard works

Level	Payment per hectare (ha)	Actions
Introductory	£22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test soil organic matter • Complete a soil assessment/management plan • Maintain 70% of land in winter green cover Dec to Feb (incl. autumn sown crops and weedy stubbles) • Increase soil organic matter on 1/3 of land each year
Intermediate	£40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test soil organic matter • Complete a soil assessment/management plan • Maintain 70% of land in winter green cover Dec to Feb (incl. 20% of arable area as cover crop) • Increase soil organic matter on 1/3 of land

Specialist Expertise

Our team can help you through the application process for the SFI, making sure it dovetails with your Basic Payment Scheme and any agri-environment schemes already existing on the farm.

We can advise on the finer details of the actions you need to complete.

Countryside Stewardship (CS)

The CS schemes provide a framework that farmers and landowners can use to construct a tailor-made environmental scheme. Our advisory service can encompass the entire application process, identifying the opportunities available to achieve the best balance between maximising environmental benefits with financial returns for farmers and landowners.

What Countryside Stewardship schemes are available?

- Mid-Tier Stewardship
- Wildlife Offers
- Higher-Tier Stewardship

Countryside Stewardship Plus will be introduced from 2024. There are over 130 different options available under Mid-Tier Stewardship, offering huge scope to build a scheme that works best for you. We can guide you through the rules and regulations to focus on producing a practical and achievable outcome.

Example Countryside Stewardship options

Code	Option	Payment
AB1	Nectar mix	£614/ha
AB9	Winter bird food	£732/ha
AB12	Supplementary winter feeding for birds	£669/tonne
AB15	Two-year legume mix	£593/ha
BE3	Management of hedgerows (one side)	£10/100m
GS2	Permanent grassland with very low inputs	£151/ha
HS1	Maintenance of traditional farm buildings	£4.42/m ²
SW1	4-6m grass buffer strip	£451/ha



Capital Grant Scheme

The Capital Grant scheme brings together the Countryside Stewardship Water Quality and Hedgerows and Boundaries grants.

The scheme offers one-off payments for a whole range of capital items such as planting new hedgerows, hedgerow laying or coppicing, fencing, resurfacing gateways, sprayer washdown areas and hardcore farm tracks.

There is a maximum grant level of £80,000 per application and over 60 Capital Grant options to choose from.

Example Capital Grant options

Code	Option	Payment
BN5	Hedgerow laying	£13.52/m
BN7	Hedgerow gapping-up	£17.22/m
BN11	Planting new hedges	£22.97/m
FG2	Sheep netting	£7.47/m
FG12	Wooden field gate	£489.90/gate
RP1	Resurfacing of gateways	£136.95/gateway
RP4	Livestock and machinery hardcore track	£44.63/m
RP16	Rainwater goods	£11.55/m
WB3	Large wildlife box e.g. for barn owls	£38.28/box

Woodland Grants

There are several grants and other incentives available for woodland creation, tree maintenance and tree health. We can guide you through the processes to ensure your woodland scheme achieves what you want it to whilst fulfilling the funding criteria.

Incentive schemes on offer include:

- Woodland Creation Planning Grant
- England Woodland Creation offer
- Woodland Carbon Code
- Woodland Carbon Guarantee
- Woodland Management Planning Grant
- Woodland Tree Health

The England Woodland Creation Offer provides support to create new woodland, with a minimum total area of 1 hectare required per application. This can be made up of smaller blocks, and offers:

Capital payments to support the initial purchase of your trees, guards and fencing

10 years of annual maintenance payments to help establish the young trees once the capital works are complete

Ability to continue claiming payments via the Basic Payment Scheme, subject to eligibility

Option to register your new woodland with the Woodland Carbon Code to enable the sale of your woodland carbon units



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You're in good hands
Call one of our team to find out more



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