



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 begin to evolve.

Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme

With environment and sustainability high up on the agenda, the government's new flagship ELM scheme is designed to become the main mechanism through which agricultural support will be delivered once the Basic Payment Scheme is phased out.

ELM will consist of three new schemes

- Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI)
- Local Nature Recovery
- Landscape Recovery

Farmers will be able to enter into agreements to receive payments for the delivery of environmental and sustainable farming measures. These initiatives will be rolled out gradually, with the Sustainable Farming Incentive becoming available in 2022. Both the Local Nature Recovery and Landscape Recovery are set to launch in 2024.

Local Nature Recovery will cover the types of land management currently contained in Countryside Stewardship schemes, and it will be possible for a farmer to apply for both the SFI and Local Nature Recovery schemes together on the same land.

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 SFI will start to replace your Basic Payment Scheme income and will consist of a set of field-scale standards, with each one based on a particular feature like soil, water, woodland or grassland. Each standard will contain a group of actions to comply with.

Standards will become available gradually, with the following set to launch first, in 2022:

- Arable and Horticultural Soils
- Improved Grassland Soils
- Moorland and Rough Grazing
- Annual Health and Welfare Review for livestock

Example SFI standard: How the Arable and Horticultural Soils Standard will work in 2022

Level	Payment per hectare (ha)	Actions
Introductory	£22	Test soil organic matter Complete a soil assessment/management plan 70% of land must have green cover (incl. autumn sown crops and weedy stubbles) Increase soil organic matter on 1/3 of land
Intermediate	£40	Test soil organic matter Complete a soil assessment/management plan 70% of land must have green cover (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 soil assessments, soil management plans and 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.

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	£579/ha
AB9	Winter bird food	£640/ha
AB12	Supplementary winter feeding for birds	£657/tonne
AB15	Two-year legume mix	£569/ha
BE3	Management of hedgerows	£18/100m
GS2	Permanent grassland with very low inputs	£132/ha
HS1	Maintenance of traditional farm buildings	£4.03/m ²
SW1	4-6m grass buffer strip	£419/ha
WT2	Buffering ponds and ditches on arable land	£563/ha



Capital Grant Scheme

New from 2021, 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 hedges, hedge laying or coppicing, fencing, resurfacing gateways, sprayer washdown areas and hardcore tracks.

There will be annual start dates for capital grant agreements in 2022, 2023 and 2024, and there is a maximum grant level of £60,000 per application.

There are over 60 Capital Grant options to choose from which, if approved, need to be completed within a two-year agreement period.

Example Capital Grant options

Code	Option	Payment
BN5	Hedgerow laying	£940/m
BN7	Hedgerow gapping-up	£950/m
BN11	Planting new hedges	£11.60/m
FG2	Sheep netting	£4.90/m
FG12	Wooden field gate	£390/gate
RP1	Resurfacing of gateways	£92/gateway
RP4	Livestock and machinery hardcore track	£33/m
RP16	Rainwater goods	£11.40/m
WB3	Large wildlife box	£100/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

Katie Hilton BSc (Hons) MBIAC
Director

01223 271959 | katie.hilton@cheffins.co.uk

Catherine Hackshall MRICS
Rural Surveyor

01223 271991 | catherine.hackshall@cheffins.co.uk

Edward Tabner MRICS FAAV
Director

01353 654922 | edward.tabner@cheffins.co.uk

Ralph Knight MRICS FAAV
Associate

01353 654930 | ralph.knight@cheffins.co.uk

Clifton House, 1-2 Clifton Road, Cambridge, CB1 7EA

[cheffins.co.uk](https://www.cheffins.co.uk)

Cambridge | Ely | Haverhill | Newmarket | Saffron Walden | Sutton | London