



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# Environmental Land Management schemes: Update

## NSA North Region

03 February 2022

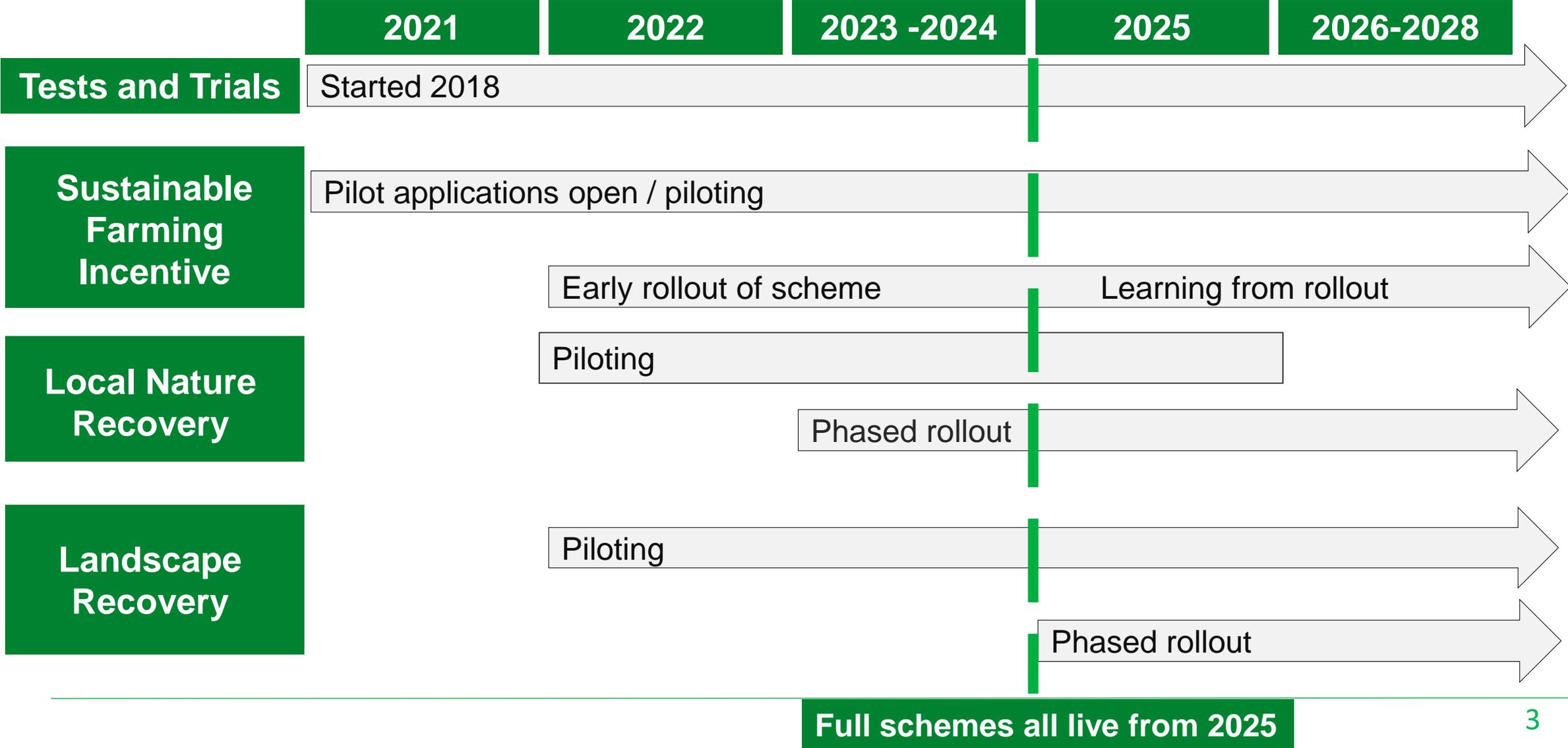


Catherine Boyd

# Our Environmental Land Management Schemes:

Sustainable Farming Incentive	Local Nature Recovery	Landscape Recovery
Simple and universal	Locally targeted environmental goals	Landscape and ecosystem recovery
Rewards farming practices that benefit the environment	More complex activity that will include making space of nature alongside food production	Aimed at land managers who want to take a more radical and large-scale approach to producing environmental and climate goods
Standards based	Option based	Competitive scheme with bespoke agreements
	Collaboration between holdings encouraged	Open to individuals or groups of land managers
<b>Potentially packaged as a single service</b>		

# The three schemes timeline:



# Eligibility for the Sustainable Farming Incentive in 2022

- Open to farmers who are eligible for the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS)
- Agreement holders must have management control of the land for the duration of their 3-year agreement
- Common land and tenanted land will be eligible
- Choose how many fields to enter into the scheme standards
- Land must be in England and cross-border land parcels will not be eligible
- Application window - In 2022, 10-week application window.

# Agreements will be flexible

Agreements will last for 3 years.

Amendments permitted at 12-monthly points from their start date, to:

- incorporate additional standards
- add more land to agreements
- increase ambition levels within standards

During a 3-year agreement, farmers will only be able to reduce ambition / coverage in exceptional circumstances.

# How this works with Countryside Stewardship

- 3-years agreements offer greater flexibility
- Land can be in both schemes - as long as the actions are not contradictory, and no double payment
- It is about what works best for the farmer and their particular circumstances



# Introduction of standards into SFI – 2022-25

- Existing schemes will continue to be available during that time (e.g. BPS, CS)
- We will introduce standards incrementally between 2022 and 2025
- We intend to test Standards in the SFI pilot prior to introducing them into the main scheme

## Indicative introduction of standards into SFI – 2022 to 2025 (note: details might change)

2022 (confirmed)	2023	2024	2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arable and horticultural soils</li> <li>• Improved grassland soils</li> <li>• Moorland and rough grazing (introductory level)</li> <li>• Annual health and welfare review</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nutrient management</li> <li>• Integrated pest management</li> <li>• Hedgerows</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agroforestry</li> <li>• Low and no input grassland</li> <li>• Moorland and rough grazing (all levels)</li> <li>• Water body buffering</li> <li>• Farmland biodiversity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organic (drawing together relevant elements of other standards into one)</li> <li>• On-farm woodland</li> <li>• Orchards and specialist horticulture</li> <li>• Heritage</li> <li>• Dry stone walls</li> </ul>

# Why Start with Soils



- Soils are one of our most important natural assets.
- They apply to most farmers in England
- These standards will improve soil health, structure, organic matter, and biology,
- This will promote clean water, and improve climate resilience, biodiversity, and food production – contributing to a range of environmental and climate change outcomes
- There is little overlap between these standards and existing agri-environment schemes.
- They are the first step to a wider roll out of additional Standards in the coming years

# Annual Health and Welfare Review

- The first step on the Animal Health & Welfare Pathway
- Yearly farm visit from a vet or vet-led team.
- Building on strong relationships that exist between farmers and vets
- Initially available to farmers in England who are eligible for BPS and who keep more than:
  - 50 pigs,
  - 20 sheep or
  - 10 cattle.



# Local Nature Recovery - Initially it will cover the following themes

- wildlife feeding, shelter and breeding areas
- grassland, lowland heathland, wetland and coastal habitats
- upland and lowland peat and moorland
- recovery and reintroduction of particular wildlife species
- managing and creating trees and woodlands
- nature-based solutions for water
- restoring rivers, flood plains, streams and riparian habitats



# How it will work

- Open to farmers, foresters and other land managers.
- Open to farmers in SFI.
- Accessible to tenant farmers and those farming common land
- Flexible, multi-year agreements.
- Mostly individual agreements but supporting collaboration.
- More supportive and less punitive approach to checking compliance.



# Testing and roll out

Different to the SFI pilot.

Testing this year, then early version available to limited number of people in 2023.

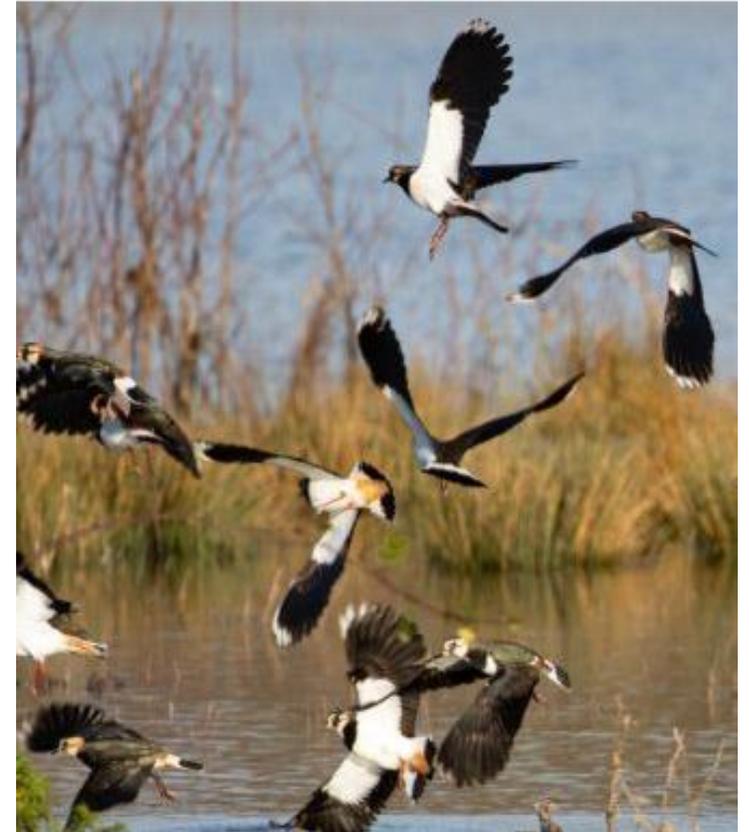
More information later this year on how farmers can get involved in testing and scheme rules, options and payment rates.

Roll out across country by the end of 2024.



# Landscape Recovery – more information on how the scheme will work

- First pilot projects will focus on biodiversity, water quality and net zero.
- Open to any individuals or groups who want to deliver large-scale (500 – 5,000ha) projects.
- Applications will be scored according to how well they meet the first-round selection criteria.
- We will initially award the selected projects with a project development grant. This funding will support more detailed planning.
- Successful projects will then proceed to implementation, with agreed funding from us and the private sector.



**Any questions?**



# How farmers and land managers can get involved

- Take part in stakeholder workshops
- Send views to representative organisations (such as LWA), with whom we work
- Apply for scheme pilots
- Share your views during consultations
- Be involved in co-design – [ffcpcodesign@defra.gov.uk](mailto:ffcpcodesign@defra.gov.uk)

Sign up to the Defra [e-alert](#) and [subscribe to our blog](#) to hear about opportunities to contribute.

## **Additional Information:**

[The Sustainable Farming Incentive: How the Scheme will work in 2022](#)

[Local Nature Recovery: More information on how the scheme will work](#)

[Landscape Recovery: More information on how the scheme will work](#)

[Environmental Land Management Schemes: Outcomes](#)

Farming is Changing – leaflet, to be circulated

# Payment rates for the elements

## Arable and horticultural soils standard – summary

Introductory level – £22 per hectare	Intermediate level – £40 per hectare	Advanced
Test soil organic matter	Test soil organic matter	<p><b>We plan to add an advanced level to this standard from 2023 onwards.</b></p> <p><b>Likely to include increased use of no-tillage techniques.</b></p>
Undertake a soil assessment and produce a soil management plan	Undertake a soil assessment and produce a soil management plan	
<p>70% winter cover to protect soil:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>at least 70% of land in the standard must have green cover over the winter months (Dec-Feb)</li> <li>this can include any kind of green cover, including autumn sown crops and weedy stubbles</li> </ul>	<p>70% winter cover to protect soil:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>at least 70% of land in the standard must have green cover over the winter months (Dec-Feb)</li> <li>this must include land with multi-species green cover – covering at least 20% of total land in the standard</li> </ul>	
<p>Addition of organic matter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>add organic matter to 1/3 of the land in the standard each year</li> <li>this can include any kind of organic matter, including sown green cover crops</li> </ul>	<p>Addition of organic matter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>add organic matter to 1/3 of the land in the standard each year</li> <li>this will include multi-species green cover, and other ways to add organic matter</li> </ul>	

# Payment rates for the elements

## Improved grassland soils standard – summary

Introductory level – £28 per hectare	Intermediate level – £58 per hectare	Advanced
Test soil organic matter	Test soil organic matter	<b>We plan to add an advanced level to this standard from 2023 onwards</b>
Undertake a soil assessment and produce a soil management plan	Undertake a soil assessment and produce a soil management plan	
95% green cover to protect soil (no more than 5% bare ground over winter)	95% green cover to protect soil (no more than 5% bare ground over winter)	
	Establish/maintain herbal leys to improve soil health on at least 15% of land in the standard	

# Organic farmers

- Well placed to adopt the higher levels in the soil standards
- Can also join Countryside Stewardship along with the Sustainable Farming Incentive

