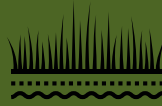
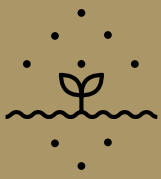




# SUSTAINABLE FARMING INCENTIVE

## What to do before you apply for an SFI agreement



### Read the rules you must follow

- Read the SFI actions, scheme guidance and the terms and conditions on GOV.UK to understand what you're agreeing to.

### Get registered with the RPA

- If you and your land are not already registered with the RPA, use the Rural Payments service to register your business and the land you want to include in your SFI application.

### Check your registered contact details are up to date

- Make sure your registered contact details, including your business email address, are up to date in the Rural Payments service

### Check you have the correct permission to apply

- Check your permissions in the Rural Payments service are set to either 'Business Details: Full' or 'BPS: Submit'

### Check your registered land details are up to date

Check the registered land details on your digital maps in the Rural Payments service are up to date, so they show:

- all the land parcels you want to include in your SFI application
- the correct total area (in hectares) for each land parcel
- the correct land covers for each land parcel

You do not need to check the registered hedgerows on your digital maps. These are not used in your SFI application.

You can request changes to your digital maps online using the Rural Payments service. You need to wait for your mapping updates to be completed before you start your SFI application.

# FARMING FOR THE FUTURE



# SUSTAINABLE FARMING INCENTIVE

## Top tips to help you complete your SFI application



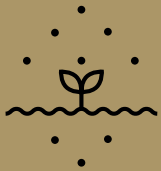
### Eligible land covers and compatible land use codes

For each land parcel you want to enter into an area based SFI action, check that its area is:

- registered on your digital maps with a land cover that's eligible for the action
- declared with a land use code that's compatible with the registered eligible land cover

Each SFI action sets out the eligible land covers and compatible land use codes.

If the land use code declared is not compatible with the registered land cover, this will prevent you from applying for the SFI action. You'll need to update the land use code in the Rural Payments service.



### How to apply for SFI actions for boundary features

If you want to enter both sides of a boundary into CHRW1 (assess and record hedgerow condition), CHRW2 (manage hedgerows) or BND2 (maintain earth banks or stone-faced hedgebanks), enter the length for each side against each land parcel.

If you're applying for CHRW3 (maintain or establish hedgerow trees) or BND1 (maintain dry stone walls) enter half the length against each land parcel. This is because these actions pay for both sides of the boundary.

You can use the measuring tool on your digital maps to help you measure the length of your boundary.

### How to answer eligibility questions

You may see some eligibility questions in your application which do not apply to you. If this is the case, answer 'yes' so you can continue with your application. This includes if you're asked to:

- get an Historic Environment Farm Environment Record (HEFER), but you will not be applying for SFI actions on land with historic or archaeological features
- get Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) consent, but you will not be applying for SFI actions on SSSI land, or the SFI actions can be done without SSSI consent
- confirm you're eligible to apply for an SFI agreement as a public body, or as a tenant on land owned by a public body, but you're not a public body, or a public body's tenant

### Rotational SFI actions

In your application, do not complete the section that's called 'Select additional parcels for your rotational actions'. It does not apply to rotational SFI actions.

You'll tell us the future location and area of these actions towards the end of each agreement year. We'll tell you how to do this.

Do you need support for your farm? The **Farming Resilience Fund** provides free business support for farmers – go to [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) for a full list of organisations in your area.