



Scheme Reopenings—What to Do Now

Key 2026 updates on SFI, capital grants and next steps



Today's focus: 2026–2027 outlook—secure income, reduce risk now.

01

Farms <50ha



SFI replaces Countryside Stewardship Mid-Tier. The scheme opens in June to farms under 50 hectares.

02

CAPITAL GRANTS



Reopens early July; limits apply and window likely short.

03

Farms >50ha



September:
The SFI opens for larger farms.

04

SLURRY~Possible SIG Scheme



We can help you prioritise options, prepare evidence, and submit quickly when windows open.

What's Changing: SFI Is Becoming the Main 'Mid-Tier' Route

WHAT YOU MAY HAVE RELIED ON

Historically, many farms have treated BPS + Countryside Stewardship Mid-Tier as the default as something you could build into the business plan and renew around other operational decisions.

The current direction is that SFI is taking over that role. Instead of BPS, farms must enter into SFI agreements and claim Capital Grants to receive similar levels of grant aid.

The scheme is more practical than the Mid – Tier and is only 3 years in length, enabling tenancy farms to enter in

WHAT THIS MEANS IN PRACTICE

- Expect to translate your existing plan and chosen options into an SFI-style application process and ruleset, with different checks, evidence and option compatibility.
- Timing matters more: openings will be competitive and time-limited, so you'll want decisions made and paperwork ready prior to the portal window.
- Pre- check land parcel data, rotations and constraints now (mapping, land use, eligibility, planned cropping) to prevent avoidable delays when applications open.
- After the end of the agricultural transition in 2027, it might be that both Capital Grant & Agricultural Schemes are reduced substantially in this post EU led world.

SFI Reopenings In 2026 - Two Windows By Farm Size

June: farms <50 ha

Staged reopening means an earlier window, so planning starts sooner.

What to do before your window

Check list

- Contact us to register with permissions.
- Confirm your SBI with the Rural Payments Agency
- Confirm eligible land and areas
- Book your meeting onsite to discuss your options

September: farms >50 ha

Larger farms have a later window, but operations and mapping are more complex.



To arrange your consultation with Tom Beard MSc PGc BASIS our Rural Grants & Scheme Specialist, please email or call Tom on

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Capital Grants reopening early July: assume a short window.

01

EARLY JULY

Capital grant rounds close fast to submit by early July.

02

SCOPE & ELIGIBILITY

Tom Beard has recently joined Rendells from Catchment Sensitive Farming so get him to come and visit you to discuss feasible options.

03

QUOTES & EVIDENCE

Gather photos, maps, evidence early.

04

SUBMISSION READINESS

Last Summer the Capital Grant Scheme lasted one month, so be prepared and submit with everything you need to comply.



Other Opportunities: Slurry Grants + FiPL

SLURRY INFRASTRUCTURE

Possible slurry infrastructure grant — round 3

The money for this scheme was approved years ago, so another round may be possible, speak to our Capital Yard Specialist Tom Beard if you do not have six months slurry storage.

Infrastructure projects typically need lead time for design, specification, supplier quotes, and any required permissions or consents.

Early feasibility work helps reduce the scramble if a round is confirmed, and makes it easier to submit a clear, deliverable project plan.

FIPL: FARMING IN A PROTECTED LANDSCAPE

FiPL funding available to March 2029

FiPL offers longer runway to March 2029 vs. short windows; more time to shape strong proposal if you are in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

FiPL compliments scheme income or supports productivity and investment priorities.

Note: FiPL has a different capital project criteria to the Capital Grant Scheme



Act Now: Contact us

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