

Appendix JM 5

SFI handbook extract

Woodland Trust extracts



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Rural Payments
Agency



(Credit: Alison Day)

Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI)

Handbook for the SFI 2023 offer

www.gov.uk/defra/sustainablefarmingincentive

HRW2: Manage hedgerows

How much you'll be paid

You'll receive £13 per 100 metres for one side of an eligible hedgerow per year.

You can also apply for [CS Capital Grants](#) to help you manage the eligible hedgerows you do this action on, including hedgerow laying (BN5), hedgerow coppicing (BN7) and hedgerow gapping up (BN7).

This action's aim

This action's aim is that you manage hedgerows so there's a range of different heights and widths to provide:

- habitat for wildlife
- pollen, nectar and berries for mammals, birds and insects

Where you can do this action

You can do this action on one side or both sides of an eligible hedgerow. Read section 4.1.3 to find out how we define an eligible hedgerow for SFI.

You'll need to enter both sides of an eligible, fully-established hedgerow into this action if you're managing it in a coppicing or laying rotation.

You can choose what total length of eligible hedgerows to enter into this action.

You cannot enter hedgerows into this action if they're used for CS option BE3 (management of hedgerows), because this action pays for substantially the same actions as BE3.

Other land management actions or options you can do with HRW2

The table below sets out which other SFI actions, CS management options, ES revenue options and SFI pilot standards you can do in land parcels with eligible boundaries entered into HRW2.

Table 12: Actions or options that can be done with HRW2

Scheme	Action or option codes that can be done with HRW2
SFI 2023	All SFI actions
CS	All CS management options, except BE3 (management of hedgerows)
ES	All ES revenue options, apart from boundary options
SFI pilot	All SFI pilot standards, except the SFI pilot hedgerows standard

What to do

What you must do to manage the hedgerows entered into this action depends on whether they're:

- fully established, which will usually be the case around 5 years after they're planted
- newly planted, or not fully established

You must manage fully established hedgerows. You can choose which of the following management approaches to use on different fully established hedgerows in your SFI agreement:

- cut each hedgerow incrementally
- on a rotation, cut each hedgerow no more than once every 3 years, cutting no more than one third of hedges each year
- on a rotation, cut each hedgerow no more than once every 2 years, cutting no more than half the hedges each year
- managing them in a coppicing or laying rotation, which may mean they're left uncut for the duration of your 3-year SFI agreement

If the hedgerows are newly planted, or not fully established, you must lightly trim them incrementally.

When to do it

If you're cutting fully established hedgerows incrementally, you must do this each year of your 3-year SFI agreement during the autumn and winter months.

If you're cutting fully established hedgerows on a rotation, you must cut each hedgerow no more than either:

- once every 3 years in during the autumn and winter months, cutting no more than one third of hedges each year
- once every 2 years in late winter, cutting no more than half of the hedges each year

These timings will usually mean:

- September, October and November for the autumn
- December, January and February for the winter
- January and February for late winter

Newly planted hedgerows, or hedgerows which are not fully established, must be lightly trimmed incrementally during the autumn and winter months. You must do this until they're fully established.

How to do it

It's up to you how you complete this action, as long as you do it in a way that can reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim.

You may find it helpful to read the voluntary guidance on [how to manage hedgerows](#), but you do not have to follow it.

What evidence to keep

You should keep evidence to show what you've done to complete this action. This will help if it's not clear that you've completed the action in a way that could reasonably be expected to achieve this action's aim. You must supply this evidence if we ask for it.

This evidence could include photographs and other documentation to show what you've done to complete this action. If you choose to take photographs, read the guidance on how to take photographic evidence (annex A).

About hawthorn

(Crataegus monogyna)

Produces white-pink blossom in May that becomes ruby-red berries, called haws, in summer.

Growth and size

Mature height: 10m.

Growth rate: 40-60cm per year.

Supplied as 20-50cm cell-grown saplings.

Can be planted all year round with proper care.

Value to wildlife

Supports more than 300 species of insect.

Flowers are eaten by dormice.

Source of pollen and nectar for bees and other pollinators.

Haws are eaten by migrating birds such as redwings.

Soil and conditions

Shade-tolerant.

Prefers non-acidic, well-drained, moist soils.

Can be planted as part of a native hedgerow.

Grown responsibly

UK sourced and grown ([UKISG certified](#)).

Reduces risk of spreading pests and diseases.

Delivered in 100% recyclable LDPE wrap.

Did you know?

The appearance of May blossom was traditionally the herald of the end of winter and the start of summer.

About blackthorn

(*Prunus spinosa*)

A spiny, densely branched tree that produces white flowers in early spring and purple-black fruits (sloes) in late summer.

Growth and size

Mature height: 4m.

Growth rate: 40-60cm per year.

Supplied as 20-50cm cell-grown saplings.

Can be planted all year round with proper care.

Value to wildlife

Early source of nectar and pollen for bees and other insects.

Food plant of lackey, magpie, swallow-tailed and yellow-tailed moths, as well as black and brown hairstreak butterflies.

Birds often nest among the dense, thorny thickets.

Soil and conditions

Grows in moist, well-drained soil.

Prefers full sunlight.

Grown responsibly

UK sourced and grown ([UKISG certified](#)).

Reduces risk of spreading pests and diseases.

Delivered in 100% recyclable LDPE wrap.

Did you know?

The tree is associated with witchcraft; it's said that witches make their wands and staffs from blackthorn wood.