



# Land Management, Water Quality and Water Quantity

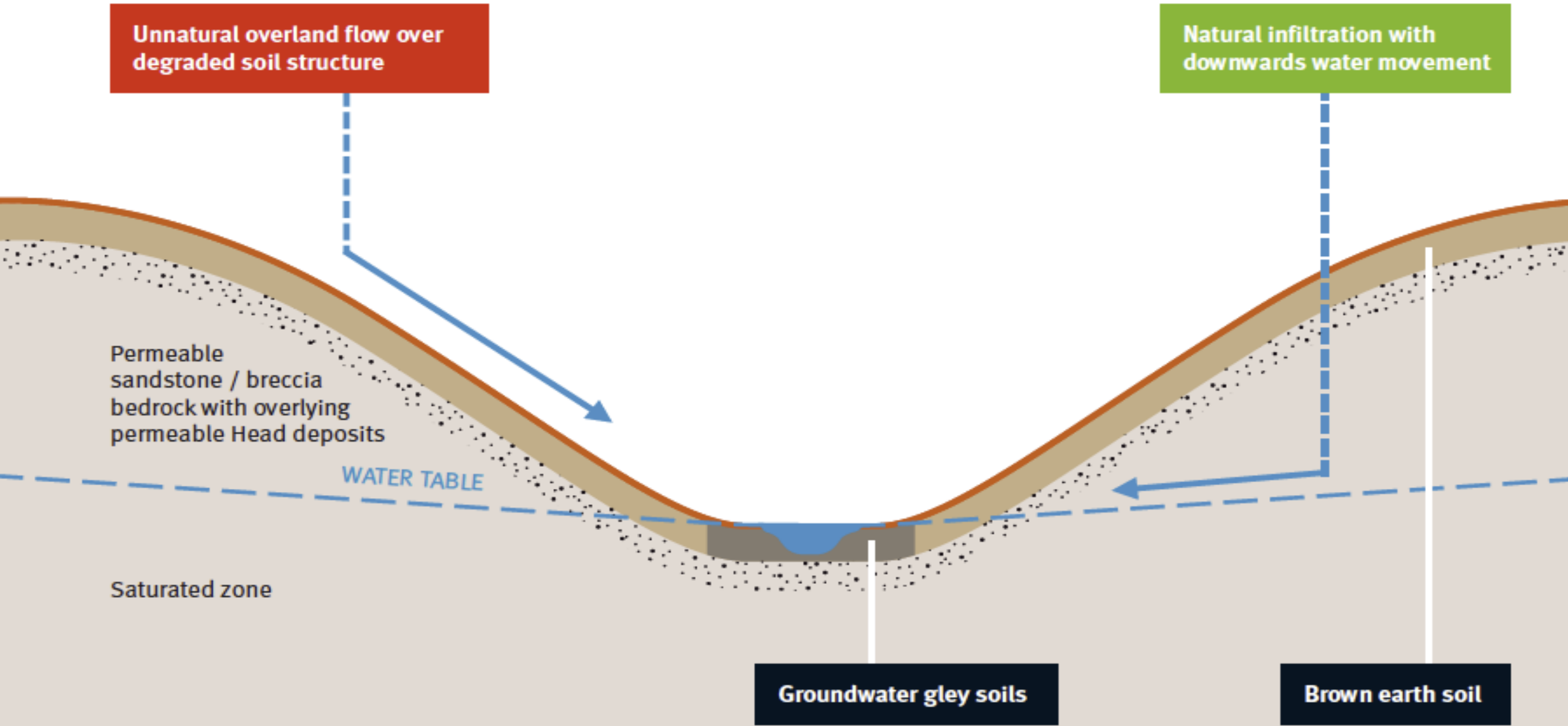
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Westcountry Rivers Trust



# Source – Pathway - Receptor



# **SCHEMATIC CROSS SECTION OF THE SANDSTONE AND BRECCIA HILLS SHOWING NATURAL AND UNNATURAL SOIL WATER MOVEMENT**



**Unnatural overland flow over degraded soil structure**

**Natural infiltration with downwards water movement**

Permeable sandstone / breccia bedrock with overlying permeable Head deposits

WATER TABLE

Saturated zone

**Groundwater gley soils**

**Brown earth soil**

## UNNATURAL SOIL WATER MOVEMENT

Rapid overland flow of rainwater and soil erosion caused by soil structural degradation with greatly reduced porosity generating a rapid flow response to rainfall in local streams

## NATURAL SOIL WATER MOVEMENT

Rapid infiltration of rainwater into very porous soils with good soil structure leads to slow percolation downwards to deep groundwater. Water occasionally emerges at spring lines feeding watercourses which have an attenuated flow response to rainfall

Brown earth soil

Brown earth soil

Groundwater gley soils

# COMMON WATER PATHWAYS



# Problems





Problems



Solutions /  
problems



**Lots of pores**

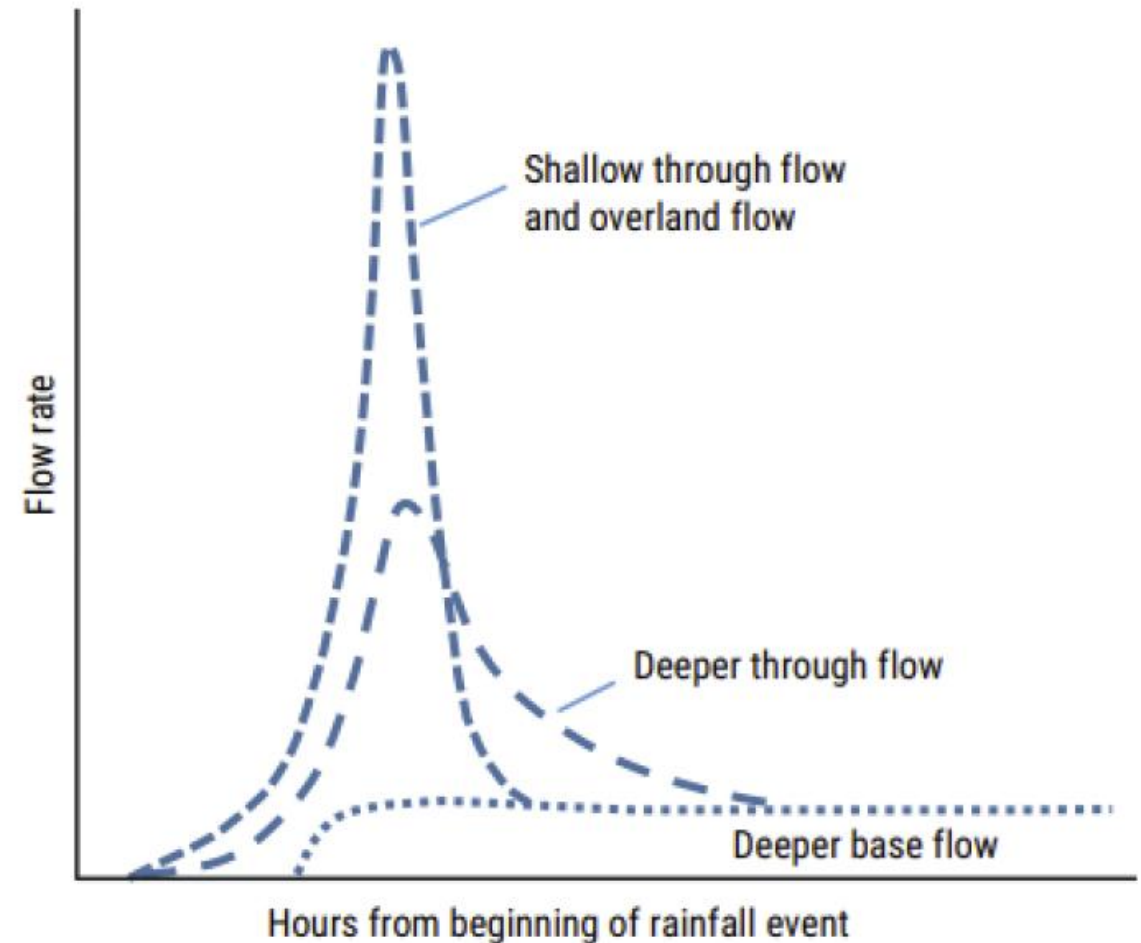




# Soil Types and run-off potential

► Individual plot work with a rain simulator quantified the effect soil compaction has on SPR figures. This investigation was undertaken on a Bromsgrove soil series (SPR=10%)

- VESS 1 - 10%
- VESS 2 - 35%
- VESS 3 - 60%
- VESS 4 - 85%
- VESS 5 / Severe cap - 95%



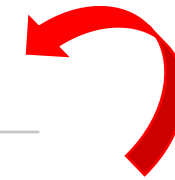
# A year ago...

- 32,200 active Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) agreements in England
- ~50,000 active stewardship agreements
- The most popular SFI actions were the planning actions SAM1, NUM1, IPM1, HRW1, CSAM1, CNUM1, CIPM1
- 3,270,000ha / 38% of the utilised agricultural area in CSAM1
- The action covering the most land area in SFI23 is “No use of insecticide on arable crops and permanent crops” (IPM4), covering 715,000ha. The action covering the most land area in the SFI Expanded Offer is PRF1 (Variable rate application of nutrients), covering 148,000ha.
- 295,000 ha / 3.4% of land in options that temporarily take land out of production



# Sustainable Farming Incentive 2026

	Opens	Who can apply
<b>First window</b>	June	Farmers with small farms  Farmers without existing environmental land management agreements
<b>Second window</b>	September	All farmers



**Expired agreements**

# Sustainable

- Fewer actions
- 71 actions
- Agreement of
- Rotational and
- in size
- Area limited to
- grassy field
- stubble etc

Table 3:

Included/

Included

Included

Included

Included

**Table 5: Farmland wildlife (grassland)**

Included/removed	Action code	SFI action	Annual payment
Included	GRH1	Manage rough grazing for birds	£121/ha
Included	GRH7	Haymaking supplement	£157/ha
Included	GRH8	Haymaking supplement (late cut)	£187/ha
Included	GRH10	Lenient grazing supplement	£28/ha
Included	CLIG3	Manage grassland with very low nutrient inputs	£151/ha
Included	CIGL1	Take grassland field corners or blocks out of management	£333/ha
Included	CIGL2	Winter bird food on improved grassland	£515/ha
Included	SCR1	Create scrub and open habitat mosaics	£588/ha

26

Annual payment

15/ha

235/ha

£707/ha

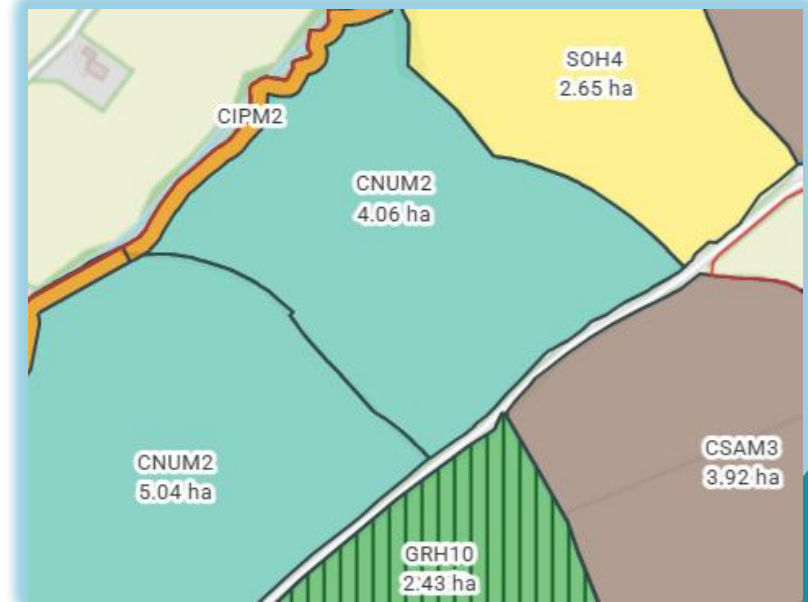
£742/ha

and reduce

star mixes, entered

# SFI Planning

- With no definite release date set, aside from 'June' it is important to think about what and where SFI land management actions can go ahead of the application window opening.





# Finding **Find funding for land or farms**

- Find Funding
- Go to https://www.westcountryrivers.org.uk/funding

[Home](#)

## Find funding for land or farms

From: [Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs](#) and [Rural Payments Agency](#)

Find out about grants and funding for farmers and land managers in England. We will add more grants and funding as we develop this tool.

You can search for actions you can get paid for as part of the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI). The tool does not confirm your eligibility. [Read the SFI guidance to check if you're eligible and how you can apply.](#)

Search by keyword, action name or code if you know it. Use the filters to search by land types or areas of interest.

Search

**101 results**

[Get emails](#) [Subscribe to feed](#)

^ Land types

Arable

Coastal

Farmyard

Grassland

### WBD2: Manage ditches

What you must do to get paid for this action and advice on how to do it.

Land types: Arable and 1 others

Areas of interest: Water availability and storage and 1 others    Payment types: Revenue

### WBD1: Manage ponds

What you must do to get paid for this action and advice on how to do it.

Land types: Arable and 4 others

Areas of interest: Water availability and storage and 1 others    Payment types: Revenue

# Capital Grants 2026



- Applications for PLANS open now
- PA1: Implementation plan
- PA2: Feasibility study
- PA3: Woodland management plan
- PA4: Agroforestry plan
- PA5: Moorland mapping plan
- PA7: Species management plan



# Capital Grants – July 2026

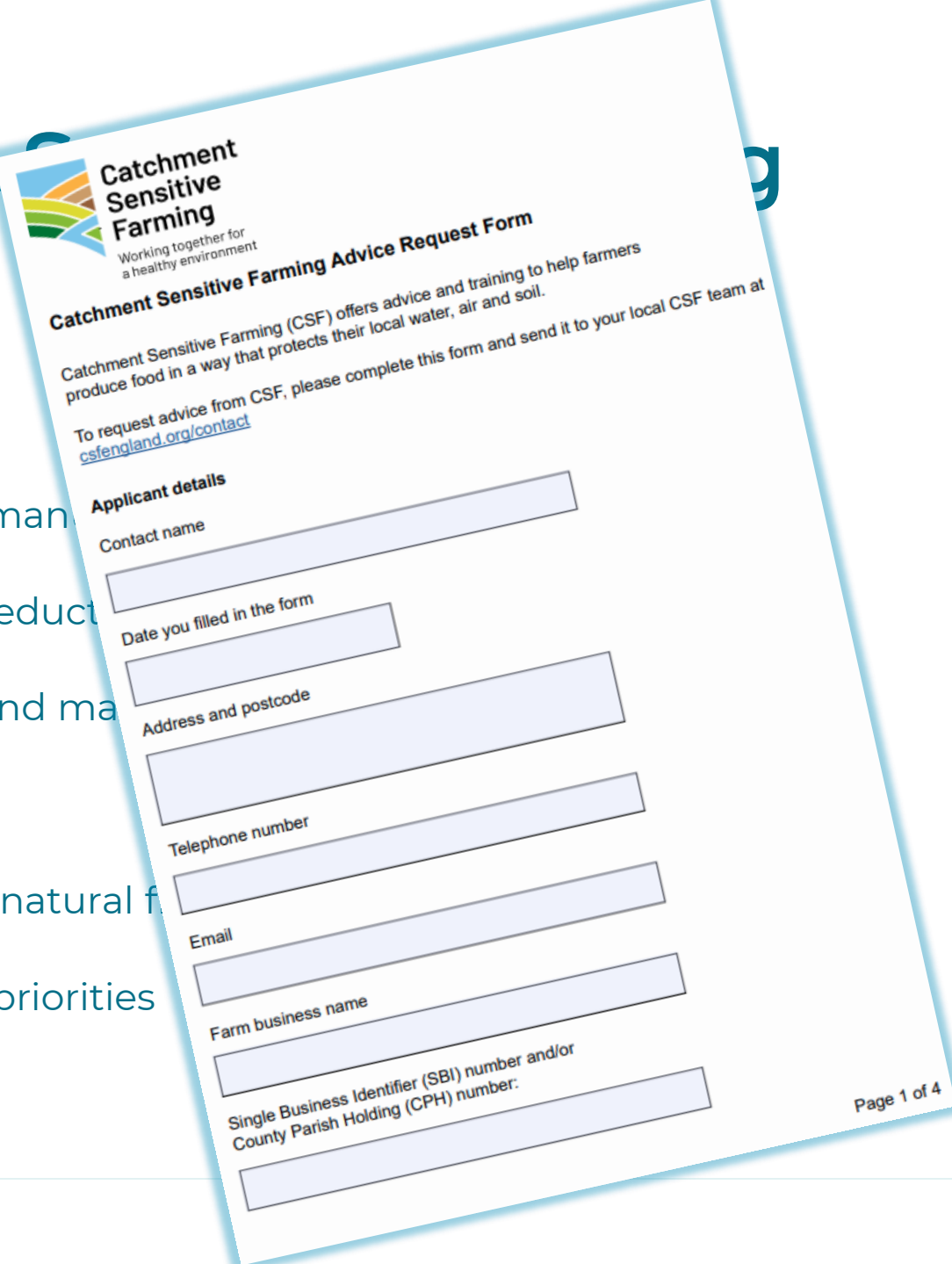


- **Last open July-Aug 2025**
- Estimated over 8000 applications were submitted in that time before the spending cap was reached
  
- Previous caps:
  - £25,000 for water quality
  - £25,000 for air quality
  - £25,000 natural flood management
  - £35,000 for boundaries, trees and orchards
  
- Start thinking...

A screenshot of the GOV.UK 'Capital grant finder' tool. The page has a blue header with the GOV.UK logo and a 'Home' link. The main heading is 'Capital grant finder'. Below this, it says 'From: Rural Payments Agency and Natural England'. There are two paragraphs of text: 'Use this tool to search for funded capital items and their supplements.' and 'Use the Find funding for land or farms tool to search for funded actions and their supplements.' Below the text is a search bar with a magnifying glass icon. To the right of the search bar, it says '151 grants'. Below the search bar are two dropdown menus: 'Grant type' and 'Areas of interest'. To the right of these menus is a list of grant items: 'TE8: Tree guard (wood post and wire)', 'TE7: Tree guard (wood post and rail)', 'PA5: Moorland mapping', 'PA4: Agroforestry plan', and 'BN13: Top wiring - stone wall'.

# Catchment Sensitive Farming

- **Water, Air & Soil**
- soil management
- nutrient, slurry, and manure management
- ammonia emission reduction
- farm infrastructure and maintenance
- pesticide handling
- water resources and natural features
- local environmental priorities
- land management



**Catchment Sensitive Farming**  
Working together for a healthy environment

**Catchment Sensitive Farming Advice Request Form**

Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) offers advice and training to help farmers produce food in a way that protects their local water, air and soil.

To request advice from CSF, please complete this form and send it to your local CSF team at [csfengland.org/contact](http://csfengland.org/contact)

**Applicant details**

Contact name

Date you filled in the form

Address and postcode

Telephone number

Email

Farm business name

Single Business Identifier (SBI) number and/or  
County Parish Holding (CPH) number:

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# Woodland Grants 2026

## Woodland Creation Planning Grant (WCPG)

- 5ha +

## England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO)

- >1ha (can be several blocks >0.1ha)

## Woodland Carbon Code (WCC)

- UK's voluntary carbon standard for woodland creation projects
- Sell the carbon sequestered in your woodland in the form of Woodland Carbon Units

## Woodland Tree Health grants

### Restoration Grant

- provides support for restocking woodland after felling due to a tree health issue

### Improvement Grant

- provides support for the removal of trees and rhododendron infected with Phytophthora



# Farmer Collaboration Fund



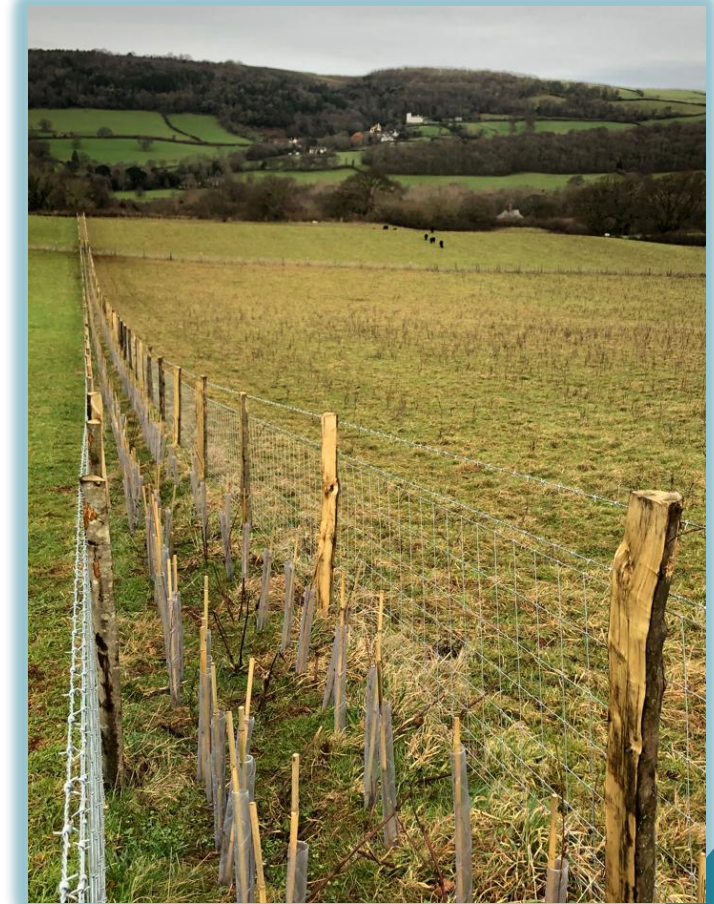
- **£30 million pounds, over 3 years**
- **From farm to Fork**
- Farmers are already coming together – sharing that best practice, managing rivers that cross boundaries, and accessing private investment that would otherwise be out of reach.
- The Batters Farming Profitability Review highlights that collaboration between farmers and indeed with experts will be key to closing the productivity gap and improving farm profitability.
- How will that look – Facilitation Fund?



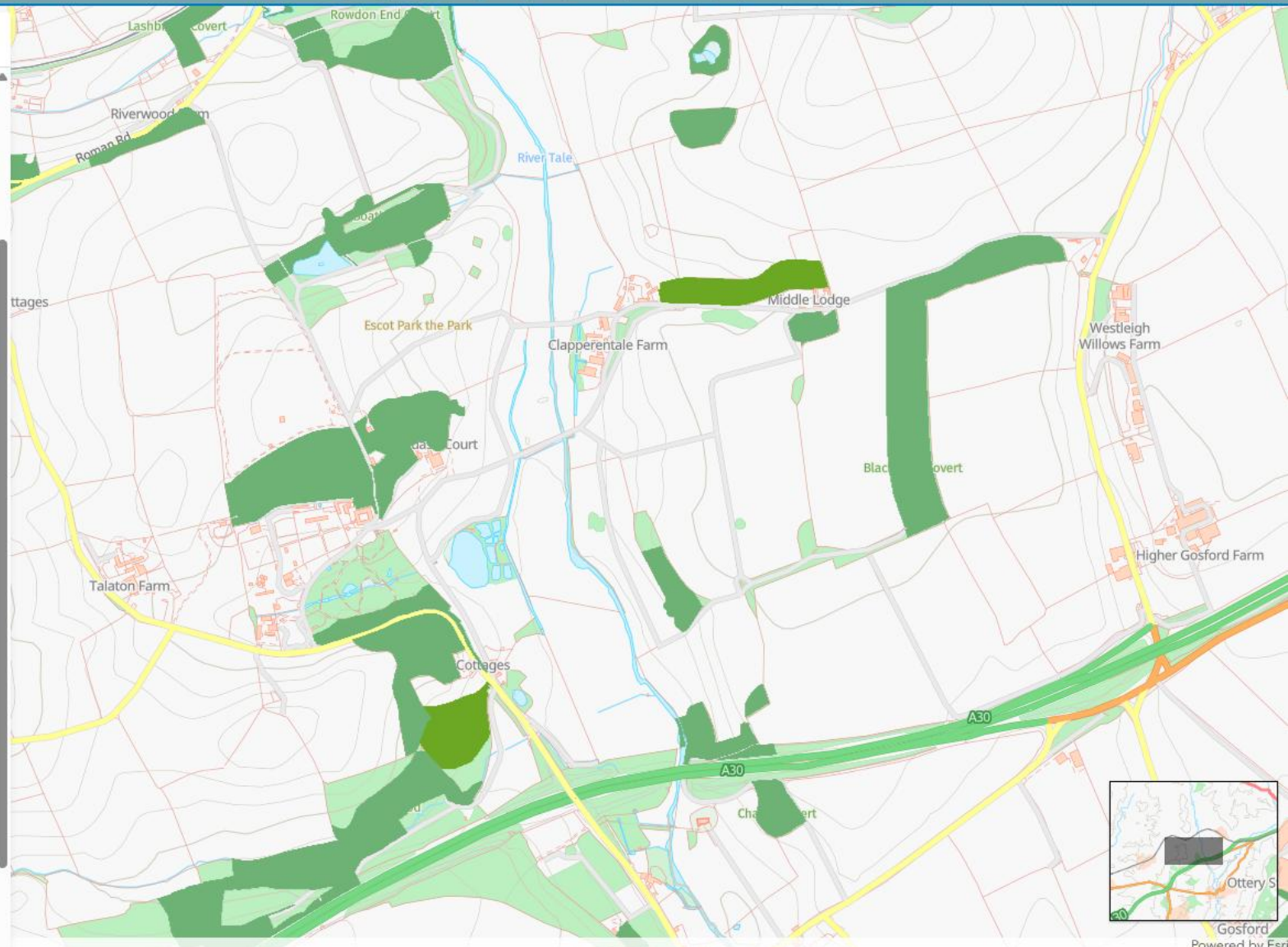
# Other Grants - competitive



- **The Farming Equipment and Technology Fund (FETF):**
  - Equipment, technology and small infrastructure to boost productivity, improve slurry management and enhance animal health and welfare
  - Grants of between £1,000 and £25,000 will be available.
  - £30 million for productivity and slurry
  - £16.7 million will be available for animal health and welfare
- **The farming Innovation Programme (FIP)**
  - builds on the opportunities unlocked by the Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Act 2023
  - Net Zero farming
  - Further Industry-led projects
- **Accelerating Development of Practices and Technologies Fund (ADOPT – part of FIP)**
  - Practical research projects will help to prove innovative ways of boosting farm productivity, food security and nature's recovery across England.



## Map Layers

 Designations Habitats and Species Habitats Living England Habitat Map Coastal Grassland Heathland Inland Rock Marine Wetland Woodland Ancient Woodland (England) Ancient Woodland - Revised COMPLETED COUNTIES (England) Priority Habitat Inventory - Deciduous Woodland (England) Forestry Commission Legal Boundary (England) National Forest Inventory (GB) Priority Habitat Inventory - Traditional Orchards (England) Woodpasture and Parkland BAP Priority Habitat (England) Other Species Land Based Schemes Landscape



Thank You  
Any questions?

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