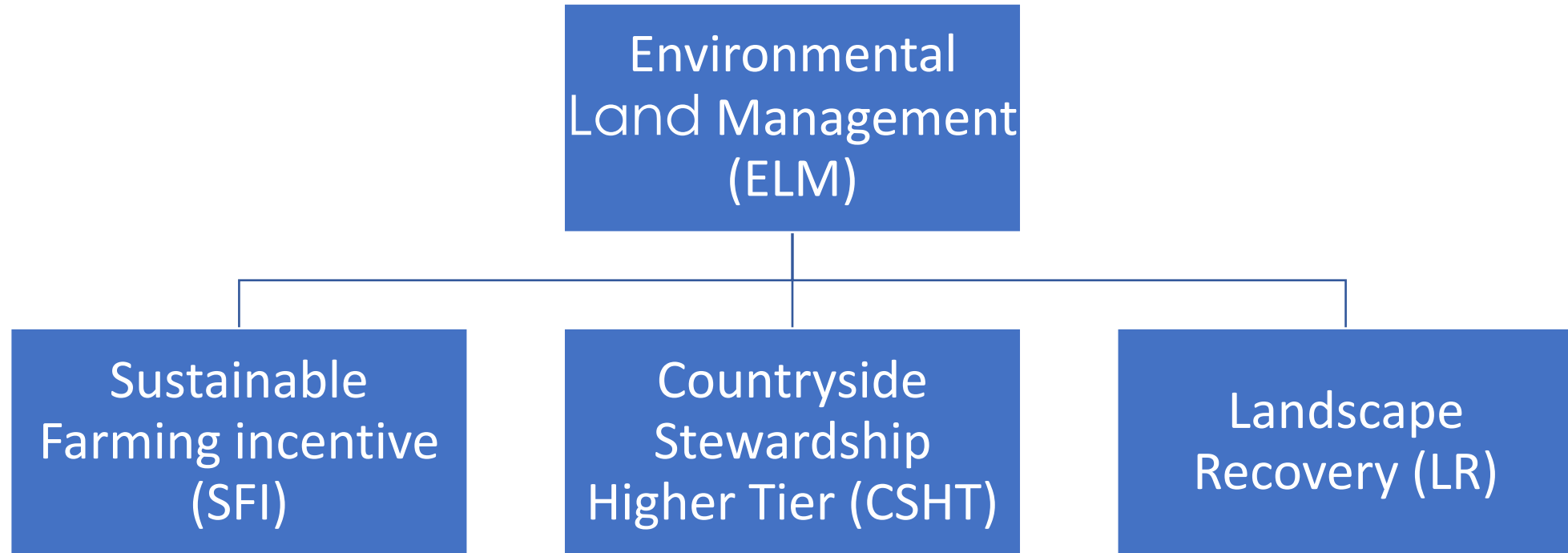




Agri-environment schemes for wetlands

Evan Burdett – Norfolk Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group

evan@norfolkfwag.co.uk



*Re-opens in June 2026 for 'small farms' and those not in agreements. September 2026 for all farmers.

SFI- Small waterbodies

Action	Aim	Annual payment rate	Duration
WBD1 – Manage Ponds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage ponds with a range of semi-aquatic vegetation allowed to develop. (25m² – 2ha) 	£257/pond	3yrs
WBD2 – Manage ditches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain ditches with varied bankside vegetation. Should regularly contain standing or flowing water. Must have management control of both sides. 	£4/100m (both sides)	3yrs



SFI- Buffer strips

Action	Payment rate (per ha per year)	Duration
CAHL4: 4m to 12m grass buffer strip on arable and horticultural land	£515	3yrs
BFS6: 6m to 12m habitat strip next to watercourses	£742	5yrs
BFS1: 12m to 24m watercourse buffer strip on cultivated land	£707	3yrs



12m grass and wildflower buffer strip alongside a water course

Higher tier – Peat

- Options focused on holding water close to the land surface to keep peat wet and reduce GHG emissions
- Available on both grassland and arable
- Higher paying options available if water table is held 10-30cm below mean field surface level
- Lower payment rate if water is held between 31-50 cm below mean surface level
- 10 year options
- Must be informed by feasibility study



Higher tier – Actions for lowland peat

	Action	Payment rate (per ha per year)	Duration
Grassland	CSW18: Raise water levels in permanent grassland peat soils to near the land surface	£1,381	10 yrs
	CSW20: Raise water levels in permanent grassland on peat soils	£840	10 yrs
Arable	CSW17: Raise water levels in cropped or arable peat soils to near the land surface	£1,409	10 yrs
	CSW19: Raise water levels in cropped or arable peat soils	£892	10 yrs

Example – SW18 agreement, Chestnut Farm



Higher Tier – Wetland mosaics and Fen

- New actions introduced in HT 2025
- Allows for creation, restoration of including fen, reedbed or a mosaic of wetland habitats which can include mires and flushes
- Does not require peat soils
- Must create suitable hydrological conditions for these habitats, but water levels less prescriptive than peat options (SW17-20)
- Increase biodiversity, store carbon, reduce flood risk, improve water quality, and protect archaeological sites with waterlogged remains



Restored Fen at Markshall Farm, Norwich –
Management funded by CS fen wetland mosaic options
as of Jan 2025

Higher Tier – Wetland mosaics and Fen

Action	Payment rate (per ha per year)	Duration
CWT14: Create fen, reedbed or wetland mosaics	£1,605	10yrs
CWT13: Manage and restore fen, reedbed and wetland mosaics	£920	10yrs



CS Higher Tier- River and floodplain habitats

Action	Payment rate (per ha per year)	Duration
CSW25: Manage riparian and water edge habitats	£1,186	10yrs
CSW22: Connect river and floodplain habitats	£1,242	10yrs
CSW12: Make room for the river to move	£1,489	20yrs



River restoration linking river to floodplain, River Yare, Norfolk

CS Higher Tier – Wet Grassland

Action	Payment rate (per ha per year)	Duration
CGS20: Manage wet grassland for breeding waders	£676	5yrs
CGS19: Manage wet grassland for wintering waders and wildfowl	£547	5yrs



Breeding wader grassland managed under CS, Halvergate marshes, Norfolk

Supplements and capital items

- Range of supplements which can be combined with base actions:
Including cutting, grazing, re-wetting, ditch management etc
- Standard cost capital items available for new water control structures, ditch/scrape creation, timber sluices etc.
- FM2 major preparatory works – can fund non-standard and bespoke capital items, ie solar pumps



Solar pump and new footdrains funded by CS capital grants – Haddiscoe Island, Norfolk

CS Capital Items: PA2 Feasibility study

- Feasibility study required for most re-wetting options (fen, peat, river restoration etc)
- PA2 feasibility study can fund up to 100% of cost of study
- Available as a Countryside Stewardship standalone capital item to aid a Higher Tier Application with NE permission.
- Study should identify scenarios for how target habitat can be achieved, identify and mitigate for any impacts of the design, and identify consenting and permitting requirements
- Study should commence at least 18 months in advance of HT application



Summary

- Range of 5-20 year options available for restoration and management of wetland habitats
- Capital funding available to help design and implement schemes
- To search full suite of management and capital options visit:
<https://www.gov.uk/find-funding-for-land-or-farms>
- Early preparation for CSHT is key, engage with NE and speak to FWAG to find out if you could be eligible. We can help you identify next steps such as feasibility study.

Any Questions?

evan@norfolkfwag.co.uk

07721817529