

SFI, September 2021: Top 3 items to receive Public Money for Public Goods.

1. The only land to receive an area payment should be PP, at a rate of:

First 40Ha: £220/Ha.

40 – 400Ha: £22/Ha.

Over 400Ha: £2/Ha.

2. Water body buffering payment available on all land: £100/ 100 metres. (£1000/Ha).

3. Hedgerow management: £100/ 100 metres.

Notes:

1.

In England there are 50,000 holdings less than 40Ha in size.

An uptake of 80%, at an average of 30Ha of PP, would be 1.2 million Ha.

1.2 million Ha, at £220/Ha = £264 million to holdings less than 40 Ha.

A further 20,000 holdings at 40 – 100 Ha in size.

An uptake of 80%, at 40 Ha of PP, would be 640,000 Ha.

640,000 Ha, at £220/Ha = £140 million to holdings 40 – 100 Ha.

There is a further 3 million Ha of PP in England.

A 50% uptake at £22/ Ha = £33 million.

Total of £437 million to PP.

2.

In England there are 300,000 km of rivers, ie 600,000 km of bank.

20% uptake is 120,000 km, at £100/ 100 metres = £120 million.

Twice that for other water bodies (streams, ditches, lakes) £240 million.

Total of £360 million for water protection.

(There is a case for a payment at the same rate being made for land bordering domestic properties, but needs some data on this.)

3.

400,000 km of hedgerows in England.

25% uptake at £100/ 100 metres.

£100 million for hedgerow management.

Total of £924 million/yr to Permanent Pasture, Watercourse protection, hedgerow management.

It should be a central objective of ELMS for £1 Bn/ Yr – 30% of the total budget – to be spent on these three items.

They meet the key criteria by which ELMS will be judged:

1) High take up rate by farmers.

2) Minimal expenditure on administration.

3) Measurable environmental gains: carbon sequestration, clean water, biodiversity.

4) Reverses the decline in critical mass in agriculture.

5) Increases productivity, reduces imports/ food miles/ pollution.

6) High multiplier effect, both within agriculture and the wider rural economy, eg tourism.