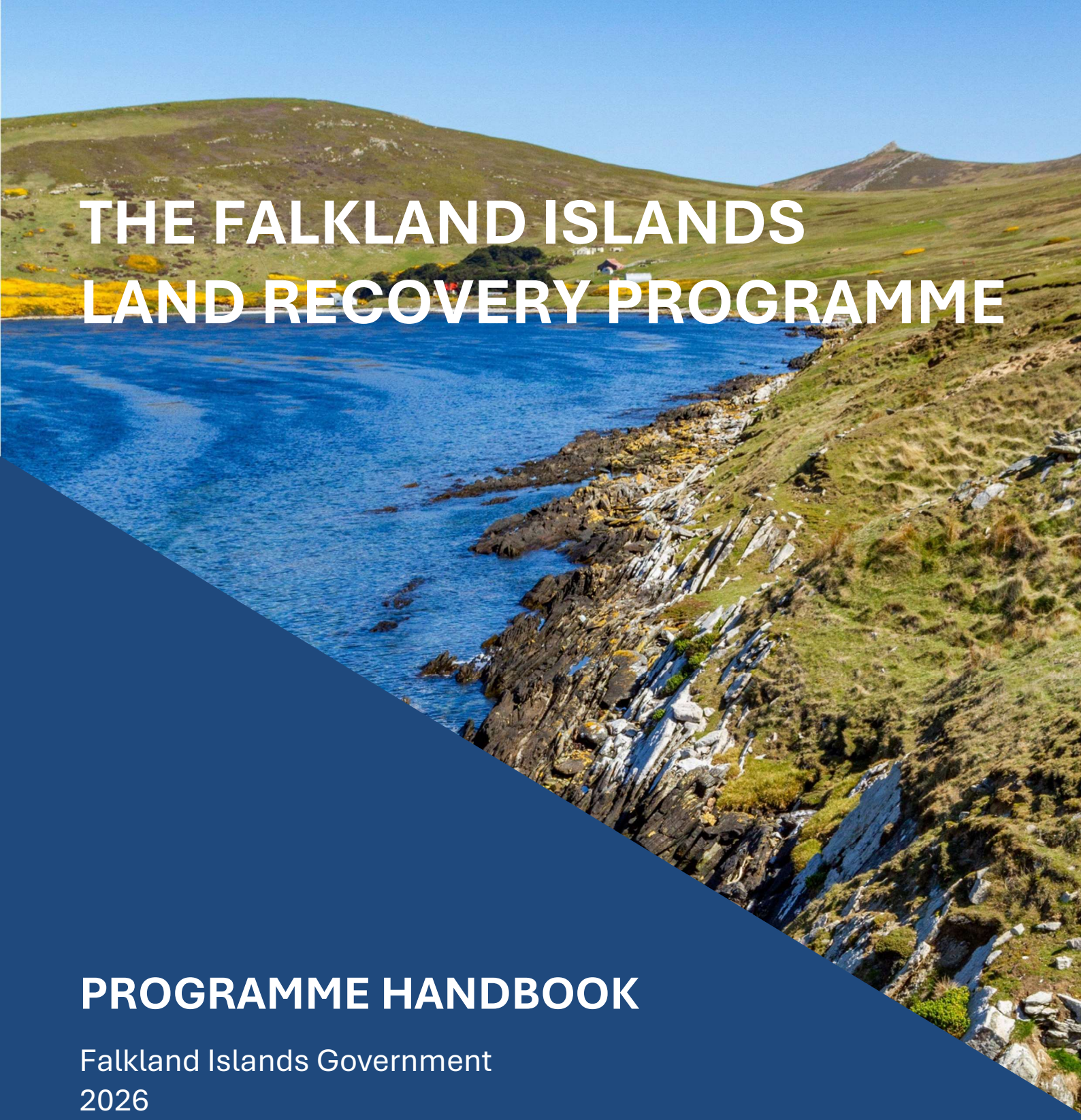

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS LAND RECOVERY PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME HANDBOOK

Falkland Islands Government
2026

FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

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FOREWORD

On behalf of the Department of Agriculture, thank you for taking the time to read about the proposed structure of the Land Recovery Programme. Development of the Programme represents a generational opportunity to invest in farming and the productivity and resilience of our environment.

This handbook presents a detailed working proposal for the Falkland Islands Land Recovery Programme. **It is not a final scheme, or a statement of decisions already made**. It is intended as a "straw man": a sufficiently developed proposal that farmers and other stakeholders can examine, challenge and help improve it.

The draft has been prepared following detailed consideration of feedback received during the first phase of consultation, including interviews, surveys and workshops. It has also drawn on established approaches and best practice from agri-environmental schemes elsewhere, adapted to reflect Falklands farming systems, landscapes and priorities. We thank everyone who has contributed their time, experience and views so far.

We recognise that there is a lot of detail in here. This reflects the complexity of designing a programme that is practical, fair, valuable to farms and capable of delivering meaningful results. The detail is intended to support informed discussion, not to suggest that requirements, payment rates, thresholds or processes have been settled. All aspects of the proposal remain open for consultation.

Some sections may reasonably prompt the question, "How will that work in practice?" This is particularly true of areas such as monitoring and land-condition assessment. Supporting tools remain under active development and will be tested through a pilot phase, allowing farms to assess whether they are practical, proportionate and useful before wider implementation.

An online consultation survey will be launched alongside this handbook. The Department of Agriculture will also seek to visit farms and other relevant stakeholders to discuss the draft, explore how it might operate on the ground and understand concerns, constraints and opportunities. Please contact the DoA to arrange a visit, or feel free to call into our offices.

We do not expect or pretend to have got everything right at the first attempt. We remain committed to working with the farming community and other stakeholders to design the programme. We also believe that, working together, we can build a programme that delivers healthy land, productive farms and thriving Falklands landscapes.

Matt Davies
Head of Agriculture

1. GOALS AND PRINCIPLES

The goals of the Land Recovery Programme are to:

- Support sustainable farming
- Enhance rural community resilience
- Restore land biodiversity and productivity

The programme will achieve these goals by:

1. Supporting the economic and environmental resilience of farmed landscapes.
2. Enabling land managers to enhance the condition, quality, biodiversity and carbon-sequestration capacity of their land while maintaining viable farming systems.
3. Protecting and enhancing key natural and cultural heritage features within farmed landscapes.

In supporting such work, the LRP will seek to ensure public funding delivers clear, demonstrable public benefits through achievable, fair and rigorous monitoring and oversight.

1.1 Core principles

Five core principles underlie the proposed design of the Land Recovery Programme. These are designed to ensure the scheme prioritises support and enablement and does not engage in punitive compliance.

1. **Flexibility** is crucial within farming systems. Participation in the scheme must be voluntary. A flexible scheme will also allow farmers to target their goals and funded activities to their business needs, land condition and capacity. There are multiple pathways to land recovery, but there are also some basic things that enhance resilience everywhere. Mandatory participation in the scheme is not the answer but a common, strategically directed core is necessary.
2. **Fair payments** de-risk innovative management, offset effects on productivity from rest and recovery and compensate farmers for the benefits all of society receives from their management. Payments must adequately acknowledge the land areas involved and the recovery activities farmers engage in. Payment must be explicitly linked to delivery, condition, and evidence and based on a farm's progress rather than its starting point.
3. **Planning** helps manage risk and change. A Whole Farm Plan makes it easier to adapt to dry years, heavy winters, labour shortages, or market shocks without losing sight of longer-term goals. Whole Farm Plans are not about telling people how to farm. Instead, they aim to make priorities clear, facilitating support services, investment and assessment of outcomes against goals. Adequate services must be in place to support farms with their planning processes.

4. **Monitoring** and data facilitate informed decisions. Simple records help capture what works and what doesn't over time. Information allows progress to be judged fairly, by comparing a farm against its own starting point rather than against others.
5. **Net gain** means that funding must be guaranteed for long enough to allow meaningful change in land condition. A programme must also produce benefits that would not have otherwise been achieved (e.g. through existing funded activities) and must not displace management impacts within the same farm system (e.g. resting some areas leads to overgrazing in others).

2. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY CONDITIONS

2.1 Eligible participants

The Land Recovery Programme has been designed by the Department of Agriculture (DoA) to enhance the sustainability and resilience of farmed landscapes within the Falkland Islands. All individuals who have management control of the land they farm are eligible to apply. This includes landowners, tenant farmers and employed farm managers. To be considered eligible, the applicant must:

1. **Engage in agriculture** and/or ancillary activities on agricultural land. Ancillary activities refer to actions such as processing products derived from agriculture or taking action on land ordinarily used for agriculture in relation to nature conservation or climate mitigation.
2. Provide evidence of **secure tenure** (ownership or lease) of land on which the farm operates
3. **Have management control** of the land for at least 10 months of the calendar year
4. Have **submitted an Agricultural Return** (Parts A and B) for the previous financial year
5. Have a current total stock of **2,000 DSE** or more
   AND/OR can provide evidence for the commercial sale of more than **£5,000 of agricultural products**
   AND/OR have previously been considered **eligible for, and received, Farm Improvement Programme** payments within the last three years
6. Be prepared to enter into a Land Recovery Programme **participation agreement**.

Tenanted farms: where farms are managed by a tenant farmer, or are under lease, the individual(s) with effective day-to-day management control of the property shall be eligible to receive LRP payments. Farms may only be enrolled with the permission of both the farm tenant and the property owner.

Multiple farm operations: where more than one farm is owned or managed by the same individual, business or organisation, eligibility criteria and enrolment requirements shall apply to the entire farm business operation, not just to those elements selected for enrolment. LRP payments will be made once to each farm business rather than to individual farms.

Publicly owned farms will be exempt from the multiple farm operation condition and each individual, separately managed farm will be eligible. Separate management will be evidenced by both differentiated Agricultural Statistics returns AND bale brands and/or cattle tags. For farms owned by public or third-sector bodies, the owning organisation shall be considered eligible to receive LRP payments rather than their employees.

2.2 Declarations and exclusions

Areas within eligible properties already receiving payments for management activities (e.g. farms receiving area-based payments for destocking/resting conservation areas or implementing restoration projects) must be declared.

- Where some, or all, of a property is already receiving an area-based payment (e.g. through existing private set-aside or conservation easement schemes), such areas may only be eligible for action-based funding. Such situations will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- Double payment for the same management activity is not permitted.

3. LEGAL BASIS

The programme does not intend to introduce new general agricultural regulations or legislation. The current aim is to enable the programme under the Agricultural Incentives and Subsidies (Land Charges) Ordinance 1998. As such, the general requirements therein relating to repayment of incentives where land is sold and removed from agricultural production apply.

4. CROSS COMPLIANCE

The Land Recovery Programme will adopt the long-standing concept of "cross compliance" from successful UK and EU agri-environmental schemes. Cross compliance refers to the links **across** financial payments, legal rules and programme requirements: to receive payments, farmers must meet baseline environmental and welfare standards **across** their entire farm.

Participants in the LRP receiving payments must agree to abide by relevant, existing Falklands legislation, including, but not limited to:

- Animals (Welfare and Protection) Ordinance 2016
- Conservation of Wildlife and Nature Ordinance 1999
- Grass Fire Ordinance 2002
- Livestock and Meat Products regulations (identification and movement requirements)
- Plant Disease Regulation Ordinance 1944
- Livestock and Meat Products (Animal By-Products) Regulations 2015

Additionally, participants in the scheme are expected to commit to meeting six agricultural condition criteria. Each of these criteria will be assessed collaboratively by farmers and FIG officers during the process of enrolling in the programme:

1. **Soil and livestock**: Avoid increasing evidence of overgrazing by ensuring management meets defined pasture conditions classes. Where there is existing evidence of legacy overgrazing, the farm must alternatively have a plan in place to take reasonable steps to address its effects AND not show any worsening of land condition due to overgrazing.
2. **Soil protection**: take reasonable steps to minimise bare ground and soil erosion resulting from agricultural operations.
3. **Water quality**: protect water bodies (e.g. streams, rivers, ponds) from: discharge of hazardous chemicals/materials; drift and pollution from agrochemical applications by maintaining suitable application buffers; any increase in poaching and stream-bank erosion.
4. **Hydrology**: avoid interventions in natural stream and river systems that increase rates of flow, stream temperatures and/or that result in drainage, water loss and drying.
5. **Waste management**: Ensure waste is managed and disposed of in a safe and organised manner and in a way that minimises the potential for impacts on livestock and the environment. Where legacy waste presents a management challenge, a specific funding stream is available to support farms to tackle this issue.
6. **Invasive species**: Take reasonable steps to prevent the establishment and spread of invasive species and notify the DoA of any significant infestations. Note that, where invasive species are an issue, specific funding is available through the programme.

4.1 Cross compliance auditing

Farms participating in the scheme will take part in an annual cross compliance audit. Breaches of cross compliance, or severe breaches of agricultural condition criteria, may lead to a review of future funding rates (see Monitoring and Reporting).

5. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The Land Recovery Programme will be composed of four different layers representing a variety of required and optional components:

1) Whole Farm Layer
2) Resilient Farmland Layer
3) Habitat Improvement Layer
4) Optional Layer: Collaboration and Infrastructure

In addition, the Programme will continue to support annual Partnership Grants that promote collaboration between farms and researchers to develop and test innovative approaches to improving and restoring land condition.

5.1 Sustainable Falklands Farming Status

Sustainable Falklands Farming (SFF) is proposed as a regenerative agriculture standard linked to the Land Recovery Programme. It will recognise farms delivering land recovery and resilient management over and above the minimum requirements of LRP participation. Award of SFF will support product differentiation and demonstrate responsible environmental stewardship to international wool buyers and end-users.

SFF Points: Award of SFF status will be dependent on the accumulation of points associated with completion of the obligations in each layer of the LRP.

SFF points will be awarded annually and added to each farm's cumulative points total. Points associated with recurring requirements (see 5.2 onwards, including maintaining the Map and Track actions, completed Identify actions and participation in the Resilient Farmland Layer) will be awarded again in every year in which the relevant requirements continue to be met. For example, a farm receiving 10 Resilient Farmland points will accumulate 10 points in year one, 20 by year two and 50 by year five, provided its enrolled area and management remain compliant.

Points for one-off activities, such as completed active restoration projects, will be awarded only in the year in which the activity is completed. The cumulative thresholds for SFF status will be 12 points in year one, 24 in year two, 36 in year three, 48 in year four and 60 in year five. Point requirements will be subject to review following the fifth year of the programme.

5.2 Whole Farm Layer (Required)

Purpose: The Whole Farm Layer forms the baseline for participation and aims to help participating farms evaluate the current condition of their land and select appropriate locations and actions within the scheme.

Requirements: The Whole Farm Layer will involve collaborating with the Agricultural Advisory team to develop a Whole Farm Plan. This will:

- **Map** farm land cover, farming units (e.g. camps, paddocks, reseeds) and natural and cultural heritage features across the farm
- **Track** stocking levels and rest/spelling periods across the farm to facilitate future planning. Tracking must be at least at the camp level.
- **Identify** opportunities and locations for mitigation and restoration of erosion, vegetation die-back and habitat loss
- **Identify** areas affected by non-native species in need of management
- **Identify** areas affected by legacy waste that would benefit from management
- **Identify** resources and strategies for mitigating and fighting wildfires
- **Identify** water resources and locations where water security could be enhanced

Timetable: Development of a complete **Whole Farm Plan will not be a requirement for initial registration** within the programme. Rather, farms will be supported to develop each element through the lifetime of their membership. The Map action will be completed at the point of joining to determine area-based payment rates and the Track action will be completed from the point of joining for the duration of membership. Identify actions will be implemented in a phased manner through the enrolment period and according to each farm's priorities.

Payment: All farms will receive a flat annual payment of £1,000 for initiating, developing and maintaining their Whole Farm Plan. Funds to support actions identified under the plans can be applied for through the optional layers.

SFF Points: Farms will accumulate two points each for the Map and Track actions and one point for each of the Identify actions they have completed.

5.3 Resilient Farmland Layer (Required)

Purpose: The Resilient Farmland Layer aims to help farmers embed regenerative grazing practices and to promote recovery of degraded areas within their management. The layer will allow farms to designate a proportion of their land for resilience-based management. **Removal of all livestock is not required**. The layer will compensate farms for any changes in stocking practices required as well as the ecosystem services and biodiversity provided by enhanced habitat resilience. Funds delivered by the layer can be used freely, including to reinvest in other land recovery and biodiversity management activities.

Requirements: All participating farms will **designate at least 5% of their effective grazing area** for resilience-based management. The required area can be met through enrolment of multiple individual camps or patches but any one patch must have a minimum area of 50 ha. Areas that have not been stocked during the ten years immediately before the launch of the programme will not ordinarily be considered eligible unless it can be demonstrated that their inclusion enhances delivery of Programme or farm management goals.

Within their Resilient Farmland areas, farms will:

- Establish small (ca. 10 x 10 m) ungrazed condition reference plots which can be used to benchmark the effects of management. At least one reference plot must be established per 100 ha in the scheme. Each distinct enrolled area must have at least one reference plot.

- Monitor and track pasture and habitat condition in collaboration with the DoA and using simple land and habitat condition score sheets.

Farms are free to stock Resilient Farmland areas subject to the following criteria:

- Maintain stocking rate at or below 0.3 DSE per hectare of effective grazing land. This maximum stocking rate will be reviewed periodically during the programme to ensure recovery goals are being met.
- Ensure a minimum of 90 days of continuous rest per year, including at least 30 days within the growing season (Nov–Mar).
- Avoid burning, mowing or cutting of vegetation
- Maintain ditch management in line with DoA guidance.
- Block artificial or erosional ditches in line with DoA guidance (separate funding available)
- Demonstrate maintenance of good condition and/or a trend of improving condition relative to the enrolled area's starting condition and as judged compared to farm benchmark plots.

Areas of current or former reseed pasture may be included but must not be more than 10% of the total area and must conform to pasture management/condition goals. Farms are free to define their goals for former reseeds – this could be to create improved or semi-improved pasture or to assist such areas to revert to productive native vegetation.

Payment: Participation in the Resilient Farmland Layer will be compensated on an enrolled area basis according to four classes:

1. Priority habitat (e.g. tussac, native shrubland, wetlands, riparian, designated areas[1]) - £15/ha
2. Effective grazing land (e.g. whitegrass or mixed heath) - £10/ha
3. Less productive areas (e.g. diddle-dee heath, areas in poor pasture condition) - £5/ha
4. Non-productive land (e.g. stone runs, clay patches, bare peat) - £2/ha

Total income from this layer will be capped at £10,000 per farm per year and the total funding allocated to this layer will not exceed 45% of the programme budget.

Support: The DoA will provide support to establish benchmark areas and to undertake annual land condition monitoring. The DoA is working with partner organisations to develop and deliver improved, farm-level land-cover maps.

SFF Points: Points = average payment rate weighted by proportional area and class. For example, a farm enrols 50 ha of priority habitat, 800 ha of effective grazing land and 150 ha of less productive land. Their points will be (50/1000 × 15) + (800/1000 × 10) + (150/1000 × 5) = 9.5 (rounded to 10). An additional point will be awarded for every 100 ha enrolled beyond the required minimum up to a maximum of 5 extra points.

[1] For example: Important Plant Areas, Important Bird Areas, National Nature Reserves or areas designated by the Environment Department as of high biodiversity interest.

5.4 Habitat Improvement Layer (at least one action required)

Purpose: The Habitat Improvement Layer will provide action-based payments to assist farms in improving the agricultural and ecological condition of their land. These actions will enhance land resilience, biodiversity and carbon sequestration. All farms enrolled in the programme will implement at least one land condition improvement action and will be free to select this from among the fundable activities. Farms may apply for funding to complete additional actions.

Requirements: Each participating farm must deliver at least one Habitat Improvement action selected from the following strategic priorities:

Designated biodiversity areas: Farms may designate one or more locations of at least 15 ha within or outside their Resilient Farmland area and manage them for biodiversity. Livestock will generally be excluded from such areas unless, in agreement with the DoA, it is determined that grazing is necessary to manage the biodiversity features of interest. Payment will be made on a per area basis at the following rates: £10/ha (land currently in good habitat condition) or £15/ha (priority biodiversity land). Where relevant, these payments will be made in addition to those received for the area under the Resilient Farmland Layer. Payments for designated biodiversity areas will be capped at 15% of the total annual programme funding level.

SFF Points: 1 point will be awarded per 15 ha designated.

Active restoration and management: Farms may select from one of five priority actions and apply for funding on a Full Economic Cost basis (i.e. including the costs of materials, equipment, labour (contracted/own) and ongoing maintenance and monitoring costs). Applications will be submitted using a standard template similar to that used for the existing Farm Improvement Programme. All applications will be reviewed, and funding awarded competitively based on applications' potential to deliver land condition improvement.

If active restoration and management is selected as the required Habitat Improvement action, the participant must develop a schedule of work to ensure that some form of improvement action is taken in each year of enrolment.

The following activities will be supported:

1. Revegetation and stabilisation of bare soils and erosional areas. Locations characterised by bare eroding peat and peat banks will be prioritised.
2. Restoration of priority high-carbon habitats (tussac, fachine, boxwood, Sphagnum).
3. Creation, restoration and management of wetlands and ponds.
4. Ditch blocking, bunding, and re-wetting in agreed areas.
5. Managing/controlling invasive and non-native species.

The DoA will reserve the right to introduce action-level, layer-level and/or per-farm payment caps to manage uptake and maintain balance across the programme's budget.

SFF Points: For biodiversity areas, farms receive points equivalent to 10% of their associated area-based payment. Ten points will be awarded per completed active restoration project.

5.5 Optional Layer - Collaboration

Purpose: The Collaboration Layer exists to encourage land-management planning across the ecologically and environmentally relevant units (e.g. river/stream catchments) that may transcend farm boundaries. The layer exists to encourage farms to collaborate to deliver land recovery at scale, noting that there is often a positive relationship between the size of the protected areas and the biodiversity they hold.

Requirements: Two or more farms, under separate ownership and/or clearly separate management, may collaborate to define their Resilient Farmland and any biodiversity priority areas. The defined areas must be on adjoining sides of one or more farm boundaries. Trans-boundary areas are recommended to account for at least 65% of each farm's total designated enrolled area but applications will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Payment: Collaborating farms will receive a £2/ha supplement to all relevant area-based payments and will be prioritised for receipt of competitively awarded active restoration funds. Participating farms will receive a one-off flat payment of £500 for the development of a written boundary fence management agreement.

SFF Points: Farms participating in the Collaboration Layer will receive a 50% bonus to the points they would earn for that area under the Resilient Farmland Layer.

5.6 Optional Layer - Infrastructure

Purpose: The layer will support farms to implement infrastructure (e.g. fencing) necessary to deliver management and provide flexibility in selection of enrolment areas.

Requirements: The applicant must meet the requirements of LRP layers 1-3 (Whole Farm Plan, Resilient Farmland, Habitat Improvement).

Payment: Farms may apply for assistance with fencing materials or other infrastructure that will allow them to implement planned management structures, initiatives and activities. Payment will be made at the DoA's standard rate for fencing materials (currently £1,800/km plus £15/hour towards labour costs and any freight costs). A maximum of 10% of the total budget will be allocated to the infrastructure layer each year.

SFF Points: No points are awarded for participation in the Infrastructure Layer.

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6. MONITORING AND REPORTING

Purpose: Monitoring is a central feature of Adaptive Management and provides the evidence to inform decision-making. Monitoring in the Land Recovery Programme will be used to assess changes in land condition in relation to adopted management practices. Monitoring also facilitates programme review and verification that compensated activities have been completed to specification and in a timely manner. The latter is essential to meet the principle of "public benefit for public money". In addition, monitoring allows evaluation of the long-term progress and status of the programme as a whole.

Three key principles are applied to the proposed monitoring requirements:

1) Monitoring must be proportionate, meaningful and supported by the DoA advisory team.
2) Evaluation of monitoring outcomes should be tied to performance relative to the enrolled area's benchmark condition and members should not be penalised for their starting baseline
3) Monitoring outcomes should emphasise achievable condition gains and long-term delivery of recovery.

6.1 Monitoring requirements

Whole Farm Layer participants must participate in regular verification audits where they will work with a DoA representative to develop and update their Whole Farm Plans, verify stocking records, assess the completeness of other monitoring requirements (see below) and evaluate changes in land condition indicators and improvement layer actions. The frequency of the audits will be determined on a case-by-case basis but at least two audits will be completed in the first five years and at least four during the period of enrolment.

Resilient Farmland Layer participants must participate in monitoring of their land to track improvements in resilience and productivity. Monitoring will take three forms:

1) Remote sensing evaluation of broad-scale changes in habitat cover and key indicators of land condition (e.g. bare ground cover). Remote sensing evaluations will be facilitated by the DoA when farms enrol and at least every five years thereafter.
2) Annual ground-based monitoring according to standardised habitat condition score sheets provided by the DoA. Assistance will be available for monitoring activities.
3) Maintenance of a standardised annual calendar reporting the type, number, duration and dates of livestock held in each camp on the farm.

Participants must:

- Identify, and annually monitor, at least one benchmarked permanent monitoring plot per 100 ha or individual area enrolled (whichever is greater).
- Ensure monitoring is completed and reported at least annually.
- Monitor both grazed and associated benchmark areas.
- Utilise standardised monitoring protocols developed by the DoA. Initially the Programme will use existing pasture and/or habitat indices already adopted by the DoA for use in the Responsible Wool Standard. In the medium term the DoA will work to develop Falklands-specific, easy-to-use indicators of rangeland health.
- Return their monitoring results to the DoA.

Habitat Improvement Layer participants must include a strategy for monitoring management outcomes within any proposal submitted. The DoA will assist with the development of effective and time and labour efficient monitoring strategies. Monitoring costs may be included in proposals. All successful applicants will complete a standardised annual project tracking sheet documenting area (hectares) treated, quantities of materials applied (e.g. plants, soil, fertiliser) and costs expended.

Collaboration Layer participants will monitor enrolled areas as per the Resilient Farmland Layer. All monitoring results must be shared with all participants in the group.

Infrastructure Layer participants will provide evidence of the completion of relevant projects through photographs and maps. Verification visits by the DoA will include inspection of infrastructure projects.

6.2 Collaborative on-farm monitoring

Remote sensing: The DoA is collaborating to develop remote sensing (satellite or drone) based methods to assess habitat cover and condition. The Land Recovery Programme will support independent evaluation of land condition trends using remote sensing techniques and report these evaluations to participating farms.

Support will be offered by the DoA, through the Land Recovery Programme, to establish and complete on-farm monitoring activities. Support available will include:

1) Assistance in selecting monitoring locations, techniques and benchmarks
2) A “with, not for” monitoring support service whereby DoA staff will participate in, but not solely carry out, on-farm monitoring activities.
3) Data management and analysis
4) Provision of benchmark reports on monitoring outcomes and stocking patterns.
5) Ensuring LRP monitoring aligns with, and does not duplicate, requirement for other enrolment schemes (e.g. the Responsible Wool Standard)

6.3 Alignment and payments

Alignment with scheme requirements and outcome monitoring form core parts of the Land Recovery Programme and are essential for demonstrating a return from public investment in land-management. Payments are earned annually and linked to delivery. Except under explicitly stated circumstances (see below), payments will not be recouped from participants. Future payments may, however, be adjusted. Where delivery falls short payments may be pro-rated or adjusted but **payment adjustment will always be evaluated on a case-by-case basis** considering relevant economic, environmental or climatic challenges that may have been outside the enrolee’s control. Potential adjustments to payment rates could be linked to:

- Improvement in land condition: First review after five years and rolling five-year basis thereafter – evidence of improvement in average condition compared to benchmark trend. 10% bonus to Resilient Farmland Layer. Stacking per year thereafter.
- Change in land condition: Area-based payments are a function of habitat type and land condition (both of which may change due to management during the lifetime of the programme). Review of farm land condition classification may be requested by the participant or the DoA after the fifth year of enrolment. Review may lead to either

increases or decreases in payment depending on land condition trends. All participants will be advised of the likely outcome of re-classification before finalising such a request.

- Failure to meet agricultural condition requirements: 15% per failed requirement applied to Whole Farm Layer payments.
- Incomplete or behind schedule Whole Farm Plan: 15% per year of non-conformity (stacking – i.e. 15% in year one, 30% in year two) applied to the Whole Farm Layer payments.
- Incomplete monitoring: 10% per incomplete required plot applied to the Resilient Farmland Layer payments.
- Incomplete monitoring: 10% stacking reduction to annual Resilient Farmland Layer payments. 10% per incomplete monitoring report for active Habitat Improvement Layer projects. Consideration of further Habitat Improvement proposals may be paused pending completion of monitoring.
- Failure to maintain stocking calendar: 50% penalty to Resilient Farmland Layer payments.
- Decline in land condition: First review after five years and rolling five-year basis thereafter – evidence of decline in average condition compared to benchmark trend. 10% penalty to Resilient Farmland Layer payments. Stacking per year thereafter. May affect future enrolment eligibility.
- Persistent non-delivery across one or more layers: suspension of all payments pending completion of outstanding actions.
- Fraud or deliberate misrepresentation of actions and activities: charge-back of payments up to and including payments made over all affected years.

The DoA reserves the right to review and adjust payment levels and pro-rating policies throughout the duration of the Programme. This may be necessary to maintain the financial sustainability of the Programme and ensure it meets its obligations.

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7. BUDGET MANAGEMENT AND PRIORITISATION

Programme-level caps will be applied to selected options to: i) avoid the potential for over-subscription or budgetary shortfalls; ii) ensure funding is allocated to prioritised recovery goals; iii) maintain balance between area-based and action-based funding. Key principles for budget management will include:

- Soft caps implemented through prioritisation rather than first-come, first-served closure.
- The DoA will ensure there is clear "live" reporting and transparent communication of option availability (e.g. open, limited, prioritised).
- Phased approval and enrolment periods will be used to manage long-term financial commitments.

Table 1: Proposed division of funding assuming £1M annual funding level

Budget Area	Budget (£)	Budget (%)
Whole Farm Layer	70,000	7
Resilient Farmland Layer	439,500	44
Improvement Layer	250,000	25
Infrastructure Layer	100,000	10
Programme Support and Administration	44,100	4
Partnership Grants	50,000	5
Buffer	46,400	5

8. REVIEW AND EVOLUTION

The DoA will convene a Land Recovery Programme Advisory Group and develop Terms of Reference for it. Representatives will be invited from key stakeholder groups (e.g. Rural Business Association, Falkland Land Holdings, independent farmer members, Environment Department, SAERI, Falklands Conservation). The advisory group will meet annually to review progress/outcomes and make recommendations on adjustments to the programme. This will include review of the scheme design, payment rates, and thresholds.

The DoA will maintain the ability to adapt requirements, rates and priorities in response to monitoring outcomes. The DoA will commit to maintaining an ongoing process of co-design with the farming community and other stakeholders.

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GLOSSARY

Agricultural Return: Annual return submitted to FIG recording information about farm management, land use, livestock and agricultural production.

Area-based payment: A payment calculated per hectare for maintaining agreed management or condition across an enrolled area.

Biodiversity: The variety of living organisms, habitats and ecological relationships found within a particular place.

Carbon sequestration: The capture and long-term storage of carbon in vegetation, soils, peat and other natural systems.

Condition: The current state of land or habitat, assessed using agreed indicators of vegetation, soil and ecological function.

Reference plot: A small ungrazed plot used as an on-farm benchmark against which grazing and management effects can be compared.

Cross compliance: The requirement to meet relevant legislation and baseline programme standards across the farm to remain eligible for LRP payments.

Double payment: Receiving more than one payment for the same management activity, cost or programme obligation in the same area.

DSE (Dry Sheep Equivalent): a standard unit used to compare the feed requirements of different livestock types and classes.

Effective grazing area: The part of a farm capable of contributing usable livestock forage, used to calculate minimum Resilient Farmland enrolment.

Effective grazing land: A Resilient Farmland payment class covering land that provides usable grazing, such as whitegrass or mixed-heath pasture.

Farm Improvement Programme (FIP): An existing DoA programme providing financial assistance for eligible improvements to farms and agricultural businesses.

Habitat: A place and its environmental conditions that provide the resources needed by characteristic plants, animals and other organisms.

Hydrology: The movement, storage and distribution of water through soils, wetlands, streams, rivers and the wider landscape.

Layer: Separate components of the LRP with distinct purposes, requirements and payments; some are required and others optional.

Legacy waste: Disused or abandoned materials and equipment remaining from past activities and requiring safe management or removal.

Management control: Practical authority and responsibility to make and implement day-to-day decisions about how land is managed.

Monitoring: Repeated collection and assessment of information to track management delivery and changes in land condition over time.

Net gain: Overall improvement beyond the starting position and existing obligations, without transferring adverse impacts elsewhere on the farm.

Overgrazing: Grazing pressure that exceeds vegetation recovery capacity and causes declining cover, vigour, soil protection or land condition.

Poaching: Damage caused when livestock trample and churn wet ground, exposing soil and increasing erosion or pollution risks.

Points: Units awarded for qualifying LRP actions or enrolled areas and used to determine eligibility for Sustainable Falklands Farming status.

Priority habitat: Habitat identified as having high biodiversity or conservation importance and therefore eligible for enhanced programme support.

Quality (of land): The degree to which land can support desired agricultural, ecological and cultural functions.

Resilience: The ability of land, farms and communities to withstand, adapt to and recover from environmental, economic or social shocks.

Secure tenure: Ownership or lease arrangements providing sufficient authority and continuity to undertake agreed management for the programme period.

Sustainable Falklands Farming (SFF): A proposed LRP-linked status recognising farms that accumulate the required points through land recovery and resilient management.

Sustainability: Managing land and farming systems to meet present needs without undermining future productivity, ecosystems or community wellbeing.

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FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT