

LAND RECOVERY PROGRAMME

DRAFT PROGRAMME OVERVIEW Consultation Phase 2

DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

FALKLANDS LAND RECOVERY



Healthy Land
Productive Farms
Thriving Falklands



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INTRODUCTION

This booklet provides an overview of the Programme's proposed structure. Operating a final scheme will require a lot of detail. A draft of those details can be found in the Programme Handbook.

The structure presented here should not be considered set-in-stone. Full consultation with farmers and other stakeholders will help us craft the final version. Your feedback really matters to help us get it right.

This overview introduces several **key terms** which are **shown in gold**





GOALS

A Land Recovery programme must be about:

1. **SUPPORTING** sustainable farming
2. **ENHANCING** rural community resilience
3. **RESTORING** land biodiversity and productivity





PRINCIPLES

1. FLEXIBILITY

- Voluntary participation
- Support farmers to reach their recovery goals

2. FAIR PAYMENTS

- Recognise the cost and value of participation
- Reward action “on the ground”

3. PLANNING

- Set clear farm-level goals
- Identify farm-specific adaptation options

4. MONITORING

- Understand and adapt management
- Verify outputs and progress
- Evaluate fair, against farm-specific **benchmarks**

5. NET GAIN

- Invest for long enough to see change
- Ensure real change happens





ELIGIBILITY

The Land Recovery Programme is designed for farmers and farming. Eligibility criteria broadly follow existing DoA programme requirements.

Basic requirements are that participants in the programme **must**:

1. Be **engaged** in agriculture
2. Have **management control** and **secure tenure** of their property
3. Have submitted an **Agricultural Return** for the previous year
4. Have a total stock of at least 2,000 DSE
OR sell more than £5,000 of agricultural products
5. Be prepared to **sign** a participation agreement

NOTE: Full details on eligibility can be found in the draft Programme Handbook





STRUCTURE

The Land Recovery Programme will be comprise four layers.
Some are required (gold), others are partly or wholly optional (blue).

COLLABORATION

INFRASTRUCTURE



HABITAT IMPROVEMENT



RESILIENT FARMLAND



WHOLE FARM PLAN





LAYER 1 WHOLE FARM PLAN

PURPOSE

- The Whole Farm Plan provides the foundation for the Programme's delivery on enrolled properties
- Evaluate farm and **land condition**
- Inform recovery and management actions

REQUIREMENTS

- Work with the DoA on a "Whole Farm Plan" that
 1. Maps natural and cultural resources
 2. Tracks stocking levels
 3. Identifies land condition risks and opportunities
- Whole Farm Plan components will be introduced incrementally and with support from the DoA
- Monitoring will, where possible, align with existing certification schemes and avoid duplication

PAYMENT

- Flat annual payment - £1,000





LAYER 2 RESILIENT FARMLAND

PURPOSE

- Facilitate **regenerative grazing** practices
- Recover degraded and/or less productive areas

REQUIREMENTS

- Designate at least 5% of farm's **effective grazing area**
- Stock at agreed **regenerative** levels (0.3 DSE / ha)
- Maintain minimum 90-day **rest/spelling** periods
- Establish **benchmark** reference plots
- **Track** pasture/habitat condition using simple indicators of grazing land health
- Demonstrate long-term **improvement** in land condition relative to benchmark areas

PAYMENT

- **Area-based** funding (£2 - £15 per hectare)
 - Depends on priority/condition
- Capped at £10,000 per farm per year





LAYER 3 HABITAT IMPROVEMENT

PURPOSE

- **Action-based** funding to promote farm biodiversity
- Targeted to specific **ecosystem services**

REQUIREMENTS

- Participants must deliver at least ONE Habitat Improvement action
 - Nature Areas – designate one or more areas of **priority habitat** to manage for biodiversity
 - Active restoration of priority habitats

PAYMENT

- Biodiversity Priority: £10 - £15 per hectare supplement to Resilient Farmland payment
- Active Restoration: budgeted project costs



LAYER 4 (optional) COLLABORATION



PURPOSE

- Encourage planning at larger scales and across property boundaries (e.g. river catchments)

REQUIREMENTS

- Two or more collaborating farms under separate ownership AND/OR clearly separate management
- Co-designate adjoining Resilient Farmland areas on each property
- Collaborate on Habitat Improvement projects to effect change at larger scales

PAYMENT

- Supplement of £2 per hectare supplement to all relevant area-based payments
- Boundary management plan – one-off £500





LAYER 4 (optional) INFRASTRUCTURE

PURPOSE

- Support fencing and other infrastructure necessary to deliver agreed management

REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants must meet requirements of Layers 1-3
- Fencing/infrastructure funding request agreed

PAYMENT

- Materials - £1,800 per km
- Labour - £15 per hour
- Freight and transport costs
- Programme-level cap of 10% of total budget





MONITORING

Monitoring is critical to demonstrate the scheme's achievements and to inform adjustment of on-farm management to meet goals.

Monitoring will include:

- Recording stocking rates and patterns
- Remote-sensing of habitat cover and land condition
- Ground-based collaborative monitoring
- Periodic verification audits
- Annual feedback and regular reporting to participants

BUILDING A COLLABORATIVE EXTENSION ETHOS

Collaborative on-farm monitoring means working together. The Programme will emphasise “**with, not for**” where advisors are available to assist farms to implement, report and interpret monitoring.



COMPLIANCE

Investment of public money needs to ensure there is transparency around the **effective use of funds and fair assessment** of delivery.

A Land Recovery Programme will include 1) an annual cross-compliance audit; and 2) periodic progress verification visits.

These processes will provide an opportunity to:

1. Ensure participants adhere to the programme's requirement
2. Review land recovery progress with DoA advisors
3. Plan future funding applications
4. Verify agreed or funded projects have been completed





CROSS COMPLIANCE

Cross-compliance means adhering to rules **across** financial payments, legal requirements and programme conditions. Cross-compliance is a key consideration for ongoing participation and funding

Participants **must** agree to abide by:

- Six indicators of farm agricultural condition
- Falklands legislation and policies, such as, but not limited to:
 - Animals (Welfare and Protection) Ordinance 2016
 - Conservation of Wildlife and Nature Ordinance 1999
 - Grass Fire Ordinance 2002
 - Plant Disease Regulation Ordinance 1944
 - Livestock and Meat Products Regulations 2015





ADDING VALUE

Sustainable Falklands Farming

There is growing international demand for “regenerative” wool. Major wool buyers have encouraged the Falklands to develop or join such a designation.

LRP participants will accumulate points towards status and help build the unique Falklands wool “brand”.



REGENERATIVE





GLOSSARY

- **Agricultural Return:** Annual information submitted by farmers describing livestock numbers, production, land use and farming activity. All farms in the Falklands are legally required to submit an annual return.
- **Area-based payment:** A payment calculated from the area of land enrolled and managed under programme requirements. Awarded annually based on meeting enrolment criteria.
- **Action-based payment:** A payment awarded to allow the completion of specific management, restoration or monitoring activities. Awarded in advance of planned activities.
- **Benchmark:** A small, fixed, ungrazed reference area used as a baseline against which to compare changes in land condition within a particular enrolled area.
- **DSE (Dry Sheep Equivalent):** A standard unit of measurement used to compare the feed and energy requirements of different classes and species of livestock.
- **Ecosystem Services:** The direct and indirect contributions of nature to human well-being. They include services that provide direct income/production but also those that support nature and society.



GLOSSARY

- **Effective Grazing Area:** The area of land realistically available for livestock grazing, excluding inaccessible or non-grazeable ground.
- **Land condition:** The health, quality and productivity of land, including vegetation cover, grazing quality, soil stability and ecological function.
- **Management control:** Responsibility to make day-to-day decisions about how land is managed.
- **Priority habitat:** A habitat of environmental importance due to conservation and/or production value.
- **Regenerative grazing:** Planned livestock grazing that supports pasture recovery, soil health, carbon sequestration, biodiversity and long-term ecosystem resilience.
- **Secure tenure:** A legal right to manage land with sufficient certainty to support long-term investment.



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