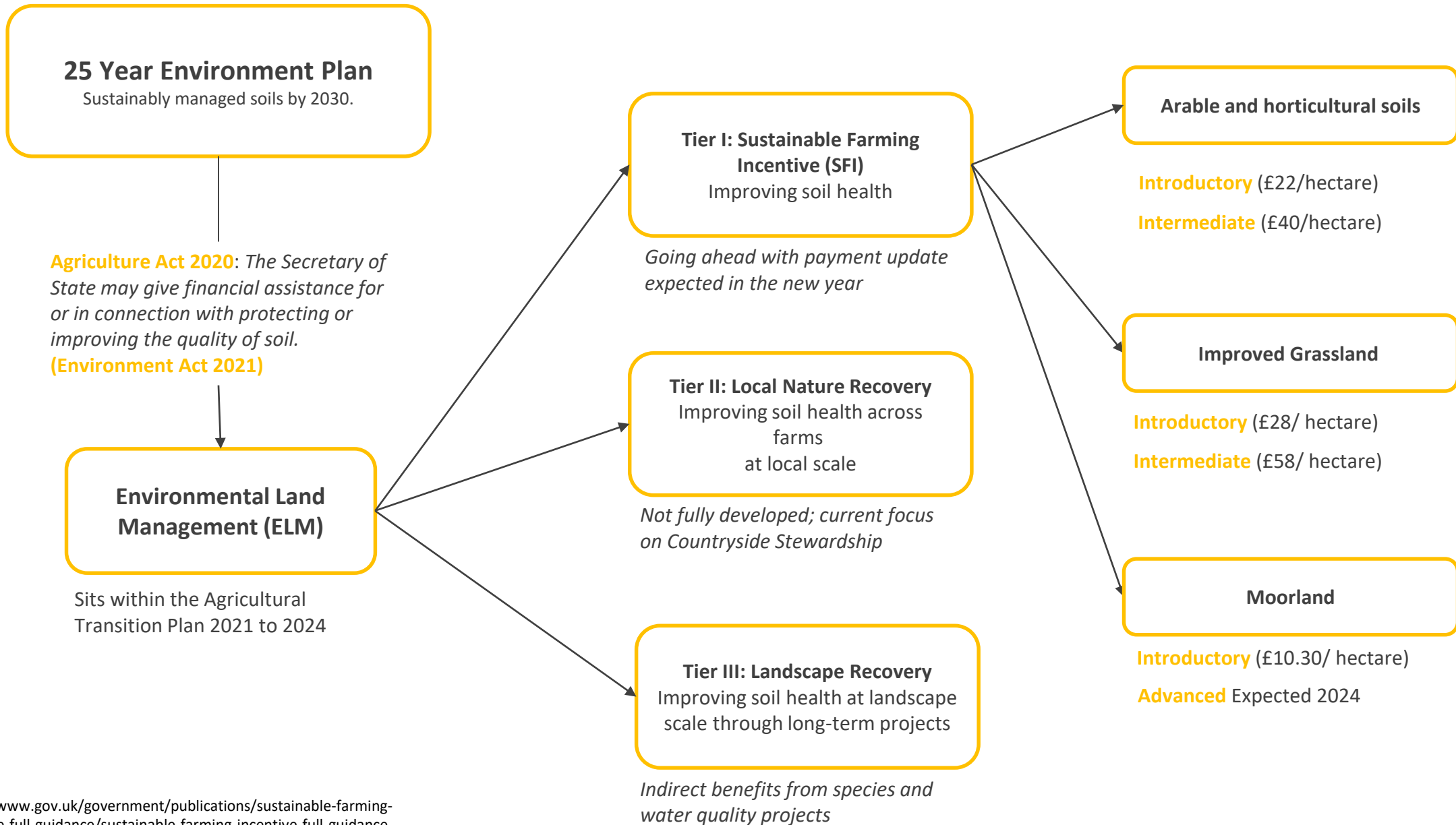


Policy context for Soil in Environmental Land Management (ELM)



Sustainable Farming Incentive – actions and payments

Arable and horticultural soils

Introductory (£22/hectare)

- Complete a soil assessment and produce a soil management plan
- Test soil organic matter
- Add organic matter to all land in the standard at least once during the 3-year SFI standards agreement
- Have green cover on at least 70% of land in the standard over winter

Intermediate (£40/hectare)

- First 3 introductory measures +
- Have green cover on at least 50% of land in this level of the standard over winter and multi-species cover crops on an additional 20% of the land

Improved Grassland

Introductory (£28/hectare)

- Complete a soil assessment and produce a soil management plan
- Test soil organic matter
- Minimise bare ground by having no more than 5% of the total area of land entered into the standard left bare over winter

Intermediate (£58/hectare)

- All Introductory measures
- Establish and maintain herbal leys on at least 15% of land in this level of the standard
- Advanced standard expected 2023

Moorland

Introductory (£10.30/hectare)

- Identify and record the soil and vegetation types and condition, and presence of historic and archaeological features
- Assess the public goods the moorland is already providing
- Identify opportunities to maintain or enhance the public goods provided by the moorland

Example guidance on the actions

Produce soil management plan

- soil type, structure and composition
- risks and problems that need to be addressed
- how you currently manage the area
- proposed management actions to improve soil health

Test and add organic matter

- take soil samples and analyse, which will usually be done by a commercial laboratory
- apply organic manure
- use green manures, catch crops or cover crops
- chop or leave, or incorporate, straw
- introduce grass or herbal leys into an arable rotation
- include legume species or legume rich mixes in rotations

Details of soil actions found via

- AHDB characteristics of different soils
- Natural England's Technical Information Note about soil texture
- Environment Agency's 'think soils'
- SRUC Visual Evaluation of Soil Structure (VESS)