

Statement on Agriculture (Wales) white paper

Rural heritage in Wales is under threat from Government proposals to introduce a new Sustainable Farming Scheme for Wales (SFS). Unlike previous agri-environment programmes, the SFS does not include provision for the historic environment.

This means that farmers would not be eligible to receive payments for works which contribute to the delivery of heritage or landscape outcomes, like repairing stone walls, maintaining archaeological sites, or adopting agricultural practices less likely to harm sites.

We believe that the historic environment is an integral part of the rural environment where natural and cultural heritage exist within working landscapes. Farmers and other land managers are stewards of this resource, maintaining the character of the land for the benefit of current and future generations.

We have strongly supported the development of a new post-Brexit system for agricultural subsidy based on the delivery of environmental public goods by land managers. We believe that outcomes which conserve or enhance cultural landscapes and archaeological features *must* be included in this new system.

CIfA, CBA, and the Welsh Archaeological Trusts will be urging Government to alter its proposals and build on the successes of 20 years of protection for rural heritage under agri-environment schemes. We must not accept this needless backsliding on the protection of the historic environment.

We will be strongly objecting to the proposals in responses to the [current consultation](#) (closes 26 March). We expect that an Agriculture (Wales) Bill will be introduced into the Senedd later this year.

We are asking all interested individuals to write to their Senedd representatives to raise these concerns and urge them to include the historic environment within the new Sustainable Farming Scheme.

For further information about CIfA's campaign and for details on how you can support CIfA advocacy, [click here](#) or email rob.lennox@archaeologists.net.