



# SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

## Welcome to our May Newsletter

We wanted to share a quick update: we are just about to submit the project documentation to DEFRA and will shortly move into the next phase over the summer.

This marks an important point as we return to discussions with you and begin shaping what delivery could look like on the ground.

Following submission, we'll enter a period of responding to DEFRA queries and refining the detail to secure the best possible outcome for your farms. If the project is approved, the earliest agreements are likely to be offered in around five months time. While that may feel a little way off, it will move quickly, and the sign-up window may be relatively short (potentially around a month).

This next stage is therefore key in helping you feel informed and prepared.

## Actions for you and your farm

### Farm visits – June & July

During June and July, Dave will arrange a 2–3 hour visit to your farm to walk through your land management plan together. Following the visit, there will be time to refine and adjust plans based on your feedback. While further site visits are unlikely due to time constraints, both Dave and Jaclyn will be available by phone and email throughout.

### Please prepare in advance in May & June

To make the most of your farm visit, we'd really encourage you to use May to prepare:

- Confirm who should attend (tenants and successors) and find diary times which are good for you all, let Dave know.
- Revisit your land management and walk your farm to think about how best to use the visit time.
- Review the updated Management Options Handbook and template payment spreadsheet. **These will be attached in a follow-up email from us shortly.** This will help you to understand potential income and how you would phase work (income remains confidential between you and the SisB project).
- Think about how you might evidence delivery (e.g. photos or simple records) — we're aiming to keep this straightforward.
- Raise any wider questions early with the Duchy of Cornwall or Isle of Scilly Wildlife Trust (IoSWT) (e.g. neighbouring land or non-SisB matters), so you have clarity ahead of Dave's visit.

**A quick reminder - There is no obligation to sign up.** This stage is about ensuring you have the information you need to make the right decision for your farm. While Dave will only be able to carry out one site visit per farm, we will continue to support you throughout this period and you can continue to email and call anytime. We will also organise a get together in late summer to provide an update all together in person.

## A few words from the Farmers and Growers Initiative:



Farmers and Growers Initiative. From left Kylie Carter, Issy Tibbs, Jess Vian and Ben Julian

Working with the Small is Beautiful project, we have made fantastic progress in 2026, bringing collaboration and confidence to the local agricultural community. From strengthening connections to supporting sustainable practices, the momentum is clear. Looking ahead, there are exciting opportunities to build on this success, particularly through upcoming FiPL funding, which will support environmental improvements, diversification, and resilience.

With continued partnership and ambition, the future for Scilly's farmers and growers looks full of potential. If you have ideas or feedback on the Farmers and Growers Initiative, please contact Issy, Jess or Kylie.



Project staff Jaclyn and Dave, surveying on Tresco

# What this means for now: Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) options available while we progress Landscape Recovery

SFI options through DEFRA remain available whilst we continue progressing the Landscape Recovery project through the development phase. We want to keep you updated on where things stand and the options available to you in the meantime. You can apply for SFI in 2026 if you wish.

This may provide useful short-term income while we await the outcome of the Landscape Recovery application.

## Things you may wish to consider;

- It's important to note that the Small is Beautiful Landscape Recovery project is not yet guaranteed to proceed into delivery. We are working towards submission and approval, and will keep you updated on progress over the summer (newsletters and individually) and hold an in person get together, likely in September.
- SFI and Landscape Recovery cannot be paid on the same land at the same time. If the project does move into implementation, any SFI agreements on land entering the project would need to be amended or removed to avoid double funding. This will be managed as part of the transition, and no action is needed now.
- In some cases, there may be flexibility to keep boundary actions (such as hedges or walls) in SFI, if those boundaries are kept outside of the Landscape Recovery project area.
- If you currently have Capital Grants or Countryside Stewardship agreements, there is likely to be a short transition period (around 3 months) once Landscape Recovery starts, allowing you to complete and claim for any outstanding works.
- Once land enters the Landscape Recovery project, it will not be eligible for new SFI or capital grant applications.

We'll keep you updated and support you as more detail becomes available.

You can also contact the Farmers and Growers Initiative team, Jess, Kylie and Issy, at any time.

## Raise any wider questions early with the Duchy of Cornwall or IoSWT

To make the most of Dave's farm visit, please prepare during May and June - please raise any non- SisB queries in advance so you can inform Dave on his visit.

### Duchy of Cornwall:

Anything on the farm that is not to do with this project, please contact Twiga in the first instance.

Twiga will be able to assist (examples may be Farm Succession, new regenerative FBTs, Farm improvements) or she will let you know if this is something that SisB might help with at a later date.

#### Get in touch:

Twiga Drewett – Rural Estate Surveyor

[tdrewett@duchyofcornwall.org](mailto:tdrewett@duchyofcornwall.org)

07469 372738 | 01720 422508



DUCHY of CORNWALL

### Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust (IoSWT):

Please do get in touch if you'd like to discuss any adjacent land management or shared opportunities that may influence your farm planning. We're happy to support these conversations at this stage so you have what you need to move forward.

#### Get in touch:

e. [hello@ios-wildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:hello@ios-wildlifetrust.org.uk)

[01720 422153](tel:01720422153)



# Scilly Bee reintroduction – upcoming community consultation events

The Scilly Bee (*Bombus muscorum scyllonius*) is an iconic bumblebee which is presumed extinct from the Isles of Scilly, following the last confirmed sighting back in 2012. Since then, multiple searches have taken place, but no further individuals have been seen. It is believed that this bee has been lost from the landscape as a result of the decrease in the quality and quantity of appropriate flower-rich habitat across the islands, following the decline of informal coastal grazing in the 1960s.

The Scilly Bee is a variant of the Moss Carder Bee, a species associated with flower-rich habitat. Small is Beautiful will be working to restore this vital habitat across the islands which will benefit many different types of pollinating insects including bees, butterflies, flies and beetles as well as a whole host of other wildlife.

Buglife is working with the SiB team to undertake some community consultation events across the islands in mid May and we would very much like for you to get involved!

Come and join us at one of our events and let us know your thoughts on the Scilly Bee and what it means to you.

All information can be found on this poster! →

buglife.org.uk

The Scilly Bee (*Bombus muscorum scyllonius*) is an iconic bumblebee which is presumed extinct from the Isles of Scilly, but what does that mean and is there anything more we can do to support its possible return?

## What's the buzz about the Scilly Bee?

Join Buglife, as part of Small is Beautiful, for one of our on island events. Learn more about this iconic island bee, let us know your thoughts on the Scilly Bee and what it means to you!

**Location:** The Turks Head, St Agnes  
**Date:** Monday 11 May  
**Time:** 15:00 - 16:00

**Location:** Abbey Gardens Courtyard, Tresco  
**Date:** Tuesday 12 May  
**Time:** 10:00 - 13:00

**Location:** Community Centre, Bryher  
**Date:** Tuesday 12 May  
**Time:** 15:30 - 17:30

**Location:** The Island Hall, St Martin's  
**Date:** Wednesday 13 May  
**Time:** 10:00 - 12:00

**Location:** Quay House, St Mary's  
**Date:** Thursday 14 May  
**Time:** 12:30 - 14:00

**Come along and share your thoughts!**

buglife

Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust

Buglife - The Invertebrate Conservation Trust is a company limited by guarantee, Registered in England at Allia Future Business Centre, London Road, Peterborough, PE2 8AN. Company No. 04132695 Registered Charity No. 1092293 Scottish Charity No. SC040004

No need to book, just drop in and join us for a chat!

## Stay in touch

If you have any questions or would like to discuss any of the topics in this newsletter, please get in touch:

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