Countryside Stewardship: Arable Offer

Helping pollinators and farmland wildlife thrive

Search for ‘Wildlife Offers’ on GOV.UK

Cover image © A L Drewitt
What is the Arable Offer?
The Arable Offer is a package of selected Countryside Stewardship (CS) options. It’s designed to help farmers and landowners choose different ways to provide year round habitats that will help pollinators, farmland birds, and other farm wildlife to thrive.

It’s now quicker and easier to apply:
• use the Rural Payments service to apply online
• the Arable Offer is non-competitive
• if you meet minimum eligibility requirements you will get funding.

The Government has confirmed that it will guarantee funding for Countryside Stewardship grants if they are:
• agreed and signed before 31 December 2020
• good value for money
• they are in line with domestic strategic priorities.

What are the benefits?
CS Arable Offer options provide:
• a range of options so you can pick those most relevant to your farm business and local priorities
• improved nectar sources for insect pollinators and foraging for birds
• additional winter-food sources for seed-eating birds
• improved habitats and other resources for specific species or areas.

The Arable Offer helps a farm business provide for the needs of farmland birds; helps pollinators to carry out their essential services of pollinating flowers and crops; it also helps to protect water courses.

By selecting the Arable Offer you will be building on the positive environmental work that many farm businesses have already undertaken.

In return, you’ll receive an annual payment for 5 years. The amount you receive depends on the options you choose.
Am I eligible?
To be eligible:

- your land must be registered on the Rural Payments Service to your Single Business Identifier (SBI) before starting your application
- your land must be registered as arable or temporary grassland. (You can include permanent grassland, but only hedgerow options can be located on these parcels)
- your chosen options must cover at least 3% of the farmed land in your agreement
- you must have full management control of the land for 5 years
- you must meet any minimum requirement for each category.

You won’t be eligible to apply for the Arable Offer using an SBI which has land:

- in an Environmental Stewardship agreement that ends after 1 January 2020
- subject to an Inheritance Tax exemption agreement with HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC)
- with a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or Scheduled Monument (SM).

If your SBI is not eligible for the Arable Offer, or you want to do more than the options available such as capital works, management of organics, wetlands or other habitats, then you are advised to apply for CS Mid Tier or CS Higher Tier.

SBIs with more than 100 parcels will not be able to apply online for the Arable Offer. Applicants should request a paper application form.

The Arable Offer is non-competitive.

If you meet the minimum eligibility requirements you will get funding

Dates for your diary:

Applications open on Rural Payments from:

2019
18 Feb

Application deadline:

2019
31 July
Useful Information

Look for the ticks that show what you need to choose in each category.

Read the CS Wildlife Offer guidance available on GOV.UK before you start your application.

The Wildlife Offers are:
- Quick and easy
- Non-competitive
- Options that support local wildlife

How to apply

Choose your offer
Create an application online
Choose the land you want to include
Choose your options
Check you have completed your application including the declaration and submit

Gather any evidence and complete your Farm Environment Record (FER)

Make sure you read the Countryside Stewardship Mid Tier and CS Offers for Wildlife Manual (especially Chapters 5, 6 & 7 and Annex 1)

Which options do I choose?

You can complete an application with as few as 3 options, one from each of the 3 categories. However, you can choose as many of the 11 options as you like. The more you choose, the higher the total payment you will receive and the better for wildlife.

All options are paid on every hectare used, unless shown differently.

Important: check that your land is eligible, for more information go to: www.gov.uk/countryside-stewardship-grants

Category 1 – (select at least one) Improve nectar and pollen sources for insect pollinators and insect-rich foraging birds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Payment per ha, per year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AB1</td>
<td>minimum 1% or 1 ha per 100 ha of farmed land</td>
<td>Nectar flower mix</td>
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<tr>
<td>AB8</td>
<td>minimum 1% or 1 ha per 100 ha of farmed land</td>
<td>Flower-rich margins and plots</td>
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Category 2 – (you must select this) Introduce additional winter-food sources for seed-eating birds

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<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Payment per ha, per year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AB9</td>
<td>minimum 2% or 2 ha per 100 ha of farmed land</td>
<td>Winter bird mix</td>
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Category 3 – (select at least one; no minimum quantity) Improve habitats and other resources for specific species

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Payment per ha, per year</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BE3</td>
<td>Management of hedgerows</td>
<td>£8/100m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB4</td>
<td>Skylark plots</td>
<td>£18 (£9 per plot, min 2 plots per ha)</td>
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<tr>
<td>AB5</td>
<td>Nesting plots for lapwing and stone curlew</td>
<td>£524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB6</td>
<td>Enhanced overwinter stubble</td>
<td>£436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB11</td>
<td>Cultivated areas for arable plants</td>
<td>£532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB12</td>
<td>Supplementary winter feeding for farmland birds (per tonne for every 2 ha of AB9 Winter bird food)</td>
<td>£632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW1</td>
<td>4m to 6m buffer strip on cultivated land</td>
<td>£353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WT2</td>
<td>Buffering in-field ponds and ditches on arable land</td>
<td>£501</td>
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How can I apply?

Apply online signing in using the link on the Rural Payments Agency page on GOV.UK: https://www.gov.uk/claim-rural-payments

If you cannot apply online, call 03000 200 301 to discuss your options.

Search for ‘Wildlife Offers’ on GOV.UK
More information

What other Wildlife Offers are available?
The Wildlife Offers have been designed to help you choose the right options for your farm, and make it easier and simpler to apply for a Countryside Stewardship agreement. There are 3 other Wildlife Offers:

- Lowland Grazing Offer
- Mixed Farming Offer
- Upland Offer

For more information, go to GOV.UK and search for ‘Wildlife Offers’.

What else is available under Countryside Stewardship?
There are 3 main parts to the Countryside Stewardship scheme. These are:

- Mid Tier
- Higher Tier
- Capital only grants

and include woodland support and water capital.

For more information about these schemes, go to GOV.UK and search for ‘Countryside Stewardship’.

Which options are best for your farm?
There are many different options available to help you improve the natural environment on your farm. The CS online grant finder helps you find the right option for you: visit [www.gov.uk/countryside-stewardship-grants](http://www.gov.uk/countryside-stewardship-grants)

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