



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



The European  
Agricultural Fund for  
Rural Development:  
Europe investing in  
rural areas

# Countryside Stewardship: Mid Tier

Helping to enhance and protect the natural  
environment



**Countryside  
Stewardship**

Protecting the natural  
environment for future  
generations



**Countryside  
Stewardship**

Mid Tier



Search for 'Countryside Stewardship Mid Tier' on GOV.UK

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## What is Mid Tier Countryside Stewardship?

It provides a range of options and capital items that together help to deliver a broad range of environmental benefits. The main priority is to protect and enhance the natural environment, in particular the diversity of wildlife and water quality.

The scheme is competitive which means that your application will be scored against other applications. This is because applications are assessed to determine which ones offer the best results for the environment in your local area, and the best value for money.

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
- in line with domestic strategic priorities

Countryside Stewardship Mid Tier offers:

- Management options: these are multi-year grants with payments made every year for 5 years
- Capital items: a range of 2 year grants for specific capital works and water capital only grants.

## What are the benefits?

The Countryside Stewardship Mid Tier management options and capital items provide the following benefits.

**Wildlife and nature** – restoring habitats, providing food and nesting places, creating areas for rare flowering plants and managing hedges.

**Water/flooding** – making water cleaner and reducing the risk of flooding by encouraging changes to farming practice and improving farm infrastructure.

**Pollinators** – ensuring the right resources for the wild pollinators where they are needed most.

**Other priorities** – historic environment, landscape character, genetic conservation, educational access and climate change adaptation and mitigation.



## Am I eligible?

### To be eligible:

- you must be registered on the Rural Payments service
- your land must be registered on the Rural Payments service to your Single Business Identifier (SBI) before you start your application
- your land must be:
  - arable land, permanent grassland or permanent crops
  - Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
  - Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), including proposed SACs
  - Special Protection Areas (SPA) including proposed SPAs
  - Ramsar sites
  - a terrestrial Priority Habitat
  - land that supports a Priority Species

You must have full management control of the land for 5 years from the start of your agreement.

Land is not eligible if it is:

- developed land and hard standing, this includes permanent caravan sites and areas used for permanent storage. The exceptions to this rule are:

- traditional farm buildings that are eligible for grants under Countryside Stewardship; and
  - yards, tracks and farm buildings proposed for management through Countryside Stewardship capital items.
- an area (1ha or more) of permanent standing or running water
  - already used in another scheme or obligation that is incompatible with Countryside Stewardship.

### Dates for your diary:

**Applications open on Rural Payments from:**



**Deadline to request an application pack on Rural Payments:**



**Application deadline:**



## Useful information



**Read** the full guidance available on GOV.UK before you start your application.

**Check** you are registered on the Rural Payments service, and that the land parcels you want to include in your application are registered and linked to your SBI.



**Check** what you can apply for using the GOV.UK Grant Finder.

If your holding is in a High Water Quality Priority Area, contact your local Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer (CSFO) for advice 31 May.

## What can I apply for?

There are several different multi-year options and capital items that you can apply for under Countryside Stewardship Mid Tier. To work out what is best for you and your business, use the Countryside Stewardship: Online grant finder at <https://www.gov.uk/countryside-stewardship-grants>.

The grant finder gives a description of each option or capital item, with its eligibility requirements and what is required to implement it successfully. It also outlines the payment rate of each option.

## How do I apply?

### New for 2019

- Request your application pack using the Rural Payments service. Fill in your application, then email it to us.
- You may not need to submit all your evidence with your application. Read the Countryside Stewardship Mid Tier manual for more information.

Request an application pack from 18 February 2019 by signing in to the Rural Payments service at [www.ruralpayments.service.gov.uk](http://www.ruralpayments.service.gov.uk)

If you cannot get online, call us on 03000 200 301 before 31 May 2019 and we'll help you.

Once you receive your application pack, it is your responsibility to complete it fully and accurately and submit it by 31 July 2019.

## How to apply



**Request your application pack on Rural Payments by 31 May 2019**

1



**Choose which options and capital items to apply for**

2



**Start your application**

3



**Request any approvals, endorsements, consents and permissions**

4



**Complete and check your application and submit it, including any supporting documents by 31 July 2019**

**Countryside Stewardship**

Mid Tier

**For more information search for 'Countryside Stewardship Mid Tier' on GOV.UK**

## More information

For more information, go to GOV.UK and search for 'Countryside Stewardship Mid Tier'.

### What else is available under Countryside Stewardship?

he other main parts of the Countryside Stewardship scheme are:

- **Higher Tier** – is for land that requires more complex management tailored to the individual site
- **The 4 Wildlife Offers** – provide funding through a simpler set of options to help farmers improve the wildlife on their farm, increase year round habitats and help pollinators to thrive. The offers have been designed to help farmers choose the right options for their farmland and make it easier and simpler to apply for a Countryside Stewardship agreement. The offers are:
  - Arable Offer
  - Lowland Grazing Offer
  - Upland Offer
  - Mixed Farming Offer.
- **Capital Grants** – a range of 2 year grants including Hedgerows and Boundaries Grant, Woodland Management Plans, Woodland Creation Grant and Woodland Tree Health Grant.
- **Facilitation Fund** - supports individuals and organisations working with local groups of farmers and land managers to co-ordinate their environmental land management.

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