



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

Countryside Stewardship: update

2015

This publication was withdrawn on 25 June 2015

■ Countryside Stewardship Update

This update:

- explains how the scheme fits together;
- explains what current holders of agreements under previous schemes can apply for; and
- describes when applications can be made.

The full scheme Manual is being developed and will be published as soon as possible.

■ Introduction

Countryside Stewardship provides incentives for land managers to look after their environment. From 2015 it will be open to all eligible farmers, woodland owners, foresters and other land managers through a competitive application process.

Unlike previous schemes most elements of Countryside Stewardship are competitive, which means that not everyone who applies will be successful. It will support environmental improvements in the wider countryside. Targeting and scoring will encourage applicants to choose options that help achieve the environmental priorities in their local area.

The main priority for Countryside Stewardship is to protect and enhance the natural environment, in particular the diversity of wildlife (biodiversity). Water quality is another important priority. Other outcomes include:

- flood management;
- the historic environment;
- landscape character;
- genetic conservation; and
- educational access.

The scheme will be jointly run by Natural England, Forestry Commission England and the Rural Payments Agency on behalf of Defra. All supporting scheme guidance material will be on GOV.UK.

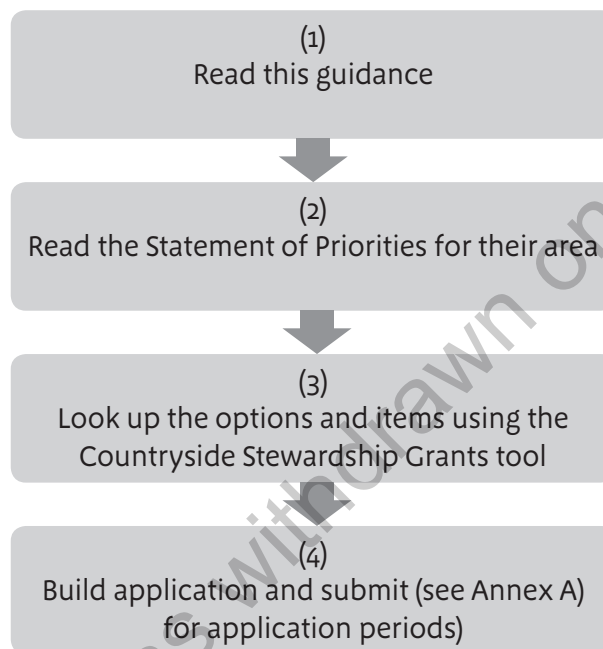
■ What can be done now?

Before applying for Countryside Stewardship, all applicants (including those who have had agreements with previous schemes) must:

- 1 Register on the [Rural Payments service](#), if not already registered;
- 2 Check their personal and business details on the Rural Payments service;

Read published information

Successful applications will comprise options and capital items that best fit the environmental priorities set out in the 159 [Statements of Priorities](#) covering all of England. To find out what that might mean for an applicant follow these steps using the guidance on [GOV.UK](#):



Support and guidance

All scheme guidance material is provided on [GOV.UK](#). For the Higher Tier one-to-one advice and support is available from Natural England field advisers and Forestry Commission woodland officers.

Advice may also be obtained from [Catchment Sensitive Farming Officers \(CSFO\)](#), who operate in catchments around the country where diffuse pollution from agriculture is a priority.

Support will also be made available for those options which are difficult to control and verify such as livestock options and options which require reduced or no inputs of fertilisers or pesticides.

A range of support is available to applicants who are unable to get online by calling the Rural Payments helpline on 03000 200 301.

■ How it works

There are three main elements.

- 1 **Mid Tier:** multi-year agreements for environmental improvements in the wider countryside;
- 2 **Higher Tier:** multi-year agreements for environmentally significant sites, commons and woodlands where more complex management requires delivery body support; and
- 3 **Capital Grants:** a range of 1-2 year grants for hedgerows and boundaries, improving water quality, developing plans, woodland creation (establishment), and tree health.

Most elements of the scheme are competitive, and applications will be scored. More detail of the scoring process will be provided in the Manual.

There is funding for facilitation to support landscape scale environmental outcomes.

Choosing options and capital items

The scheme offers a range of management options and one-off payments towards the costs of certain capital items or activities. These can be applied for in different combinations to create an agreement.

Applicants can review the options and items available using the Countryside Stewardship Grants tool. Through this applicants can filter the complete list of options and items according to their availability by scheme element, land use or value, and can access full details about what each requires. The greatest range is available through the Higher Tier.

Applicants should select options and items that are most closely aligned to the environmental priorities for their area, as described in the Statements of Priorities. These cover the whole of England. Applicants should use these to:

- identify the priority features and issues targeted in their area
- help choose which options to include as part of an application

To help develop a competitive application the scheme also offers:

- the Wild Pollinator and Farm Wildlife Package (details at Annex B). This helps applicants select the ideal combination of options for farm wildlife; and
- two tables of options and capital items that can address water quality issues (Annex C) to help assist option choice where water quality issues need addressing.

Agreement duration and claims

All Mid Tier and most Higher Tier agreements will last 5 years. Some Higher Tier agreements may be longer (see table 1 below) and the duration can be discussed with the allocated adviser. Capital agreements may be shorter.

Payments for land management options need to be claimed annually. Capital payments can be claimed once the work is completed and paid for or, as part of a multi-year agreement, in stages according to the schedule in the agreement (interim claims must be a minimum of £500).

Table 1: Situations where an agreement greater than 5 years may be offered

| What the agreement is for | Examples | Rationale |
|---|--|--|
| Water/wetland habitats | Coastal re-alignment, wetlands, salt marsh creation, peat restoration, blanket bog | These require complex changes in water flow and retention, which have long-term impacts on the environmental conditions and land use. Potential duration 10 or 20 years |
| Land subject to complex tenure arrangements | Upland and lowland commons | The negotiation process amongst the interested parties is often complex, contentious and time-consuming but secures significant environmental outcomes in areas of high environmental importance. Duration 10 years. |
| Woodland creation | | Maintenance support will be for 10 years to ensure the establishment of the trees planted. |

Support for Organic Farming

The scheme provides 11 options that are only available to organic farmers and land managers. These include options for conversion to organic status and to maintain organic land status once fully converted. Other scheme options and items can be run in conjunction with organic systems if they are compatible with organic status.

To access conversion support applicants should be registered with an [Organic Certification Body](#). In addition:

- applicants will have to be registered with the RPA as an active farmer on [Rural Payments](#);
- land parcels must be in the 1st year of conversion; and
- these parcels must not have been entered for conversion in the past by the same farm business.

Applications for organic conversion and maintenance options are not competitive. All eligible applicants will be offered the relevant conversion and maintenance options subject to budget availability.

■ When to Apply

Some elements of the scheme can be applied for at any time of the year whilst others have set periods when applications can be submitted. The table at [Annex A](#) provides details of the application periods for 2015.

Some [Woodland Capital Grants](#) and [Water Capital Grants](#) are already open for applications for a limited period in 2015 so there are funding opportunities throughout the year. These will be incorporated into the Mid Tier, Higher Tier and Capital Grant elements of Countryside Stewardship from July 2015 onwards.

[Funding for Facilitation](#) is also already open for applications from people or businesses to help land managers work together to deliver Countryside Stewardship priorities across landscapes.

■ Relationship with the Basic Payment Scheme

Cross-checks will be made against Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) claims to ensure the management proposed under Countryside Stewardship is compatible with the BPS land use entered for each land parcel.

We are not allowed to pay twice for the same activity on land (known as double funding). To avoid double funding nineteen Countryside Stewardship options will have their payment rate reduced where the land is also used to meet Ecological Focus Area (EFA) requirements for BPS. The reduced rate only applies for the years where the land is declared for EFA. These options are shown in [Annex D](#).

Owners who are claiming BPS on their holding and who are interested in establishing new woodland will still be able to claim BPS on the land being planted under Countryside Stewardship, provided that the area concerned was used to activate Single Payment Scheme entitlement in 2008. Maintenance payments will be available for ten years following planting to assist with the cost of establishing the trees. BPS will only be available for the duration of the woodland creation agreement.

Cross Compliance

Cross compliance rules apply to Countryside Stewardship agreements. This means that applicants agree to:

- maintain their land in Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC) by meeting a range of standards that relate to the protection of soils, habitats and landscape features and water; and
- meet a range of Statutory Management Requirements (SMRs) covering the environment, public and plant health, animal health and welfare, and livestock identification and tracing.

Applicants must comply with cross compliance requirements across all of their agricultural land, including land declared for BPS (whether it is claimed or not) and common land over which they exercise or hold rights of common. GAEC does not apply to land that meets the definition of woodland unless the owner:

- is declaring the woodland as 'grazing land' and claiming BPS on it;
- has planted new woodland since 2008 and is claiming BPS as well as Farm Woodland payment (FWP) or CS Woodland Creation Maintenance.

SMRs are applicable to woodland receiving multi-annual payments (such as Woodland Improvement or Woodland Creation Maintenance). Woodland is defined as 0.5ha in size, minimum 20m width, comprised of trees that are (or have the potential to reach) 5m in height and 20% or more canopy cover.

■ Relationship with Existing Schemes

In most cases applications cannot be made for an agreement on a land parcel or feature that will already be funded under another scheme when the Countryside Stewardship agreement begins.

However it may be possible to apply for Countryside Stewardship on other parcels and areas of the holding. Some possible combinations are explained in the tables at [Annex E](#).

■ How to Apply

The following section explains how the different elements of the scheme operate.

For Mid Tier and Higher Tier an applicant can only submit one application per beneficiary per year. For those that have already applied for woodland creation, any associated land based woodland creation maintenance option will be included as part of any application later for that year. That single application may result in more than one agreement, for example when a single beneficiary's holding covers more than one property.

Applying for the Mid Tier

The Mid Tier is competitive, which means that not everyone who applies will be successful. It will support environmental improvements in the wider countryside. Targeting and scoring will encourage applicants to choose options that help achieve the environmental priorities in their local area.

The options and capital items available in the Mid Tier are those that require less complex, yet still effective, environmental management. This element does not support woodland management.

Applicants should read the local [Statement of Priorities](#) for their area to see the environmental priorities that will need to be addressed by successful applications and review the options and capital items available through the Mid Tier using the [Countryside Stewardship Grants](#) tool.

A scoring process based on environmental benefit will be used to select successful applicants. Choosing options and items that most closely address the environmental priorities set out in the local Statement of Priorities will lead to the best score. The chance of success will be improved for applicants who:

- are part of a [facilitated group](#);
- who receive endorsement from a [Catchment Sensitive Farming](#) officer; or
- meet the requirements of the [Wild Pollinator and Farm Wildlife Package](#)

The highest scoring applications will be chosen from all those that applied in that application period. Unsuccessful applicants may re-apply the following year.

Applying for the Higher Tier

The Higher Tier is competitive. It is targeted at environmentally significant sites, commons and woodlands that need more complex management and support.

Land managers with Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreements expiring in 2016 may be eligible to apply in 2015 for a Higher Tier agreement. Natural England advisers will contact HLS agreement holders to discuss this opportunity.

Countryside Stewardship has over 240 land management options and capital items available under the Higher Tier; details are available in the [Countryside Stewardship Grants](#) tool. The choice of options and capital items in each agreement will depend on the environmental outcomes to be delivered.

Applicants who are interested in applying for a Higher Tier agreement beginning 1st January 2016 must express interest in applying by 30th June 2015. More details on this process will be published shortly. They will be assessed and those that offer best environmental value will be offered direct support to develop their Higher Tier application.

Applicants who are not successful in securing direct support will be notified and can choose to apply for a Mid Tier agreement instead. Alternatively they can still develop a Higher Tier application after the deadline for expressions of interest, but on the understanding that support from Natural England or the Forestry Commission will be limited.

Higher Tier agreements on agricultural land require a survey of the features to be included in the application. This will be used to set a baseline to inform future monitoring of the agreement. The survey will be done by the Natural England adviser supporting the application, at no cost to the applicant.

For options that improve existing woodland a Forestry Commission approved Woodland Management

Plan will be needed to support applications. The plan will provide the baseline for later evaluations.

All applications will undergo a final assessment at the end of the application development period subject to which successful applicants will be offered an agreement which, if accepted, will start on 1st January in the year following submission.

Applying for capital Items

The scheme offers a range of capital items. These can be combined with land management options or form a separate capital agreement.

Capital agreements can be developed for:

- hedgerows and boundaries;
- woodland management plans;
- woodland tree health – restoration and improvement;
- woodland improvement capital;
- woodland improvement – infrastructure;
- woodland creation;
- water capital; and
- feasibility studies and implementation plans.

For capital agreements there will be a range of application periods, see [Annex A](#).

Successful and unsuccessful applicants will usually be notified shortly after the application period closes.

Hedgerows and Boundaries grants

These will be available from early 2016 onwards. They are for small-scale restoration of boundary features, like hedgerows and stone walls to a maximum of £5,000.

Further guidance will be available later in 2015.

Woodland tree health and management plans

The capital items available to support woodland tree health restoration and woodland tree health improvement can be seen using the [Countryside Stewardship Grants](#) tool.

Woodland tree health restoration supports restocking a woodland following felling due to a tree health issue. Support is only available if trees are infected by [ash dieback](#) or [Phytophthora ramorum](#). Eligibility does not depend on the age of the trees.

Woodland tree health improvement supports removing rhododendron and felling diseased trees. The current eligible tree health issue for felling diseased trees is removal of immature larch infected with [Phytophthora ramorum](#).

A Forestry Commission approved UK Forestry Standard compliant Woodland Management Plan is an eligibility requirement for all Countryside Stewardship agreements on existing woodland. This requirement does not apply where funding is used to address a tree health issue.

The type of plan required depends on the area of woodland being managed:

- less than or equal to 10 ha: a 'small' management plan required; and
- greater than 10ha: full management plan required.

Funding may be available for the development of full Woodland Management Plans for areas over 3ha, through the Woodland Management Plan item.

Woodland improvement

The capital items available to support woodland improvement can be seen using the [Countryside](#)

Stewardship Grants tool. These are available through the Higher Tier.

The support required will be based on a pre-existing Forestry Commission approved Woodland Management Plan.

Woodland improvement capital items support improving the biodiversity of woodland and address water issues through one-off payments toward the cost of certain items or activities.

Woodland improvement infrastructure supports making woodland accessible by road allowing timber and other forest products to be moved more easily.

Applicants can also apply for the multi-year woodland improvement option. This is an annual payment to improve the biodiversity of woodland, address water issues or make it more resilient to climate change.

Woodland creation

The capital items available to support woodland creation can be seen using the Countryside Stewardship Grants tool.

Thresholds apply for the creation of new woodland. In most circumstances these are:

- minimum area per application 3ha;
- minimum block size 0.5ha.

Where woodland creation is clearly identified as part of a suite of actions to address water quality and flood risk issues the thresholds are:

- minimum area per application 1ha;
- minimum block size 0.1ha.

If eligible, applicants can also apply for the woodland creation maintenance option. This is an annual payment to support successful planting of new woodland.

Water Quality

Water quality capital grants for infrastructure work will be available in combination with land management options, or as stand-alone capital agreements.

Farmers and land managers applying for these grants can get advice from CSFOs supporting the Catchment Sensitive Farming programme. Some high value water quality options are only available with CSFO endorsement. Those options can be seen at Annex F. All applications will be assessed and scored against local priorities and those that score highest are more likely to be accepted. Applications endorsed by a CSFO will gain a higher score.

The maximum agreement value will be £10,000. Agreements will last for one year.

Feasibility studies and implementation plans

These will be available from early 2016 onwards. Feasibility studies can be funded to assess the potential success of a proposed project, for example hay meadow restoration.

Implementation plans can also be funded: these detail the activities, costs and timings to achieve a project, for example intertidal habitat creation.

Further information on these options can be found using the Countryside Stewardship Grants tool.

■ Eligibility and Terms and Conditions

Details on scheme eligibility and terms and conditions will be provided in the scheme manual when it is published later in the year.

■ Annex A: Application Periods in 2015

| | Higher Tier (inc. woodland improvement) | Mid-Tier | Hedges & Boundary Grant | Water Capital | Woodland creation 2015 | Woodland Management Plans & Woodland Tree Health from 2015 | Facilitation 2015 |
|--|---|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Customers discuss options with advisers | From April | N/A | N/A | March | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Application period opens | July | July | N/A | March 2 nd | February 17 th | February 17 th | March 17 th |
| Application period closes | Sept 30 th | Sept 30 th | N/A | April 30 th | May 31 st | Rolling | May 13 th |
| Agreements scored, ranked and selected | October | October | N/A | May-June | June | N/a | May-June |
| Agreements offered to customers | Oct-Nov. | Oct-Nov. | N/A | By June 30 th | June onwards | Rolling | June |
| Agreements Start | January 1 st | January 1 st | N/A | Once agreement signed | Once agreement signed | Once agreement signed | Once agreement signed |

■ Annex B: Applying with the Wild Pollinator and Farm Wildlife Package

The Wild Pollinator and Farm Wildlife Package is a specific group of management options that benefit wild pollinators, farmland birds (including grey partridge, tree sparrow and yellowhammer) and other farm wildlife such as rare arable plants, great crested newts, bats and brown hare.

These options provide the essential resources (especially year-round food, shelter and nesting places) that wild pollinators, birds and other farm wildlife need to survive and reproduce. Examples include sowing nectar flower and winter bird food mixes, increasing flower resources on grassland and on field margins and managing hedgerows. Evidence suggests that applying the right combination of these options over at least 3% of the farmed land of a holding will bring meaningful benefits to farm wildlife.

The package will be available for all eligible farm holdings across England. It's voluntary, but choosing options from this package means that applications will score more highly and so have a better chance of being successful.

Under the Mid Tier:

Applicants can choose from groups of options for different farm types: arable, mixed or pastoral. The options must be applied over 3% to 5% of the farmed land under agreement.

Under the Higher Tier:

Applications will be encouraged from holdings that have delivered well for farm wildlife under previous schemes and from areas where priority farmland species are present.

Applicants will select from a similar groups of options, tailored to the holding, in consultation with their Natural England advisor. Typically, the options will cover 5 to 10% of farmed land to target a broader range of farmland species and habitats.

The management options in the package

The package is a combination of those options that deliver the habitat needed to provide essential year round benefits for the farmland wildlife.

For the Pollen and Nectar component of the package, the key Countryside Stewardship Options are:

- BE3 Management of hedgerows of high environmental value (one/both sides)
- AB8 Flower rich margins and plots
- AB11 Cultivated areas for arable plants
- AB16 Autumn sown 'Bumblebird' mix
- AB15 Two year sown legume fallow
- GS4 Legume and herb-rich swards
- AB1 Nectar flower mix
- OP4 (organic) Multi-species ley

For the shelter and nesting sites component of the package the key CS Options are:

- AB8 Flower rich margins and plots
- AB11 Cultivated areas for arable plants
- GS2 Permanent grassland with very low inputs
- GS1 Taking field corners out of management
- GS17 Lenient grazing supplement

- BE3 Management of hedgerows of high environmental value (one/both sides)
- WT1 Buffering in-field ponds and ditches in improved grassland
- WT2 Buffering in-field ponds and ditches on arable land
- AB4 Skylark plots

For the wintering food for seed eating birds component of the package the key CS Options are:

- AB9 Winter bird food
- GS3 Ryegrass seed-set as winter/spring food for birds
- AB6 Enhanced over-winter stubble
- AB2 Basic over-winter stubble
- AB13 Brassica fodder crops
- AB7 Whole crop cereals
- OP1 (organic) over-winter stubble
- OP2 (organic) Wild bird seed mixture

How these options will be scored

Farmers and land managers who meet the minimum requirements of the Package in their application for the Mid Tier will score more highly.

Anyone claiming the Basic Payment Scheme can also choose to use these options on their EFA land. This would help EFAs benefit pollinators and farmland birds although the payments for some of these options will be reduced to avoid 'double funding' (see [Annex D](#)).

■ Annex C: Tables of options and capital items that can address water quality issues

The following tables can be used in conjunction with the water quality sections of the Statements of Priorities to identify the types of options that can be used to address water quality priorities.

Table 1: water quality options and their corresponding pollutant pressure and protected area.

| Option / item | Priority Bathing waters | Ground water priority areas -Nitrate | Ground water priority areas - Pesticides | Surface Water -Pesticides | Surface water -Nitrate | Surface water (Phosphate +Sediment) | Flood and Coastal Risk Management and Physical Modification |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| AB1 Nectar Flower mix | | | | | | X | |
| AB3 Beetle banks | | | | | | X | |
| AB6 Enhanced overwinter stubble | | | X | X | | | |
| AB15 Two year sown legume fallow | | | X | X | | X | |
| CT1 Management of coastal sand dunes and vegetated shingle | | | | | | | X |
| CT2 Creation of coastal sand dunes and vegetated shingle on arable land and improved grassland | | | | | | | X |
| CT3 Management of coastal saltmarsh | | | | | | | X |
| CT4 Creation of inter-tidal and saline habitat on arable land | | | | | | | X |
| CT5 Creation of inter-tidal and saline habitat by non-intervention | | | | | | | X |
| GS1 Take field corners out of management | | | | | | X | |
| GS11 Creation of wet grassland for breeding waders | | X | | | X | X | X |
| GS12 Creation of wet grassland for wintering waders & wildfowl | | X | | | X | X | X |
| GS14 Creation of grassland for target features | | X | X | | X | X | X |
| GS2 Permanent grassland with very low inputs (outside SDA) | X | | | | X | X | |
| GS5 Permanent grassland with very low inputs in SDAs | X | | | | X | X | |
| HS2 Take historic and archaeological features currently on cultivated land out of cultivation | | X | | | X | | |
| LH3 Creation of heathland from arable or improved grassland | | X | X | | X | X | |
| OR1 Organic conversion - improved permanent grassland | | | X | X | | | |
| OR2 Organic conversion - unimproved permanent grassland | | | X | X | | | |
| OR3 Organic conversion - rotational land | | | X | X | | | |
| OR4 Organic conversion - horticulture | | | X | X | | | |

| Option / item | Priority Bathing waters | Ground water priority areas -Nitrate | Ground water priority areas -Pesticides | Surface Water -Pesticides | Surface water -Nitrate | Surface water (Phosphate +Sediment) | Flood and Coastal Risk Management and Physical Modification |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| SP10 Administration of group managed agreements supplement | X | | | X | | | |
| SW1 4- 6 m buffer strip on cultivated land | | | | | | X | |
| SW10 Seasonal livestock removal on grassland in SDAs next to streams, rivers and lakes | X | | | | X | X | X |
| SW11 Riparian management strip | X | | | | X | X | X |
| SW12 Making space for water | | | | | | X | X |
| SW13 Very low nitrogen inputs to ground waters | | X | | | X | | |
| SW14 Nil fertiliser supplement | | X | | | X | | |
| SW2 4 - 6 m buffer strip on intensive grassland | | | | | | X | |
| SW3 In-field grass strips | | | | | | X | X |
| SW4 12-24m watercourse buffer strip on cultivated land | | | | | | X | X |
| SW5 Enhanced management of maize crops | | | | | | X | X |
| SW6 Winter cover crops | | X | | | X | | X |
| SW7 Arable reversion to grassland with low fertiliser input | | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| SW8 Management of intensive grassland adjacent to a watercourse | X | | | | X | X | X |
| SW9 Seasonal livestock removal on intensive grassland | X | | | | X | X | X |
| UP5 Moorland re-wetting supplement | | | | | | | X |
| UP6 Upland livestock exclusion supplement | | | | | | | X |
| WD1 Woodland creation - maintenance payments | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| WD6 Creation of wood pasture | | X | | | X | | |
| WD8 Creation of successional areas and scrub | | X | | | X | | |
| WT1 Buffering in-field ponds and ditches in improved grassland | | | | | | X | |
| WT2 Buffering in-field ponds and ditches in arable land | | | | | | X | |
| WT3 Management of ditches of high environmental value | | X | | | X | X | |
| WT4 Maintenance of ponds of high wildlife value < 100 sq m or less | | X | | | X | X | |
| WT5 Maintenance of ponds of high wildlife value > 100 sq m | | X | | | X | X | |
| WT7 Creation of reed bed | | X | | | X | | X |
| WT8 Management of fen | | | | | | | X |
| WT9 Creation of fen | | X | | | X | X | X |

Table 2: Capital works and their corresponding pollutant pressure and protected area.

| | Option | Priority Bathing waters | Ground water priority areas -Nitrate | Ground water priority areas -Pesticides | Surface Water -Pesticides | Surface water -Nitrate | Surface water (Phosphate +Sediment) | Flood and Coastal Risk Management and Physical Modification |
|------|---|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| RP4 | Livestock and machinery hardcore tracks | X | | | | | X | |
| LV7 | Livestock troughs | X | | | | | X | X |
| RP18 | Above ground tanks | X | X | X | X | X | | X |
| RP26 | Bio filters | | | X | X | | | |
| RP12 | Check dams | X | | | | | X | X |
| RP15 | Concrete yard renewal | X | X | X | X | X | X | |
| RP8 | Constructed wetlands for the treatment of pollution | X | | | | | X | X |
| RP5 | Cross drains | X | | | | | X | X |
| RP9 | Earth banks and soil bunds | X | | | | | X | X |
| RP31 | Equipment to disrupt tramlines in arable areas | | | | | | X | X |
| FG1 | Fencing | X | | | | | | |
| FG5 | Fencing supplement – difficult sites | X | | | | | | X |
| RP19 | First flush rainwater diverters/ downpipe filters | X | X | X | X | X | | X |
| RP30 | Floating covers for slurry stores and lagoons | X | X | | | X | | |
| RP2 | Gateway relocation | X | | | | | X | X |
| WN1 | Grip blocking drainage channels | | | | | | | X |
| LV3 | Hard bases for livestock drinkers | X | | | | | X | X |
| LV4 | Hard bases for livestock feeders | X | | | | | X | X |
| RP23 | Installation of livestock drinking troughs (in draining pens for freshly dipped sheep) | | | X | X | | | |
| RP6 | Installation of piped culverts in ditches | X | | | | | X | |
| RP24 | Lined bio bed plus pesticide loading and wash down area | | | X | X | | | |
| RP25 | Lined bio bed with existing wash down area | | | X | X | | | |
| FM2 | Major preparatory works for Priority Habitats (creation and restoration) and Priority Species | | | | | | | X |
| LV5 | Pasture pumps and associated pipework | X | | | | | X | X |
| FG3 | Permanent electric fencing | X | | | | | | |
| LV8 | Pipework associated with livestock troughs | X | | | | | X | X |
| RP16 | Rainwater goods | X | X | X | X | X | X | |
| LV6 | Ram pumps and associated pipework | X | | | | | X | X |
| RP20 | Relocation of sheep dips and pens | | | X | X | | | |

| | Option | Priority Bathing waters | Ground water priority areas -Nitrate | Ground water priority areas -Pesticides | Surface Water -Pesticides | Surface water -Nitrate | Surface water (Phosphate +Sediment) | Flood and Coastal Risk Management and Physical Modification |
|------|---|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| RP21 | Relocation of sheep pens only | | | X | X | | | |
| WN7 | Restoration of large water bodies | | | | | | | X |
| RP1 | Resurfacing of gateways | | | | | | X | |
| RP28 | Roofing (sprayer wash down area, manure storage area, livestock gathering area, slurry stores, silage stores) | X | X | X | X | X | X | |
| RP7 | Sediment ponds and traps | X | | | | | X | X |
| RP29 | Self-supporting covers for slurry stores | X | X | | | X | | |
| RP22 | Sheep dip drainage aprons and sumps | | | X | X | | | |
| FG2 | Sheep netting | X | | | | | | |
| RP10 | Silt filtration dams/seepage barriers | X | | | | | X | X |
| RP27 | Sprayer or applicator load and wash down area | | | X | X | | | |
| RP17 | Storage tanks underground | | | | | | | X |
| TE4 | Supply and plant tree | | X | | | X | | |
| RP11 | Swales | X | | | | | X | X |
| FG15 | Water gates | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| RP3 | Watercourse crossings | X | | | | | X | |
| RP13 | Yard - underground drainage pipework | X | X | X | X | X | X | |
| RP14 | Yard Inspection pit | X | X | X | X | X | X | |

■Annex D: Countryside Stewardship and Greening: Double Funding

RDP funding must not pay twice for the same activity (known as double funding). For this reason, nineteen Countryside Stewardship options will have their payment rate reduced where the land is also used to meet Ecological Focus Area (EFA) requirements for the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS), to remove double funding. The table below shows the way the reduced rate is calculated for these options:

| Option code | Option title | A | B | C |
|-------------|--|---------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| | | Income foregone £/ha or *£/plot | Double-funding element | Reduced rate C= A-B |
| WD3 | Woodland edges on arable land | 323 | 306 | 17 |
| HS2 | Take historic and archaeological features out of cultivation | 425 | 334 | 91 |
| SW1 | 4 to 6 metre buffer strip on cultivated land | 353 | 274 | 79 |
| WT2 | Buffering in-field ponds and ditches on arable land | 501 | 428 | 73 |
| AB11 | Cultivated areas for arable plants | 532 | 367 | 165 |
| AB5 | Nesting plots for lapwing and stone curlew | 524 | 428 | 96 |
| AB9 | Winter bird food | 677 | 404 | 271 |
| AB6 | Enhanced overwinter stubble | 436 | 428 | 8 |
| AB1 | Nectar flower mix | 511 | 404 | 107 |
| AB3 | Beetle banks | 573 | 428 | 145 |
| AB4 | Skylark plots | 9* | 5* | 4* |
| SW6 | Winter cover crops | 114 | 114 | 0 |
| SW3 | In-field grass strips | 557 | 463 | 94 |
| SW4 | 12 to 24 metre watercourse buffer strips on cultivated land | 512 | 416 | 96 |
| SW12 | Making space for water | 646 | 440 | 206 |
| AB8 | Flower rich margins and plots | 539 | 330 | 209 |
| AB16 | Autumn sown 'Bumblebird' mix | 550 | 404 | 146 |
| AB15 | Two year sown legume fallow. | 522 | 378 | 144 |
| OP2 | Organic wild bird seed mixture | 773 | 398 | 375 |

■ Annex E: Relationships between Countryside Stewardship scheme elements and with current ES and EWGS agreements

Please note that most scheme elements are competitive so we cannot guarantee every application will be successful.

Table 1: Relationship between existing ES and EWGS agreements and Countryside Stewardship applications in 2015

| Applicant has now: | Applicant would like: | Possible to apply? | Notes |
|---|---|---|--|
| ELS, UELS and OELS agreements expiring on or before 31 December 2015 | Countryside Stewardship with a 2016 January start | Yes, most likely Mid Tier | The agreement starts 1 January 2016 The expectation is that most holdings in ELS, organic or uplands ELS would move to the Mid Tier rather than Higher Tier. |
| ELS, UELS and OELS agreements expiring after 31 December 2015 | Countryside Stewardship with a January 2016 start | No | There are some limited situations eg on commons where UELS agreement holders may be invited by Natural England to join Higher Tier |
| HLS agreement expiring in 2016 | Countryside Stewardship with a January 2016 start | Only to Higher Tier | HLS agreement holders will be contacted by Natural England to discuss if their existing agreement meets the objectives of the new scheme and the criteria for moving to it. |
| EWGS agreement expiring in 2015 | Countryside Stewardship | Yes, (not Mid Tier if woodland management included) | Yes, if the EWGS obligations on any parcels submitted within the Countryside Stewardship application have expired by end December in the year before the January start date. Discuss with Forestry Commission adviser |

Table 2: Possible combinations of ES and EWGS agreement types and CS capital grant elements 2015

| Applicant has now: | Applicant would like: | Possible to apply? | Notes |
|---|--|---|--|
| ELS, OELS, UELS and HLS, or EWGS | Hedgerow and Boundaries grant | No | Not available until 2016 |
| ELS, OELS, UELS and HLS, EWGS | Feasibility studies and implementation plans | No | These items are not available until 2016 |
| ELS, OELS, UELS and HLS, EWGS | CS Woodland tree health | Yes | Application period now open |
| ELS, OELS, UELS and HLS, EWGS | CS Woodland management plan | Yes | Application period now open |
| EWGS | CS Woodland creation 2015 | Possibly | Applicants can only apply on parcels within the estate that don't have an existing commitment Application window now open. Contact the Forestry Commission with an initial application by 30 th April 2015 |
| ELS (including UELS and OELS) and HLS expiring after 31 Dec 2015 | CS Woodland creation 2015 | Possibly – discuss with Forestry Commission and Natural England | Application window now open. An amendment will be required to remove those parcels where woodland creation will take place - such an amendment may require a reclaim. Planting could conflict with the appropriate management of some features that had been supported under ELS |
| ELS, OELS, UELS and HLS or EWGS agreement | 2015 water grant | Yes | Now open, closes end April 2015 |

■ Annex F: Mid Tier options and capital items requiring CSFO endorsement

| Option or Item | Code | Title | Payment Rate £/ha |
|----------------|------|--|-------------------|
| Option | SW7 | Arable reversion to grassland with low fertiliser input | 311/ ha |
| Option | SW8 | Management of intensive grassland adjacent to a watercourse | 202/ ha |
| Item | RP13 | Yard - underground drainage pipework | 5.50/m |
| Item | RP14 | Yard Inspection pit | 200/unit |
| Item | RP15 | Concrete yard renewal | 27.14/sq m |
| Item | RP17 | Water storage tanks underground | 350/cu m |
| Item | RP18 | Above ground water storage tanks | 100/cu m |
| Item | RP19 | First flush rainwater diverters/ downpipe filters | 125/unit |
| Item | RP20 | Relocation of sheep dips & pens | 3675/unit |
| Item | RP21 | Relocation of sheep pens only | 1830/unit |
| Item | RP22 | Sheep dip drainage aprons & sumps | 18.25/sq m |
| Item | RP23 | Installation of livestock drinking troughs (in draining pens for freshly dipped sheep) | 68/unit |
| Item | RP4 | Livestock and machinery tracks | 33/m |
| Item | RP24 | Lined bio bed + loading & wash down area | 118/sq m |
| Item | RP25 | Lined bio bed with existing wash down area | 77/sq m |
| Item | RP27 | Sprayer or applicator load & wash down area | 40/sq m |
| Item | RP28 | Roofing for sprayer wash down areas, manure storage, livestock gathering areas, slurry and silage stores | 62/sq m |
| Item | RP29 | Self-supporting covers for slurry stores | 30.50/sq m |

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