



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

www.gov.uk/defra

Farming Recovery Fund Phase 2

Guidance for applicants

April 2014

Closing date for applications ~~27th June 2014~~



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

This information related to a scheme in 2014.
It is now out of date and has been withdrawn.

© Crown copyright 2014

You may re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/ or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or e-mail: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

Any enquiries regarding this document/publication should be sent to us at: frf@defra.gsi.gov.uk

For help and advice email frf@defra.gsi.gov.uk telephone: 0300 060 2700

PB14138

*This information related to a scheme in 2014.
It is now out of date and has been withdrawn.*

Contents

The Farming Recovery Fund: overview	1
Stage 1: find out if you have an eligible application	2
Eligible items	3
Exceptional circumstances	5
Items not covered by FRF	6
Grant sizes: minimum and maximum	6
Second hand equipment	6
Stage 2: submit an application	7
Providing evidence of damage	7
Insurance	7
Quotes	7
Consents and permissions	8
Evidence of works undertaken if you are making a retrospective application	9
Stage 3: processing your application	9
Stage 4: decision on your application	9
Project approved	9
Project rejected	10
Stage 5: pay for restoration and repair work	10
Stage 6: submit your claim	10
Guidance on completing the application form	11
Submitting your completed application form	14
What happens next?	15
Frequently asked questions	15
Reminder of the closing date for applications:	17
This Guidance	17
Other Support	18
Appendix 1	19

This information related to a scheme in 2014.
It is now out of date and has been withdrawn.

The Farming Recovery Fund: overview

The Prime Minister announced this fund on 11th February 2014 following the exceptional widespread winter flooding. It is designed to help affected farm businesses in England restore land to agricultural production.

The funding is provided through the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE), which is financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the UK government. It is managed by Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

Phase 1 of the fund has now closed. Phase 2 of the fund closes on 27th June 2014.

Grants of between £500 and £35,000 are available to any farm affected by the recent flooding (since 1st December 2013). Farms are businesses which depend upon farming (excluding diversification) to provide a significant contribution to the household income. The business must have been trading on 1st December 2013.

To ensure that this recovery fund helps those who have been most affected by the exceptional weather we may have to prioritise applications.

You can apply for Phase 2 funding, whether or not you applied for Phase 1 of the scheme.

If you have been offered funding under phase 1 of the Farming Recovery Fund (FRF), you can make a further application in phase 2. The maximum **total** funding per farming business from the FRF is £35,000.

The application window for phase 2 funding will be open for 9 weeks from Monday 28th April, closing on Friday 27th June 2014.

FRF application: the process

The application process to get FRF funding is:

- Stage 1: find out if you have an eligible application
- Stage 2: submit an application with supporting evidence and quotes (where applicable) for repair work
- Stage 3: processing your application
- Stage 4: decision on your application
- Stage 5: complete and pay for restoration and repair work
- Stage 6: send in a claim for refund with supporting evidence

Stage 1: find out if you have an eligible application

This fund supports activities that restore flooded agricultural land to full working capacity.

This is intended to help return farms to productivity as quickly as possible.

The available support covers:

- Assistance for recovery activities set out in Table 1
- Assistance using maximum guide prices for recovery activity set out in Table 2

If you have already incurred eligible costs (see Tables 1 and 2) after 1st December 2013, please call the FRF helpline on 0300 060 2700 to discuss your individual circumstances to determine how best to complete the application form.

*This information related to a scheme in 2014.
It is now out of date and has been withdrawn.*

Eligible items

The items shown in Tables 1 and 2 are the eligible items under the Farming Recovery Fund. You can select items from either one **or** both of the tables in your application.

Table 1: FRF Eligible activity

Area of recovery	Operations	Intervention / Grant rate
1) Restoring productive grassland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> contractor costs for soil restoration e.g. alleviating soil compaction, grass seed and drilling perennial grass seed costs (if not supplied by contractor) contractor costs for removing flood debris 	Up to 100% of eligible costs
2) Restoring productive arable and horticultural land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> contractor costs for soil restoration e.g. alleviating soil compaction contractor costs for removing flood debris <p>not covered: cost of annual agricultural crop seed or plant costs</p>	Up to 100% of eligible costs
3) Restoring field access / track ways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> restoration materials for access / track ways contractor costs for restoring access / track ways 	Up to 100% of eligible costs
4) Restoring agricultural drainage on flood-damaged land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> materials to restore agricultural drainage contractor costs for restoring agricultural drainage 	Up to 100% of eligible costs
Under Exceptional Circumstances		
5) Buying or hiring equipment for restoring land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buying or hiring agricultural machinery to carry out activity listed under items 1) to 4) above 	Up to 50% of eligible costs
6) Damage to agricultural machinery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> materials for repair of flood damaged machinery contractor costs for repair work replacement of business-critical agricultural machinery or electrical equipment damaged by flood and beyond repair decontamination of operable equipment, e.g. processing / dairy equipment 	Up to 50% of eligible costs
7) Damage to agricultural buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> materials required for repair contractors costs for repair work decontamination of buildings crucial to processing / food production 	Up to 50% of eligible costs

Table 2: FRF maximum guide prices

To make the process of applying for funding easier, we have listed a number of items below that are commonly requested as part of restoring farmland following flooding. You **do not need to provide any quotes** for these items, simply tell us in the application:

- The scale of work that you are going to undertake for each item (in hectares, number of gates or length of fence in metres).
- The total cost of all that work
- The total grant amount requested

For example, if over-seeding 25 ha with a guide price of £159 per ha (£66 per ha for cultivations and £93 per ha for grass seed), you would be seeking a grant for this activity of £3,975.

You will need to provide invoices and proof of payment at claim stage for any items included in this list that you are purchasing such as contractor charges, grass seed or fencing materials.

Maximum guide price	Operations / Items	Intervention / Grant rate
8) Over-seeding / re-seeding of grassland (can be combined with either 9 or 10 below)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultivations carried out to over-seed / re-seed grass leys / permanent pasture damaged by flooding • Note: you can use a contractor to carry out this work but can only claim the invoiced amount up to the maximum guide price. 	Maximum guide price of £66 per hectare
9) Cost of grass seed for over-seeding (can be combined with 8 above)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grass seed for over-seeding of grassland damaged by flooding • Value of the invoice(s) for grass seed will be paid up to the maximum guide price 	Maximum guide price of £93 per hectare
10) Cost of grass seed for re-seeding (can be combined with 8 above)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grass seed for re-seeding of grassland damaged by flooding • Value of the invoice(s) for grass seed will be paid up to the maximum guide price 	Maximum guide price of £151 per hectare
11) Cultivation operations for the restoration of arable / horticultural land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultivation operations carried out by the applicant to restore arable and horticultural land damaged by flooding to be ready for planting of a new crop • Note: you can use a contractor to carry out this work but can only claim the invoiced amount up to the maximum guide price. 	Maximum guide price of £87 per hectare
12) Field gate*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacing field gates damaged by flooding • To include cost of new hanging and shutting posts • See appendix 1 for specification 	Maximum guide price of £218 per gate

13) Water gate up to 5m wide*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replacing water gates up to 5m wide damaged by flooding See appendix 1 for specification As this is a replacement you should already have the necessary consent. If you do not you will need to obtain it from the relevant authority 	Maximum guide price £238 per gate
14) Water gate more than 5m wide*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replacing water gates more than 5m wide damaged by flooding See appendix 1 for specification As this is a replacement you should already have the necessary consent. If you do not you will need to obtain it from the relevant authority 	Maximum guide price £269 per gate
15) Field and water course fencing*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replacing field or water course fencing damaged by flooding – three options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sheep netting (including one strand of top wire) £4.00 per metre High tensile wire £2.00 per metre Post and wire £4.00 per metre See appendix 1 for specification 	Maximum guide price

*If you do not want to use the maximum guide prices for items 12, 13, 14 and 15 because you want to, for example, use a different specification to that set out in appendix 1, you can provide three quotes instead – see detail in Stage 2. Please call 0300 060 2700 if you need further advice or guidance.

Exceptional circumstances

We would not normally fund the following activities:

- buying or hiring agricultural machinery to restore flood damaged land
- repairs to agricultural machinery or buildings caused by flood water

However, you may feel that you have a case for FRF funding in one or both of these areas. For example, you may feel that buying equipment is better value for money than using a contractor (if you wish to buy machinery for restoring land we encourage you to work with neighbouring businesses that may be considering the same investment). Or it may be that your insurance company has confirmed that some damage to either your buildings or machinery is not covered by your insurance policy. If you want to claim for these items, you must put the justification in the additional information section of the FRF application form.

We expect all businesses to have adequate baseline insurance cover. We may check your cover level with industry experts.

Items not covered by FRF

- cost of annual agricultural crop seeds or plants
- livestock of any type
- insured losses or items that insurance should normally cover
- loss of income
- any formal obligations that beneficiaries / applicants have for sturry management
- activity that remains the responsibility of local authorities or other bodies such as drainage boards to address
- recoverable VAT
- cash payments
- purchase of second hand items previously funded by public funds

Grant sizes: minimum and maximum

The minimum applications for funding must be at least **£500**. The maximum total grant award will be **£35,000** per applicant (phases 1 and 2 combined).

We have introduced maximum guide prices to allow applicants to carry out restoration work on their own land. The maximum guide prices may not cover the full costs of the work but will be a contribution to the costs of restoring the farm holding to productivity.

Second hand equipment

You may be able to buy second hand equipment, as long as it:

- meets current health and safety legislation
- has not previously been purchased using public funds
- is fit for purpose
- has at least 5 years' life expectancy remaining

Please call the FRF helpline on 0300 060 2700 for further help and guidance if you are planning on buying second hand equipment.

Stage 2: submit an application

To qualify for FRF funding you must fill in the FRF application form and provide the following supporting information:

- evidence of damage
- insurance details where applicable
- quotes where applicable
- consents and permissions
- evidence of works undertaken if you are making a retrospective application

Providing evidence of damage

You must provide sufficient evidence of the damage sustained by your business to support your application:

- photographs during the flooding and of the damage sustained afterwards
- photographs before the flooding (where available).

We will also review Environment Agency flood data, matched to RPA holdings data, to help confirm that your holding is within a flood affected area.

Insurance

For items 6 and 7 in Table 1, helping with repairs to buildings and machinery damaged by flooding, you must show that the items you are applying for are not covered by your insurance. To do this you must send us either your insurance policy summary, or a letter or e-mail from your insurers confirming that such items are not covered.

Quotes

If you are applying for items of expenditure from Table 2 you do not need to provide any quotes with your application.

We require three quotes for each item of expenditure in Table 1.

All quotes must:

- show the supplier's address, telephone number and contact details
- give the VAT number with VAT charged on the quote (if the supplier is VAT registered)
- show the supplier's company registration number (if it is a limited company)
- be independent of each other (i.e. from different suppliers that trade as standalone business entities, not linked through shared ownership)
- be independent of the applicant
- be comparable (e.g. of same or similar specification, size, quantity, units)
- be recently dated (within the last 3 months)
- be addressed to the grant applicant's business at the address shown on the application form

If you do not select the cheapest quote you must explain why on the application form.

We may reduce the grant if we do not feel that the justification for choosing a higher quote is good value for money. If the grant is reduced you can still choose to use the more expensive supplier but the grant offer will be based on the lowest quote.

Please ensure quotes are as detailed as possible as we will check the contractor cost quotes you send for land remediation work against market rates to help ensure value for money. We might also compare your quotes with those supplied by other comparable applicants. Your grant offer may be adjusted if the costs seem inflated, even if you have chosen the cheapest supplier.

Consents and permissions

If you have management agreements such as HLS or ELS on the land you want to restore, you will need to discuss the work with your Natural England contact and tell us about these discussions.

For farmers on the Somerset Levels and Moors, Natural England have provided specific information, including contact details, at:

http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/about_us/news/2014/050214.aspx

You can call Natural England on 0845 600 3078.

If you require planning permission for any of the activity included in your application you will need to submit a copy with your application.

See Q5 under completing your application below for more detail or call the FRF helpline on 0300 060 2700.

Evidence of works undertaken if you are making a retrospective application

In addition to the information set out above, please provide:

- photographs of the work in progress and the completed repairs / restoration
- any invoices for the work undertaken
- any independent evidence of the need for the work such as agronomist reports
- the date you started the restoration activity

Stage 3: processing your application

If you need to complete the work before Defra confirm the outcome of your application you may do so. Any costs incurred will be at your own risk subject to the decision on your application.

You will need to keep records of the work to submit as evidence with your claim for funds. This will include invoices for materials and equipment, and photographs of the work carried out – see stage 5 for more detail.

We will assess your application as quickly as possible and let you know our decision. Our aim is to do this within 10 working days of receipt of a **complete** application but it may take longer depending on the number of applications we receive.

Stage 4 decision on your application

Project approved

If your project is approved we'll write to tell you. At the same time, you will also be sent two copies of a legal contract. If you accept the offer of the grant award and its conditions, you must sign both copies and return one copy to your local RDPE Delivery Team. Once the copy of the signed contact is received by Defra this ends the at your own risk period. Claims for grant will not be paid until we have received a signed contract.

Project rejected

If your request for FRF support is rejected we will explain why. You can only appeal if you believe that we have:

- misinterpreted the facts
- made an error in processing your application
- treated you unfairly

Stage 5: pay for restoration and repair work

When you have completed the work, you will need to pay any related invoices before you can make your claim. We will need to see evidence of the payments that you have made, so these should be made by cheque or through your bank's automated systems so that they appear on your bank statement. You cannot claim for any cash payments.

You will need to gather together evidence of the work being done including photographs of the restoration work in progress and when completed, as well as a map or maps detailing where the work has taken place. You will also need to confirm the area of land and parcel number(s), number of gates and / or length of fencing restored under maximum guide prices (Table 2 items). Please call 0300 060 2700 if you need any advice on evidencing your claim.

Stage 6: submit your claim

When you apply you must tell Defra when you want to claim your grant funding. You should allow enough time to carry out the works, receive and pay any invoices, and allow time for these payments to show on your bank statement.

We will send you a claim form which you will need to complete to make your claim. As set out in stage 5 above, you will need to send in copies of any invoices connected with the work you are claiming for and evidence including photographs showing that the restoration and repairs have been done.

You must provide field parcel numbers and maps of the land to help us verify the restored area with your claim.

You must provide a copy of your bank statement(s) showing any payments when you submit your claim.

You can only make a single claim under the Farming Recovery Fund.

Your claim must be sent to us no later than 31st January 2015.

As with other EU funded schemes, a proportion of successful applications will be inspected prior to paying the claim to ensure that information provided in the application is correct, and guidance for receiving the grant has been followed. We will inform you if your application is to be inspected and will explain what we will need to see to check the validity of your claim.

Guidance on completing the application form

Please complete all the required and relevant sections of the form. If you don't provide the information we ask for and complete the relevant sections of the form in full, it will delay the processing of your application.

If you have already applied for a phase 1 FRF grant, there is a shortened version of the application form available from the FRF helpline on 0300 060 2700. We will confirm your unique FRF reference number.

Hand written form

We can accept hand written application forms. You can download a printable version of the application form from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/farming-recovery-fund-guidance-for-applicants>, or by searching 'gov.uk frf', or call the FRF helpline on 0300 060 2700 and we will post one to you.

However, it is easier for you to complete and faster for us to process the form if you fill it in electronically.

Electronic form

The electronic application form is not an online application. You will need to download it from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/farming-recovery-fund-guidance-for-applicants>, or by searching 'gov.uk frf', and save it to your computer. It is best to save the form regularly so you don't lose any information as you complete the form.

The following notes will help you complete the form, and explain why we need certain pieces of information. The same numbering is used in both types of application form for ease of reference.

The electronic application form is an Excel workbook. You **must not** use the earlier Word version of the form.

The Excel form has a number of tabs. Click on each tab to access it.

Begin with the 'application' tab. Click on each of the entry boxes on the form and type the information in. You must complete the boxes shaded light green, and any others relevant to your situation.

To make the form easier and quicker for you to complete, there are a number of drop down boxes (typically for a yes / no answer - e.g. questions 3, 4, 6 & 14). Click on the box and then click the arrow that appears to the right to show the options that you can select.

You can go back to the box and change your selection if necessary. If you need more space on the form, select the 'additional information' tab and complete this. The boxes on this tab will expand as you type.

Once you have completed the 'application' tab select the 'project costs and funding request'. Complete the appropriate sections.

Finally complete the 'declaration' tab. Many of the boxes are pre-populated from information entered on the 'application' tab. Complete this tab fully.

Q1 Applicant's name and address

- **Name:** we need a named individual in your business to be a point of contact for the application. This person must have the legal right to apply for funding on your behalf.
- **Role in business:** the business job title and position of the named individual.
- **Name of business / organisation requesting grant:** the proper legal name of your business (usually the same name used on your business trading accounts).
- **RPA Single Business Identifier (SBI) and Vendor No:** the RPA SBI can usually be found on any RPA correspondence. Please call the RPA helpline on 0845 603 7777 if you are unsure.
- **Type of business/organisation (for example sole trader, partnership, limited company):** this is the legal status of the business and will match the business accounts.
- **Address (for correspondence):** please ensure that you complete the 'County' and 'Postcode' boxes.
- **Telephone numbers:** please include both a landline and mobile number if you have one in case we need to contact you regarding your application.
- **Email:** it's faster to use email when we contact you. Please give us your e-mail address if you have one and would like us to contact you in this way.

Q2 Farm managers/agents

- You **do not** need to appoint an agent to complete this form for you. However, where a business / farm manager, adviser or agent is acting on your behalf, we

need their details. Unless you tell us otherwise we will correspond with the agent as well as you.

Q3 Projects located on tenanted land

- Tenant farmers must confirm that they have 6 (or more) years left of their tenancy. Please contact the FRF helpline on 0300 060 2700 if this is an issue for you.

Q5 Planning permission or other consents

It is important that you have any statutory consents in place before you start work.

- your application can't be processed if you require planning permission and don't yet have planning approval or a planning reference number and projected determination date for your planning application
- if your land is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) you will need consent from Natural England before starting any work. You must provide evidence of Natural England approval when you send us your FRF application. Further information can be found by contacting your local advisor or call Natural England on 0845 600 3078
- if your land is under an Agri-Environment scheme agreement you need to contact your Natural England Adviser to discuss your plans before you start any work. You may need to get a derogation to your land management agreement for the works you want to carry out. Please see <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/funding/es/badweather.aspx>

or contact your local advisor, or call Natural England on 0845 600 3078

Where you intend to use the Farming Recovery Fund on land that is:

- subject to any other agreement with Natural England, the Environment Agency, Forestry Commission or other public body; or
- under any other local or national designation

and you know or suspect that your actions could potentially damage any designated site please contact the body concerned before proceeding with your application. If you need any advice please contact us on 0300 060 2700.

Q6 Location of the work

- Not all projects will take place at your business address. For this reason you must tell us where the equipment will be or activity will take place so we can inspect it if required. Please provide a postcode and a map for the location if possible.

Q7 Activity time frame

- Your claim for a refund of the money you have spent must be submitted no later than **31st January 2015**.
- You can only make one claim for grant funding
- You must tell us when you want to claim your grant funding. You should allow enough time to carry out the works, receive and pay the invoices, and allow time for these payments to show on your bank statement. You must provide a copy of your bank statement showing these payments with your claim.

Q8 Costs and funding

- Complete question 8a for items and activity that you will do from Table 1
- Complete question 8b for items and activity that you will do from Table 2
- For each item or service for which you are requesting funding please tell us what it is and give a short description, for example – ‘restoration of grassland by contractor – use of contractor to restore XX ha of grassland to include spring tine before drilling with XX kg of grass seed per ha and rolling’
- You must provide a full description of each activity or item for which you are applying for grant funding. This description ideally will refer to the supporting information (e.g. photographs, maps etc.) to explain why you are requesting grant funding. If you need more space use the additional information section of the form.

Q11 Grant requested

Please tell us the amount of grant you are requesting in your application. Remember it must be at least £500 and up to a maximum of £35,000 in phases 1 and 2 combined. If you are using the electronic form this is calculated automatically for you.

Submitting your completed application form

You can submit your completed application at any time up to the closing date.

All applications and hard copy supporting evidence must be received by **Friday 27th June 2014 at the latest**. It is suggested that you send it as tracked post with a guaranteed delivery date.

Any applications received after this date will not be accepted.

If you are completing your application by hand, you must sign and date the declaration section and post it with the required supporting information to;

FRF, Defra, Level 8, Renslade House, Bonhay Road, Exeter, Devon, EX4 3AW.

If you have completed the form electronically, save it to your computer with a filename of 'FRF Application' 'your business name'. Replace 'your business name' with the business name you used in the application form. Please email it to frf@defra.gov.uk. You must then print the declaration page, sign and date it, and post it with the required supporting information to the address above.

What happens next?

We will let you know when we get your application, normally by email. We'll then check it for eligibility and completeness.

We will then assess your application as quickly as possible and let you know our decision. Our aim is to do this within 10 working days of receipt of a **complete** application. If we receive high numbers of applications the time needed to make a decision will increase, but this will be up to a maximum of 12 weeks of the application being received and we aim to keep it as short as possible.

Please make sure your application is complete and that all documents are included. If your application is incomplete we'll let you know but you may miss out if all available funding has been allocated by the time any missing documentation has been received.

Frequently asked questions

I have applied for and received funding from FRF in phase 1; can I apply in phase 2?

Yes, you can make a phase 2 application for items or activities that were not part of your phase 1 application. Please contact us if you need any advice on 0300 060 2700.

The total combined grant that you can apply for from phases 1 and 2 is £35,000. If, for example, you received a grant of £4,000 from phase 1 you will be able to apply for the balance of £31,000 in phase 2.

I applied under phase 1; do I have to fill in all my details again?

There is a shortened version of the application form available for applicants that have already applied in phase 1; please contact the FRF helpline on 0300 060 2700 for a copy of the form and your unique FRF reference number.

Can I apply if I didn't apply under FRF phase 1?

Yes, you can apply.

Will there be further phases of the Farming Recovery Fund?

No, this will be the final opportunity to apply for funding under the Farming Recovery Fund.

It will cost me more to do the work than the maximum guide prices shown? Can I request more funding?

No, you cannot request more funding for maximum guide price items. These have been included by Defra to make the application and claim process as easy as possible and are calculated based on research carried out by Defra. We know they may not cover all the cost in every case, but they should nonetheless be a contribution to the restoration costs.

However, rather than use the guide price for activity listed in Table 2, you can use the three quotes approach based on your specific needs if you prefer.

Can I get funding if I've already bought my equipment or started work?

Yes, providing you have been affected by flooding after 1st December 2013 and have carried out eligible activity listed in Tables 1 and 2, you can put in an application. Please ensure that you read this guidance fully before completing your application. If you would like to discuss your individual circumstances please call the FRF helpline of 0300 060 2700.

Can I purchase second hand equipment?

Yes, providing you can prove that it complies with current health and safety legislation, it has not been previously grant aided, is fit for purpose and has at least 5 years' life

expectancy remaining. Please call 0300 060 2700 to discuss your individual circumstances.

Can I use hire purchase or lease agreements to fund my application?

No, the use of hire purchase or lease agreements are **not eligible** for funding as the equipment does not belong to you until the final payment has been made.

I have downloaded the earlier Word version of the application form – can I still use it?

Sorry, no you cannot. The Word version was for phase 1 only and has been replaced with an Excel version for phase 2 which should be simpler and easier for you to complete and also helps speed up processing of your application by us.

Reminder of the closing date for applications:

The application window will be open for 9 weeks, closing on **27th June 2014**. Please ensure that all documentation reaches us by this time. If it is not received by this time your application will not be accepted. We suggest you send your documentation by tracked post with a guaranteed delivery date.

This Guidance

Please note that we will update this guidance if required. The latest version of the guidance will be posted on the gov.uk website. Please email frf@defra.gsi.gov.uk or call 0300 060 2700 if you would like to check you have the latest version. This is the third version of the guidance, published on 28th April 2014.

This information related to a scheme in 2014.
It is now out of date and has been withdrawn.

Other support

The Farming Recovery Fund is part of package of schemes announced by Government to help homeowners and businesses recover from flooding.

Flood support measures for homeowners and businesses

A guidance note providing more information on all of these support measures such as the Repair and Renew Fund, including eligibility criteria is available online via the link <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flood-support-package-for-homeowners-and-businesses> .

Somerset Farmers' Fund

The Somerset Farmers' Fund has been established by the Royal Bath and West of England Society to support those who are affected. Further details are available by calling 01749 822200 or by logging on at www.bathandwest.com and scrolling down the home page to the link.

This information related to a scheme in 2014.
It is now out of date and has been withdrawn.

Appendix 1

Specifications for maximum guide price items

If you are applying for gates and fences, these must be to or above the specification shown below.

Field gates

The maximum guide price includes the cost of new hanging and shutting posts

- Timber field gates and supporting posts must be constructed from either pressure-treated softwood or hardwood.
- Steel gates may be hung on either timber or steel posts.
- All gateposts must be set correctly in the ground, using concrete if necessary, and fitted with appropriate hangings and latches.
- All field gates, posts and fittings must be fit for purpose and, depending on construction type; the components of the gates need to meet the requirements of BS EN 10296, BS EN 10056, BS EN 10210 and/or BS EN 10219.

Water gates

Water gates are used to control stock access to rivers and streams. The water gate and the approach fencing must be separate from the main fence line, so should the river or stream flood and the gate be destroyed then the main fence will remain undamaged. You must seek guidance from the Environment Agency about the reinstatement of water gates before you commit yourself to the proposed work and before you submit your application.

- The work should include the installation of approach fencing consisting of fixed netting fence and should be erected in accordance with the appropriate part of BS 1722.
- The gate should consist of a series of wooden droppers attached to a length of wire cable or a round wooden rail suspended horizontally between the straining posts.
- Each gate must be constructed to fit the profile of the individual stream.
- Droppers must be at least 50 mm square in cross section and constructed from sawn untreated timber that has been drilled and then threaded onto the cable or fencing wire, with 150 mm lengths of plastic pipe acting as spacers. As a result, each dropper will be 150 mm apart.
- Where the stream gully is more than 1.5 m deep, 70 mm square untreated timber must be used to make up the gate which should be hung on a round wooden pole using loops of fencing wire. It can be made in several sections.

Fencing

The detailed specifications for all types of fencing are included within BS1722. All fencing must be erected in accordance with the appropriate specification. All softwood timber must be fully peeled and tanalised or treated with an approved preservative. Durable hardwood,

such as oak or sweet chestnut, may be used and does not require treatment with preservatives. The timber sizes quoted in the specifications are minimum requirements. Posts can be round, square or semi-circular providing that the thickness, height and durability of the post meet the standards set out below.

Sheep fencing

- The fence must be at least 1.05 metres high. If extra height is required, this should be obtained by fixing additional strands of plain or barbed wire.
- Wire should be galvanised and comply with BS 4102.
- Straining posts should be at least: 125mm top diameter, or 100mm x 100mm cross-section sawn; 2.15 metres long if not set in concrete, or 1.85 metres if in concrete. The spacing between strainer posts should not exceed 150 metres where mild steel line wire is used, or 300 metres for high tensile wire.
- Struts should be at least: 80mm top diameter, or 75mm x 75mm if sawn; 1.9 metres long if not set in concrete and at least 1.6 metres where set in concrete. Struts should be notched into the straining post at an angle of no more than 45 degrees.
- Intermediate posts should be 65mm top diameter, or 75mm x 75mm if sawn, 1.7 metres long, and spaced no further than 3.5 metres apart.

High tensile wire fencing

- High tensile fencing has less visual impact than other forms of fencing and can be deployed in visually sensitive landscapes.
- The fence must be at least 1.05m high and constructed using 3.15mm high tensile wire.
- The number of high tensile line wires should be appropriate to the function and type of animals being grazed.
- Straining posts can be up to 200m apart but must be situated at every change of direction (horizontal or vertical). They should be 175mm diameter or 150x150mm sawn.
- Struts should be 2.0m long, 100mm diameter and notched into straining posts.
- Intermediate posts should be at centres of 12.0m maximum and should be at least 75mm diameter.
- Droppers may be used between intermediate posts.

Post-and-wire fencing

- Wire fencing must be at least 1.05 m high. Use galvanised 4 mm mild steel plain or 2.5 mm barbed wire, or equivalent as stated in BS 4102 and BS EN 10223.
- The number of strands of wire required is not specified but must be 'fit for purpose', for example, if installed to keep cattle in a field it would need to be sufficient to hold them there.
- Straining posts must be at least 125 x 125 mm square or 100 mm top diameter. The straining posts for fences 1.05 m high should be 1.87 m long and in all cases they should be set in the ground at least 750 mm and at a spacing not exceeding 150 m.
- Struts must be 75 x 75 mm square or 65 mm top diameter, 1.87 m long for fences 1.05 m high and set in the ground at least 450 mm and mortised into the straining post.

- Intermediate posts must be 75 x 75 mm square or 65 mm top diameter, 1.75 m long for a fence 1.05 m high and in all cases set in the ground at least 600 mm and at a spacing not exceeding 3.50 m. Barbed wire must not be used where fencing runs alongside Public Rights of Way, unless this is unavoidable.

*This information related to a scheme in 2014.
It is now out of date and has been withdrawn.*