Countryside Stewardship Water Grants 2015
Scoring and weighting of selection criteria

The use of scoring and weighting criteria will help ensure funding goes to those projects which provide the best value for money, address clear needs and are financially viable. A clear scoring system will be used to assess the Countryside Stewardship Water Capital 2015 Grant applications received. Each category will have different levels of scores, but none of the levels are cumulative. The maximum score any application can receive is 85. The highest scoring applications will receive funding first.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

Criteria	**Score**	
1. Target areas The application is from a holding in a target area for reduction of Diffuse Water Pollution from Agriculture (DWPA).	Yes:	Pass
	No:	Fail
2. Top 10 priority items The application includes <u>at least one</u> of the top ten priority capital items identified in the target area's Funding Priority Statement (FPS) to tackle local DWPA pressures.	Yes	20
	No	0
3. Protection of bathing waters Maximum of 5 points available to applications from holdings in bathing water catchments not meeting revised Bathing Waters Directive (BWD) objectives due to DWPA. Two supplementary points available where the holding is in one of top six bathing waters most impacted by DWPA, where significant penetration of measures is required.		
Applications meeting the following criteria will receive a 'high' score: a) Relevant items have been chosen which address faecal pollution; and b) The location of these items is directly hydrologically connected to the target bathing water (e.g. adjacent to a stream or a key pathway that connects to the stream); and c) These items are within two days' "travel time" from the bathing water.	High	5
Applications meeting the following criteria will receive a 'medium' score: a) Relevant items have been chosen which address faecal pollution; and b) The location of these items is indirectly hydrologically connected to the target bathing water (e.g. via land drains, indirect pathways via fields and tracks). c) These items are within two days' "travel time" from the bathing water.	Medium	3

Criteria	Score	
Applications meeting the following criteria will receive a 'low' score: a) Relevant items have been chosen which address faecal pollution; and b) These items are more than two days' "travel time" from the bathing water.	Low	1
Applications will receive a zero score where: • the holding is not in a bathing water catchment not meeting revised BWD objectives due to DWPA; or • the holding is in a relevant bathing water catchment, but the items selected do not address faecal pollution pressures.	No	0
Additionally, where applications arise from holdings in one of top six bathing waters most impacted by DWPA and score 'high', 'medium' or 'low' as above, two supplementary points are added	Top 6	Add 2
4. Protection of Natura 2000 (N2K) protected sites Maximum of 5 points available to applications from holdings in Natura 2000 (N2K) catchments not meeting WFD objectives due to DWPA.		
Applications meeting the following criteria will receive a 'high' score: a) The location of capital items is clearly hydrologically connected to the target N2K site; b) The items chosen help address the pressure(s) preventing improvement of the N2K site condition (e.g. if phosphate were the primary pressure on the N2K site, then the item chosen needs to help address phosphate issues, as identified within the DWPA user guide); and c) The capital item is part of a wider package of activities being undertaken on the holding to address the target pollution issues (e.g. good soil husbandry practices are being undertaken in field)	High	5
Applications meeting the following criteria will receive a 'medium' score: a) The items chosen help address the pressure(s) preventing improvement of the N2K site condition; b) The farmer has discussed the application with the Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer (CSFO) and is engaged with the advice components of Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF); and c) Other pollution measures relevant to the N2K site are being considered by the farmer.	Medium	3
Applications meeting the following criteria will receive a 'low' score: a) At least half of the items chosen address the pressure(s) preventing improvement of the N2K site condition; and b) The farmer is interested in future engagement with the advice components of CSF.	Low	1
Applications will receive a zero score where: • the holding is not in a N2K catchment not meeting WFD	No	0

Criteria	Score	
objectives due to DWPA; or • the holding is in a relevant N2K catchment, but the items selected bear little or no relationship to the pressure identified as impacting on the N2K site (e.g. an application for a biobed where pesticide pollution has not been identified as an N2K issue); or • the holding is in a relevant N2K catchment, but the farmer has not discussed the application with the CSFO and is not intending to engage with the advice elements of CSF.		
5. Engagement with CSF Maximum of 17 points available for applications from holdings which have engaged with CSF in the two years **before** submitting their application.		
Applications from holdings which have received specialist advice (i.e. detailed report) from a CSFO in the previous two years will receive a 'high' score: • The CSFO has been to the holding and carried out a survey or assessment and produced a written report including a description of the farm's DWPA issues with recommended solutions. Types of reports include: an infrastructure audit, manure management plan, soil health check, nutrient planning (this list is not exclusive). In the South West, this can include a Soils for Profit visit with subsequent advice/reports.	High	17
Applications from holdings which have received a 1:1 site visit from a CSFO in the previous two years will receive a 'medium' score: • The CSFO has been to the holding to have a one-to-one meeting with the applicant or their agent to discuss the application, including the need for intervention.	Medium	13
Applications from holdings which have engaged with a CSFO off-farm to discuss their application in the previous two years will receive a 'low' score: • The CSFO has discussed the application with the farmer via telephone, including the need for intervention; and/or • The farmer has attended at least one of the CSF-led events or workshops within the priority catchment and discussed the application, including the need for intervention. [N.B. Scoring is not cumulative; i.e. it is not possible to accrue a score of 18 for both types of engagement]	Low	9
Applications will receive a zero score where there has been no prior contact or engagement with the CSFO and the farmer has not attended any CSF events.	No	0
6. Number of previous CSF grants Scores will be higher where applicants have not previously received funding or have received a smaller number of previous grants under the CSF scheme.	No	17
	1	11

Criteria	Score	
	2	7
	3 or more	0
7. CSFO endorsement Maximum of 19 points available for applications according to potential impact on DWPA issues in the catchment.		
Applications meeting the following criteria will receive a 'high' score: a) Considerable reduction in DWPA clearly expected on farm which will make a strong contribution to reducing DWPA within the catchment. b) The capital items applied for are all entirely suited to reducing the DWPA issue(s) in the best way possible. c) All relevant CSF advice received will be implemented.	High	19
Applications meeting the following criteria will receive a 'medium' score: a) A good reduction in DWPA is expected from the farm which will benefit the catchment. b) Capital items chosen are very appropriate for the issues present. c) CSF advice received has been implemented as effectively as possible.	Medium	13
Applications meeting the following criteria will receive a 'low' score: a) Slight reduction in DWPA from the farm and within the catchment expected. b) Capital items are appropriate but more could be done. c) CSF advice received has partly been acted upon.	Low	7
Applications will be rejected where: a) Little to no reduction in DWPA from the farm and little positive impact on the catchment is expected b) Capital items chosen are not relevant or are inappropriate c) CSF advice received has not been acted upon.	No	Reject