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Countryside Stewardship Schemes

growing through innovation



Countryside Stewardship Schemes

Countryside Stewardship gives incentives for land managers to look after their environment and is made up of the following elements:

- Higher Tier - for land that requires more complex management tailored to the individual site
- Mid Tier - provides a range of options and capital items that together help to deliver a broad range of environmental benefits. If supported by Catchment Sensitive Farming, no limit to capital works value
- Organic conversion and management are also an option under Mid Tier
- Mid Tier and Higher Tier are competitive



Wildlife Offers

Four Wildlife Offers provide a simplified range of options to help support wildlife on farm and are not competitive.

Choose from:

- Arable Offer
- Lowland Grazing Offer
- Mixed Farming Offer
- Upland Offer

No capital works are eligible and not all CSS options are available to each scheme.

In addition

- Water capital only grants provide funding to improve water quality in high water quality priority areas – up to £10,000
- Other capital only grants including hedgerows and boundaries grants, which you can apply for in addition to the four Wildlife Offers
- Facilitation Fund supports individuals and organisations working with local groups of farmers and land managers, to co-ordinate their environmental land management

Selecting options

Key landscape features will determine which options can be used and where. Work with us during an on-farm assessment and discussion of your requirements to identify suitable options, including:

- Arable and grassland
- Rivers, ponds, springs and ditches
- Areas of woodland, hedges and farm tracks
- Scheduled monuments, SSSIs, SPA, SACs or SDAs

**Get
ahead
now**

Key dates

February
Applications open

31st July
Submit applications by

31st December
Accept RPA agreement
within 20 working
days from offer

1st January Year 1
Stewardship agreement
begins for 5 years (unless
offered an ELM agreement
during this time)

**12th March -
15th May**
Annual claim window

Summary of key options

Code	Option	Summary	Payment
Grassland			
GS2	Low input permanent grass	Max FYM 12T/ha/yr. Closed dates for fertilising, mowing and topping	£95/ha
GS4	Legume and herb-rich sward	Fixed or rotational	£309/ha
GS17	Grazing supplement	Used with GS2	£44/ha
Arable			
AB1	Nectar flower mix	Suggested plots 0.25 -0.5	£511/ha
AB6	Enhanced overwintered stubble	1 year stubble fallow. Return to rotation 1st August	£436/ha
AB7	Whole crop cereals	Followed by overwintered stubble. Re-work after 15 February	£495/ha
AB8	Wildflower & grass mix	Spring or summer planting	£539/ha
AB9	Winter bird food	Min 6m strip/0.40ha block Sow 15 February - 15 June Retain until 15 February	£640/ha
AB15	2-Year legume fallow	Sow after harvest year 1 and 3	£522/ha
AB16	Bumblebird mixture	Autumn sown year 1 and 3	£550/ha
SW1	4-6m grass buffer	Cannot overlap footpaths	£353/ha
SW3	In-field grass strip	Up to 30% of field area on land subject to soil erosion	£557/ha
SW4	12-24m watercourse buffer	Only on cultivated identified at risk of soil erosion or surface runoff	£512/ha

Capital items

Code	Option	Summary	Payment
BN7	Hedgerow gapping-up	Hedges over 20m length and less than 5m wide	£9.50/m
BN11	Plant new hedges	Native species, 6 plants/m, in 2 staggered rows	£11.60/m
BN12	Stone wall restoration	Where at least 1/3 needs to be rebuilt	£25/m
BN13	Top wiring	Supplement for top wiring stone wall	£3.60m
BN14	Stone supplement	Stone from quarry for BN12	£44/m
FG1	Wire fencing	Posts plus plain or barbed wire	£4.00/m
FG2	Sheep netting	Stock fence, plus top wire	£4.90/m
FG4	Rabbit fencing supplement	Buried to depth of 150mm, include 2 strainer wires	£2.50/m
FG12	Wooden field gate	To include wooden wings on both sides	£390.00/u

Within the various CSS there are around 260 options, with the ones listed here being the most widely used.

Other options can be included subject to on farm assessment and qualification.



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