

GUIDANCE NOTES

Rural Grants and Payments

DEFRA Funding - ENGLAND

Countryside Stewardship - see separate Guidance Note
Catchment Sensitive Farming: reduce agricultural water pollution
Growth Programme: grants for the rural economy
Rural Development Programme for England: LEADER funding

Catchment Sensitive Farming

Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) is a project run by Natural England in partnership with the Environment Agency and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

It raises awareness of diffuse water pollution from agriculture (DWPA) by giving free training and advice to farmers in selected areas in England. The selected areas are called priority catchments. The aim of the advice is to improve the environmental performance of farms.

CSF is staffed by trained, qualified and experienced advisors. The advice is confidential and not disclosed to other parties.

Advice is available in priority catchment areas only. The selected catchments are those where improvements in water quality will make the greatest contribution under the Water Framework Directive objectives.

The water capital item element of Mid-Tier Countryside Stewardship is the replacement for the former Capital Grant Scheme which was available through Catchment Sensitive Farming until 2014.

Water capital items are available through Mid-Tier either as a two year capital agreement or within a five year Mid Tier or High Tier agreement, which has land management options too. The maximum available for water capital items through a two year capital only agreement is £10,000. There is no maximum for a 5-year mid-tier agreement containing additional land management options. Capital items within a five year agreement must be finished within the first two years.

To be eligible land has to be registered with the RPA on the Rural Land Registry. This includes farmyards that you may want to include in the application. Land which is in ELS or HLS on 1 January 2017 is not eligible for Countryside Stewardship options and capital works on the same land parcel. This includes water capital items.

Some land management options and capital items for water require the support and approval of a Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer (CSFO) for an application to be considered. CSFOs only work in CS High Water Quality Priority Areas. You need to seek CSFO advice early, preferably before the end of August. This will allow time to organise the visit and respond to CSFO recommendations before the application deadline of 30 September.

The CS High Water Quality Priority Areas can be viewed on the online mapping tool Magic: under 'Countryside Stewardship Targeting & Scoring Layers', then 'Water', and then 'Countryside Stewardship Water Quality Priority Areas'. Note that this layer can then be made transparent using the slider under 'Countryside Stewardship Targeting & Scoring Layers'. You can then use the 'Identify' tool to obtain local data. A list of CSFOs and their contact details can also be found on GOV.UK.

Applicants can still apply for other items if they are within a CS High Water Quality Priority Area, however, CSFOs are proactively working with a selected number of holdings so they are unable to see everyone who is interested or wishes to apply.

As with all aspects of CS the two year water capital agreement and five year land management agreement applications are competitive and scored on a point's basis. Applicants who have had engagement and support from CSFOs and consider the other priorities of the scheme, are likely to score higher.

Growth Programme

The Growth Programme provides funding to help projects in England which create jobs and help rural economy growth. These grants are funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) manages the grants, working with Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs).

'Calls for applications'

The RPA will publish calls for applications. These calls invite applications for grants in specific LEP areas. Each call will reflect the priorities set by the LEP and will clearly state:

- what types of grants are open for applications
- the opening and closing dates and times for applications

Applications received after the closing date and time will not be accepted.

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Available grants

- Grants are available for:
- business development
 - food processing
 - small-scale tourism infrastructure
 - tourism cooperation

LEADER Funding

LEADER funding is available to local businesses, communities, farmers, foresters and land managers. Find out how to apply for funding through Local Action Groups (LAGs).

You can apply to your Local Action Group (LAG) for funding for projects that create jobs, help your business to grow, and benefit the rural economy, under the LEADER scheme. LEADER funding is delivered via LEADER LAGs and is available to local businesses, communities, farmers, foresters and land managers.

A total of £138 million is available in the England between 2015 and 2020 under the scheme. LEADER is part of the RDPE. It is a French acronym (Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Economie Rurale) which roughly translates as 'Liaison among Actors in Rural Economic Development'.

A LAG is made up of people from the local community and the local public and private sector. Each LAG decides which projects they will fund in their area. This depends on their priorities but all projects must support one or more of the 6 LEADER priorities. These are to:

- support micro and small businesses and farm diversification
- boost rural tourism
- increase farm productivity
- increase forestry productivity
- provide rural services
- provide cultural and heritage activities

To find out more, and to apply, you should contact your LAG, or check their website, for information about:

- funding in your area
- funding priorities – including the local development strategy
- how to apply for funding
- past projects
- LAG members

Welsh Government Funding – WALES

Glastir Small Grants

Land Managers and Farming Businesses across Wales have an opportunity to apply for Capital Works under the new Glastir Small Grants Scheme.

This stand alone scheme contributes to the delivery of Welsh Government's ambitions to tackle climate change and improve water management.

The first Expression of Interest is now open and will close at midnight on 29 July 2016. This Expression of interest window concentrates on Carbon and has a total budget of £1.5 million. Land Managers and Farming Businesses can benefit from a maximum funding of up to £5,000 for capital works subject to Selection.

Full details of the scheme, including what capital works are available and the Selection process are explained in the Glastir Small Grants General Rules and Carbon Technical Guidance Booklets.

If you wish to be considered for Glastir Small Grants, you will need to submit an Expression of Interest, which is only available online via the Rural Payments Wales (RPW) Online facility. If you have not registered as a Customer on RPW Online, you are encouraged to do so immediately otherwise you will may not be able to apply. All land must already be registered with the Welsh Government.

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