



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Countryside Stewardship – update

May 2015



New Forest Consultative Panel 28th May 15
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What this presentation covers:

- An introduction to Rural Development Programme for England- background and design
- How it works
- Statement of Priorities
- Eligibility
- Support available to applicants
- Next steps

Background and Design



CAP Pillar 2 in England: 2014-20

Countryside Stewardship
£3.1bn

includes legacy agri-environment & forestry schemes

Countryside Productivity
£140m

Grants for farming and forestry businesses.

Growth Programme
£177m

Grants for other rural businesses

LEADER Groups
£138m

Community-led delivery of rural grants

Agri-environment and Forestry: Programmed Spend

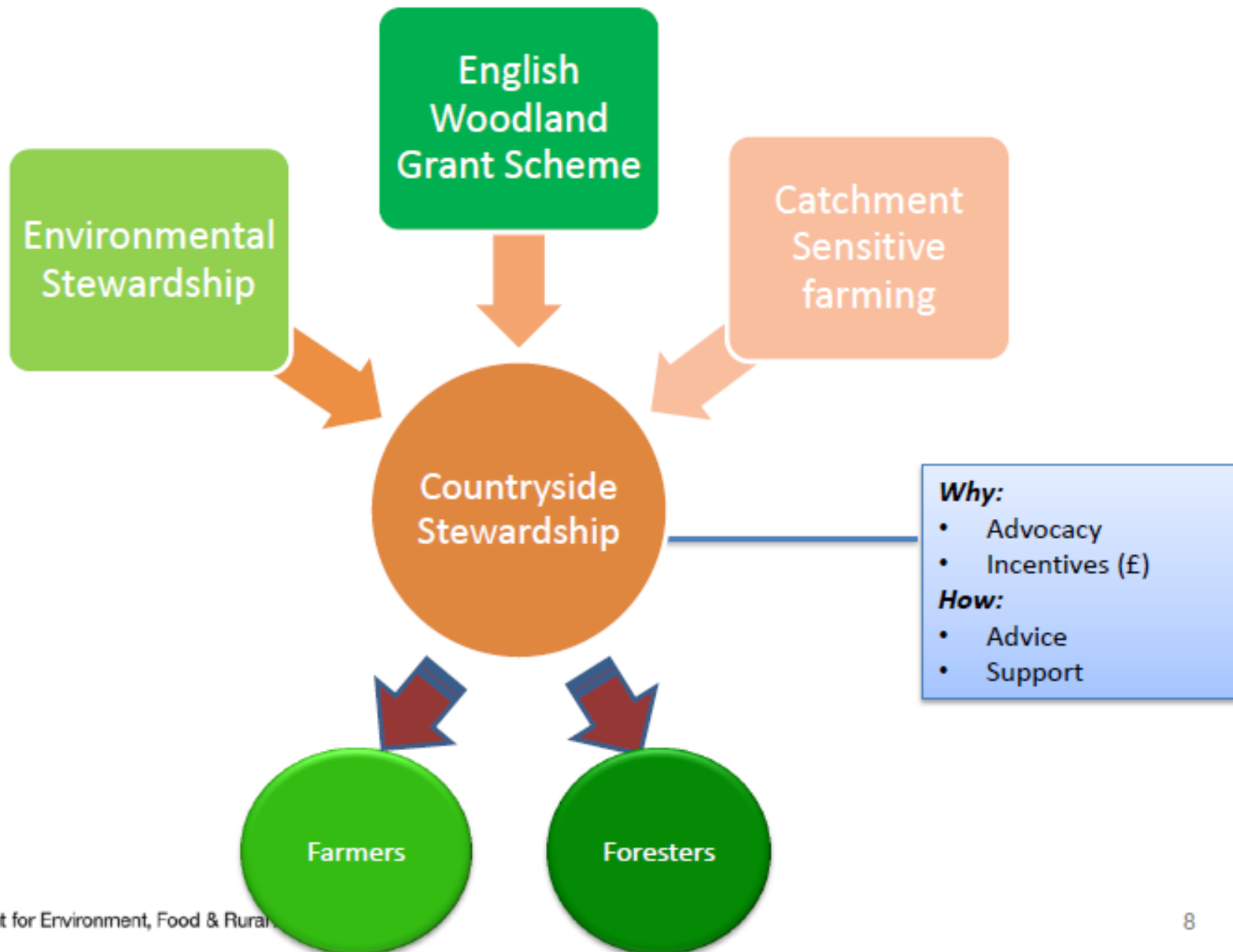
Agri-environment and Forestry 2014-2020 in £m	
Countryside Stewardship	925
Existing HLS	1,138
Existing ELS	912
Existing Forestry	105
Total	3,080

Countryside Stewardship is a scheme that...

- Provides incentives for land managers to look after the countryside
- Combines financial incentives with advice
- Delivers a wide range of outcomes
 - Focus on biodiversity
 - Enhanced potential for water quality
 - Optimise synergies



Integrated Scheme



Countryside Stewardship Elements

Mid Tier

Higher Tier

- **Hedgerow & Boundaries**
- **Water Capital**
- **Woodland Capital**
- **Feasibility studies**
- **Implementation plans**

Capital & Planning
Grants

Funding for Facilitation

Stewardship: Building Blocks

COMMON MENU OF 244 OPTIONS / ITEMS

Higher Tier

Mid Tier

Capital
Grants

Advice

Facilitation

Biodiversity
& Wildlife

Soil &
Water

Flood Risk

OUTCOMES

Historic
environment

Genetic
Conservation

Educational
Access

Landscape & Climate Change

Countryside Stewardship

Phased introduction through 2015:

Preliminary grants (2015 only)

1. 2015 Woodland Grant: window Feb 17th to end May, woodland management plans and woodland tree health window remains open
2. 2015 Water Grant: window March 2nd to end April

Facilitation Fund: 2015 window March 17th – May 13th

Full Scheme

From July 2015 (a couple of capital items not until early 2016)

- Mid Tier multi-annual
- Higher Tier multi-annual
- Capital Grants

Replaces and incorporates the elements in the two preliminary grants

Key Principles

- 5 year agreements- exceptions can be made for more complex options (woodland, wetland habitats etc).
- Biodiversity and Water are key objectives
- Includes Forestry Schemes and CSF
- Open to all- but competitive so must meet objectives laid out in statements of priorities
- Applications submitted on new Rural Payments System. Guidance available on Gov.uk
- A business can only apply for 1 application per year




BETA This part of GOV.UK is being rebuilt – [find out what this means](#)

Countryside Stewardship grants

From: [Natural England, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs,](#)
and [Forestry Commission](#)

Search

Get updates to this list  [feed](#)

[Nectar flower mix \(AB1\)](#)

[Basic overwinter stubble \(AB2\)](#)

[Beetle banks \(AB3\)](#)

[Skylark plots \(AB4\)](#)

[Nesting plots for lapwing and stone curlew \(AB5\)](#)

Grant type

Option

Capital item

Supplement

Statements of Priorities and scoring

- Applications should reflect Countryside Stewardship priorities and show that they provide value for money.
- To score applications, we will use:
 - the priorities highlighted in the national scheme targeting framework
 - the land management options applicants have chosen for their land parcels

Document



[Countryside Stewardship statement of priorities: New Forest \(NCA131\)](#)

PDF, 385KB, 11 pages

This file may not be suitable for users of assistive technology.

[Request a different format.](#)

Detail

Farmers and other land managers can apply for a Countryside Stewardship agreement to help pay for work to address a range of environmental objectives. Each area has a range of features and issues that have been identified as priorities for funding and these are set out within this statement.

Use this document to:

- identify the priority features and issues targeted within this area
- help inform you when considering which options to choose as part of your application

Further guidance will be available shortly in the Countryside Stewardship scheme manual (including the water quality options table) and the list of management options and items.

Who is eligible

Countryside Stewardship is open to Land Managers who are one of the following:

- owner occupiers;
- tenants (including farmers who may have an agreement with the landlord labelled as a licence but who in practice have wider land management responsibilities)
- landlords
- common land rights holders

Public Bodies

Landowner		Comment
Government departments, executive agencies and NDPBs (e.g. Ministry of Defence, Forestry Commission)	Ineligible	Public forest that is tenanted by a private entity or municipality may be eligible for support.
Other public bodies (e.g. local authorities, National Park authorities and public corporations)	Eligible	Provided the work does not form part of their obligations as a public body under national law
Tenants of public bodies	Eligible	Unless carrying out statutory functions that are required of them or which they are carrying out on behalf of their public body landlord. For woodland creation not eligible for maintenance payments.

Next steps

1. Read scheme [manual](#) on GOV.UK
 - What it offers, how it works
 - Eligibility, T&C
2. Read [Statements of Priorities](#) on GOV.UK
 - Understand the outcomes the scheme seeks in your area
3. Look at the [Countryside Stewardship Grants \(option menu\)](#) on GOV.UK
 - What's available; what's required; rates of payment
 - Consider alongside environmental priorities
4. **Apply:** paper applications for 2015. More details soon.

Targeted NE-FC Support

- Mid Tier
 - online guidance on GOV.UK
 - Paper application packs available mid June
 - Local events/clinics throughout the summer (details TBC)
- Capital Grants
 - use online guidance
 - application pack
- Higher Tier applicants
 - get dedicated adviser support from NE and FC advisers
 - Expression of Interest process prior to the Higher Tier application window used to determine who gets this

Other Support

- **Catchment Sensitive Farming Officers (CSFO)**
 - Will offer advice on all scheme elements where they operate (priority catchments)
 - Their endorsement of an application will increase the chance of success

- **CS Facilitators**
 - Operating where their bids have been successful
 - Their endorsement of an application will increase the chance of success

A photograph of a forest landscape. In the foreground, a small stream flows through a grassy area, with several large, fallen logs scattered across the ground. The background is filled with tall, thin trees, likely oaks, with green foliage. The sky is overcast. The text "Thank you for listening" is overlaid in white, bold font in the center of the image.

Thank you for listening

Any questions?

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