

List of web page updates for AECS 2024 round

Full Scheme guidance pages

Web page	Summary of main changes	Date Published
Home page	Information added on AECS 2024 round, updated Targeting tool. Notification of results for 2023 round and removal of certain information related to previous rounds	14 February 2024
Introduction	Contents of page incorporated into other AECS guidance pages.	13 September 2023
Eligibility	<p>Scheme eligibility section:</p> <p>Example provided as to where Funding under AECS cannot be used to support works that you are required to complete as part of a statutory or legislative obligation.</p> <p>Application Eligibility section:</p> <p>Updated application eligibility questions pdf Added text stating: Please ensure you read the AECS homepage and also the relevant guidance pages covering scheme eligibility and application eligibility which are listed here.</p> <p>Management options and capital items eligibility sections:</p> <p>Added text stating if an option is not listed for your holding on the Targeting Tool you may be able to apply for it if you obtain an endorsement before submitting your application, using the process explained in the Endorsements page, and the same applies to capital items.</p> <p>Link to Updated Targeting tool</p>	14 February 2024
IPA landing page	<p>Fund update section:</p> <p>IPA is not opening to applications in 2024</p>	12 September 2023
How to Apply for IPA	<p>Important Note section:</p> <p>Updated to explain IPA will not be open for applications in 2024</p>	12 September 2023
Scoring Criteria for Improving Public Access	<p>Important Note section:</p> <p>Updated to explain IPA will not be open for applications in 2024</p>	12 September 2023
Further Information on IPA	Important Note section:	12 September 2023

List of web page updates for AECS 2024 round

	Updated to explain IPA will not be open for applications in 2024	
How to Apply	<p>Introduction section:</p> <p>Opening and closing dates for 2024 application round. Options/capital items restricted in 2024 / not available in 2023 but available in 2024 / suspended for the 2024 application round - including Improving Public Access. Added information covering Water-use Efficiency Irrigation Lagoon, slurry storage and the submission of an endorsement request form to NatureScot.</p> <p>Application requirements section:</p> <p>Point 2 - In exceptional cases you can apply for other options or capital items if you have obtained an Endorsement from NatureScot</p> <p>Point 3 - FEA not required for Water-use Efficiency – Irrigation Lagoon where this is the only option applied for</p> <p>Point 7 - A copy of the declarations and undertakings provided.</p> <p>Point 8 Added text stating where Scoring Criteria information for Agri Environment, Organics, Slurry Storage and Irrigation Lagoons can be found on Scoring Criteria page.</p> <p>Point 9 - A copy of the standard contract terms and conditions provided. If your application is unsuccessful you will be provided with the reasons why your application has been rejected and you may seek a formal review.</p> <p>Whole page: Minor edits since page was published for 2023 round</p>	14 February 2024
Checklist of Requirements	Updated /revised information across whole page for the 2024 round	4 December 2023
Essential information for Applications (formerly Important tips)	<p>Updated /revised information across whole page for the 2024 round</p> <p>Added text covering Eurasian Beavers</p>	26 January 2024
Further requirements for applicants	<p>Consents and Licences section:</p> <p>Amendment to second bullet (Water-use Efficiency – Irrigation Lagoon capital item) at</p>	22 September 2023

List of web page updates for AECS 2024 round

	<p>paragraph providing some examples of where you might require a particular authorisation. Two new links and minor edits added at same section.</p> <p>Quotes section:</p> <p>Added sentence advising you must submit a Quotations table using the template provided.</p>	
Designations: natural heritage, landscape, historic	<p>Natural heritage designations section:</p> <p>Text edits relating to 2024 round</p> <p>Historical and archaeological designations section:</p> <p>Updated 'Scotland Rural Development Programme – Management of Scheduled Monuments: Management options and capital items' leaflet for 2024 round</p>	2 November 2023
Mapping	<p>Section below heading of page:</p> <p>Updated Collaborative Management Plan</p> <p>Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS) maps section:</p> <p>Insertion of updated Land Maintenance Form guidance</p>	5 October 2023
Farm Environment Assessment	<p>Textual revisions across whole page with key revisions at following sections;</p> <p>Introduction:</p> <p>Slurry Storage applied for separately for 2024 round – details to follow.</p> <p>Improving Public Access suspended for 2024 round. FEA not required for Water – use Efficiency -Irrigation Lagoon where this is the only option applied for</p> <p>Farm Environment Assessment section:</p> <p>Updated Farm Environment Table template.</p> <p>Diffuse Pollution Steading Assessment section:</p> <p>Added text to explain that a Diffuse Pollution Steading Assessment is only required for Water – use Efficiency -Irrigation Lagoon</p>	10 October 2023

List of web page updates for AECS 2024 round

	where the lagoon will be filled with any water that was collected at a steading.	
Diffuse Pollution risk assessment and diffuse pollution steading assessment	<p>Diffuse Pollution Risk Assessment section:</p> <p>Added text explaining Diffuse Pollution Risk Assessment comprises of two elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A field assessment map • A table detailing the Diffuse pollution risks and identifying potential opportunities/actions to minimise these risks. This can include identifying potential AECS options/capital items that could be delivered <p>Diffuse Pollution Steading Assessment section:</p> <p>Added text to explain the requirements for the individual elements of the Diffuse Pollution Steading Assessment.</p> <p>Also, text to explain that for Water – use Efficiency Irrigation Lagoon – the Diffuse Pollution Steading Assessment is only required where the lagoon will be filled with any water that was collected at a steading.</p>	5 October 2023
Endorsements	<p>Seeking endorsement for options or capital items outwith their target area section:</p> <p>Added sentence explaining where you can find target area maps for spatially targeted options and capital items.</p> <p>Revised wording and additional text covering endorsement for options or capital items outwith their target area and when to submit the endorsement request form to NatureScot.</p> <p>Edits to Table 1</p> <p>Seeking endorsement for Species-rich Grassland Management or Habitat Mosaic Management options in hill or upland rough grazing land section:</p> <p>Added text covering when to submit the endorsement request form to NatureScot and</p>	6 October 2023

List of web page updates for AECS 2024 round

	<p>if endorsed submit it as a supporting document alongside the AECS applications.</p> <p>Edits to Table 2</p>	
Scoring Criteria	<p>Introduction:</p> <p>Edited text stating the scoring criteria for Agri Environment and Organic management for the 2024 round can be found in sections 2 and 3 respectively.</p> <p>Edited text stating the scoring criteria for Slurry Storage can be found at section 4</p> <p>Added text stating the scoring criteria for Water -use Efficiency -Irrigation Lagoon can be found at section 5</p> <p>The scoring page for the 2023 round can be found using the archive.</p> <p>Agri-Environment Scoring Criteria: Revisions to text and supporting documents including updated: Agri Environment score sheet, Vulnerable species recording form and guidance, updated collaborative management plan and updated Scheduled Monuments leaflet. Updated wader survey template from 2024 onwards.</p> <p>Slurry Storage Scoring</p> <p>Added Section 4 to cover Slurry Storage scoring guidance and scoring criteria -</p> <p>Water use-Efficiency -Irrigation Lagoon</p> <p>Added Section 5 to cover Water use-Efficiency -Irrigation Lagoon scoring guidance and scoring criteria</p>	14 February 2024
Funding under this Scheme	<p>Introduction:</p> <p>Added text explaining what AECS funding will help</p> <p>Capital Items section:</p> <p>Minor edits</p> <p>Actual costs capital items section:</p>	11 January 2024

List of web page updates for AECS 2024 round

	Removal of text covering suspension of Primary Treatment of Bracken Mechanised or Chemical in 2023* along with minor edits. *Option for 2024 now titled: Primary Treatment of Bracken – Mechanised (Formerly Mechanised or Chemical)	
Double Funding and option incompatibility	Compatibility checker updated.	22 September 2023
Inspections	Revision to percentage rates in first two bullets on page. Removal of wording related to on site visit at the end of the third bullet. Revision of wording to paragraph covering Cross compliance checks, including addition of link to cross compliance landing web page and removal of link to Cross compliance inspection selection.	13 September 2023
Claims and Payments	Note at top of page: The updating of this page for the 2024 application round will not take place until March 24 - after the 2023 capital items and Farm Environment Assessment / management plan claim submission deadlines have passed.	13 September 2023

Management options and capital items guidance pages(plus supporting guidance pages)

Web page	Summary of main changes	Date published
Management options Home page	Updates across page for 2024 round including link to updated Targeting Tool	14 February 2024
Capital Items Home page	Updates across page for 2024 round. including link to updated Targeting Tool	14 February 2024
Chough Grazing Management	Application Requirements section: Updated Chough Management Plan template.	19 October 2023
Predator Control	Application Requirements section: Updated Predator Control Plan template.	22 November 2023
Chough Mown Grassland	Application Requirements section: Updated Chough Management Plan template.	19 October 2023

<p><u>Water-use Efficiency – Irrigation Lagoon</u></p>	<p>Eligibility Added text:</p> <p>This item can stand alone or be part of a wider application. Standalone irrigation applications will be assessed on their own merits and against other standalone irrigation lagoon applications if budget pressures constrain our ability to approve applications.</p> <p>Standalone Irrigation Lagoon applications (lagoon and underground drainage only) must be submitted in the period 15 February 2024 to 19 April 2024. Successful applications will receive contracts from May 2024 onwards.</p> <p>Applications for Irrigation Lagoons that also include AECS management proposals should be submitted in the main Agri-Environment window 1st February to 10th June 2024</p> <p>Application requirements</p> <p>You must produce a diffuse pollution stading assessment if the lagoon will be filled from water collected from stading roofs.</p> <p>If the lagoon is distant from the stading and not filled from water collected at a stading then there is no need for a diffuse pollution stading assessment, although you must provide full detail of how the lagoon is to be filled</p> <p>The application must also contain details of the crops to be irrigated and any existing water storage facilities that are used for irrigation purposes.</p> <p>Payment</p> <p>The maximum payment for this option is restricted to £40,000 per business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £2.94 per cubic metre without a proprietary liner • £8.20 per cubic metre with a proprietary liner 	<p>14 February 2024</p>
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List of web page updates for AECS 2024 round

Organic Conversion	<p>Requirements section:</p> <p>Added text covering the early notification of organic conversion application outcome</p> <p>Payment Section:</p> <p>Added text to explain that while there is no upper limit for land in organic maintenance you must be able to demonstrate that the land is used for agricultural purposes.</p>	14 February 2024
Organic Maintenance	<p>Payment Section:</p> <p>Added text to explain that while there is no upper limit for land in organic maintenance you must be able to demonstrate that the land is used for agricultural purposes.</p>	6 October 2023
Slurry Storage	<p>Important Notice New section – introducing requirements of the Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2021</p> <p>Eligibility Clarification that previous recipients of funding for slurry storage under Rural Priorities from the 2007 – 2013 Scottish Rural Development Programme are now eligible to apply to AECs slurry storage.</p> <p>Spatial Targeting Slurry storage is available throughout Scotland out with designated Nitrate Vulnerable Zones</p> <p>Application Requirements Clarification that we will only accept applications that have used the provided slurry storage calculator for slurry production and storage calculations.</p> <p>Requirements Clarification on where pre 1991 stores need to be removed. New information on planning permission process</p> <p>Timing of work Flexibility of build and claim period.</p> <p>Payment rate Rate per m³ increases to £20/m³. Successful applicants from the islands can expect a 10% uplift on the above</p>	14 February 2024

List of web page updates for AECS 2024 round

	rates for slurry storage and slurry ancillary equipment	
Rhododendron Control – Foliar Spray / Treatment	<p>Spatial Targeting – amended text stating: It may be possible to apply for this option outside this area where there is strong justification <i>and you have an endorsement from NatureScot submitted alongside your application</i></p> <p>Application Requirements – amended text in regard to Rhododendrons density – light medium or <i>difficult</i></p> <p>Payment section: Change of name from Natura to European Sites</p>	8 November 2023
Rhododendron Control – Manual Eradication – Light, Medium or Difficult	<p>Spatial Targeting – amended text stating: It may be possible to apply for this option outside this area where there is strong justification <i>and you have an endorsement from NatureScot submitted alongside your application</i></p> <p>Application Requirements – amended text in regard to Rhododendrons density – light medium or <i>difficult</i></p> <p>Payment section: Change of name from Natura to European Sites</p>	8 November 2023
Rhododendron Control – Mechanised Eradication – Light, Medium or Difficult	<p>Spatial Targeting – amended text stating: It may be possible to apply for this option outside this area where there is strong justification <i>and you have an endorsement from NatureScot submitted alongside your application</i></p> <p>Application Requirements – amended text in regard to Rhododendrons density – light medium or <i>difficult</i></p> <p>Payment section: Change of name from Natura to European Sites</p>	8 November 2023
Rhododendron Control – Stem Injection Eradication – Medium or Difficult	<p>Spatial Targeting – amended text stating: It may be possible to apply for this option outside this area where there is strong justification <i>and you have an endorsement from NatureScot submitted alongside your application</i></p>	8 November 2023

List of web page updates for AECS 2024 round

	<p>Application Requirements – amended text in regard to Rhododendrons density –medium or <i>difficult</i></p> <p>Payment section: Change of name from Natura to European Sites</p>	
Restoring Drystone or Flagstone Dykes	Removal of Note relating to 2023 round indicating Restoring Drystone or Flagstone Dykes is currently suspended for new applications	14 September 2023
Muirburn and Heather Cutting	<p>Note at top of page stating Muirburn is currently suspended for new applications therefore, only heather cutting can be included in new applications. You can only carry out the muirburn on an SSSI if you have NatureScot consent. For all proposed heather cutting, detail should be provided in the Muirburn & Heather Cutting Plan..</p> <p>Aim section: Removal of 'year round forage' and 'livestock' in terms of what well-managed muirburn or cutting will help provide.</p> <p>Application Requirements section: 'Muirburn Plan' renamed to 'Muirburn and Heather Cutting' Plan 'or cut' added to fourth bullet</p>	3 October 2023
Pond Creation and Restoration for Wildlife	<p>Deletion of 'Note' indicating 'Pond creation and restoration for wildlife currently suspended for new applications'</p> <p>Claims section: Note inserted: Pond creation and restoration is restricted to 2000 square metres per application with no single pond greater than 600 square metres (Please refer to detail in supporting guidance)</p> <p>Whole page: References to Scottish Natural Heritage changed to NatureScot</p>	3 October 2023
Primary Treatment of Bracken – Mechanised or Chemical	<p>Heading: Title changed to Primary Treatment of Bracken – Mechanised (Formerly Mechanised or Chemical)</p> <p>Note For 2024, you may only apply for mechanised treatment of bracken under this capital item</p>	7 November 2023

List of web page updates for AECS 2024 round

	<p>Aim section: Edits to cater for changes relating to capital item now it relates to Primary Treatment of Bracken -Mechanised only.</p> <p>Application Requirements</p> <p>Edits to cater for changes relating to capital item now it relates to Primary Treatment of Bracken -Mechanised only. Updated Bracken Control Plan template.</p> <p>Requirements section: Edits to cater for changes relating to capital item now it relates to Primary Treatment of Bracken -Mechanised only</p> <p>Inspections section:</p> <p>Edits to cater for changes relating to capital item now it relates to Primary Treatment of Bracken -Mechanised only</p>	
Follow of treatment of Bracken – Mechanised or Chemical	<p>Heading: Title changed to Primary Treatment of Bracken – Mechanised (Formerly Mechanised or Chemical)</p> <p>Note For 2024, you may only apply for mechanised treatment of bracken under this capital item</p> <p>Aims section: Edits to cater for changes relating to follow up treatment of bracken capital item</p> <p>Eligibility section: Change of name from Scottish Natural Heritage to Nature Scot</p> <p>Application requirements section: Updated Bracken Control Plan template and Edits to cater for changes relating to follow up treatment of bracken capital item</p> <p>Requirements section: Edits to cater for changes relating to follow up treatment of bracken capital item.</p> <p>Inspections section: Edits to cater for changes relating to follow up treatment of bracken capital item</p>	7 November 2023
Primary Treatment of Bracken – Manual (ruralpayments.org)	<p>Application requirements section: Updated Bracken control plan template</p>	7 November 2023

List of web page updates for AECS 2024 round

Creation of Hedgerows	<p>'Note' at top of page:</p> <p>This option is limited to 1000m of new hedge creation per AECS application.</p>	3 October 2023
Heath Management (Coastal, Serpentine, Lowland and Special Interest) (ruralpayments.org)	<p>Eligibility section:</p> <p>Added text to first bullet stating coastal heath eligibility predominantly located on Orkney, Shetland, the north coast and some of the Western Isles)</p> <p>Reference to consult the supporting guidance for additional help on the definition of eligibility heath types</p> <p>Management requirements section:</p> <p>Insertion of 'type' to sentence in sub section 'For coastal heath, serpentine heath and special interest heath':</p> <p>"Or, you must adhere to an approved grazing regime defining the livestock units/type and grazing dates."</p>	13 November 2023
Habitat Mosaic Management (ruralpayments.org)	<p>Application requirement section:</p> <p>Added text re. Endorsement Request Form and change from Scottish Natural Heritage to NatureScot.</p>	14 September 2023
Species-rich Grassland Management (ruralpayments.org)	<p>Application requirement section:</p> <p>Added text re. Endorsement Request Form</p>	14 September 2023
Wader Grazed Grassland	<p>Revised text at Aim and Eligibility sections.</p> <p>Application requirements section:</p> <p>Revised/added text regarding scoring points for waders</p> <p>Updated Vulnerable Priority Species recording form</p> <p>Updated Wader management template and wader survey form from 2024 onwards</p>	28 November 2023
Wader and Wildlife Mown Grassland	<p>Aim section:</p> <p>Small additions to text</p> <p>Application requirements section:</p> <p>Revised/added text regarding scoring points for waders</p> <p>Updated Vulnerable Priority Species recording form</p> <p>Updated Wader management template and wader survey form from 2024 onwards</p>	28 November 2023
Management or Restoration of Hedgerows (ruralpayments.org)	<p>Spatial Targeting:</p> <p>Added text covering possibility of applying outside Targeting area following endorsement request procedures. Change of name from Scottish Natural Heritage to NatureScot</p>	9 November 2023
Restoration of Species-rich Grassland (ruralpayments.org)	<p>Eligibility section:</p> <p>Reference to checking the supporting guidance for information on eligible fields.</p>	14 September 2023

List of web page updates for AECS 2024 round

Ditch Blocking Plastic Piling Dams	Application requirements section: Updated Ditch Blocking plan template	15 November 2023
Ditch blocking – Peat Dams	Application requirements section: Updated Ditch Blocking plan template	15 November 2023
Lowland Bog Management	Application requirements section: Updated Lowland Bog Management Plan.	6 October 2023
Upland Habitat Impact Assessment for deer management	Application requirements section: Updated Deer Management Plan.	21 November 2023
Deer Census Helicopter Counts	Application requirements section: Updated Deer Management Plan.	21 November 2023
Open Range Deer Management	Application requirements section: Updated Deer Management Plan.	21 November 2023
Moorland management	<p>Application requirements section:</p> <p>Updated moorland management template, Deer Management Plan template, Bracken management and Ditch Blocking Plan templates.</p> <p>Updated guidance for Deer Management: You must seek advice from a NatureScot Wildlife Management Officer before applying. We advise you do this as soon as the application round opens to allow enough time. The deadline for NatureScot advice on deer is 30 April.</p> <p>Updated guidance for Muirburn and Heather cutting: Muirburn cannot be funded through AECS. Only the Heather Cutting element of the capital item is available in the 2024 AECS round</p> <p>Updated guidance for Bracken Management: Only mechanical or manual control of bracken are available for funding in the 2024 AECS round.</p> <p>Moorland Management Plan example - A revised version of the completed template will be uploaded to the Essential information for applications page.</p>	19 December 2023
Away Wintering of sheep	Application requirements section:	20 December 2023

List of web page updates for AECS 2024 round

	Insertion of updated Moorland Management Plan.	
Summer hill grazing of cattle	Application requirements section: Updated Moorland Management Plan template.	20 December 2023
Stock disposal option	Application requirements section: Updated Moorland Management Plan template	20 December 2023
Gate	Eligibility section: Restoring Drystone or Flagstone Dykes - removal of following text :(Suspended for 2023 round)	20 December 2023
Small-scale Tree and Shrub Planting (on a site not exceeding 0.25 hectares) (ruralpayments.org)	Aim Added text covering Eurasian beaver Requirement section: Amendment to second bullet	26 January 2024
Supporting Guidance		
Supporting guidance for Control of Invasive Non-native Plant Species – Follow-up Monitoring and Treatment (ruralpayments.org)	Change of name from Scottish Natural Heritage to NatureScot across page. Correction and insertion of links in ‘Future Information’ section	19 December 2023
Supporting guidance for River Embankment Breaching, Lowering or Removal	Identifying the Opportunity: Revised final sentence. How you can add value: Revised final sentence. Change of name from Scottish Natural Heritage to NatureScot across page.	16 November 2023
Supporting guidance for Chough Mown Grassland	Introduction: Amendment to height range as follows: Choughs prefer to forage in short-grazed, free-draining grassland and silage aftermath of between one and 10 centimetres in height, as this allows them access to the soil insects on which they feed.	3 October 2023
Supporting guidance for Chough Grazing Management	Introduction: Revision stating that Choughs prefer to forage in grassland and silage aftermath of between one and 10 centimetres in height instead of one and 13 centimetres	3 October 2023
Supporting guidance for Ditch Blocking plastic piling dams	Choice of dam - plastic piling or peat dams?: Added text providing further information	3 October 2023

List of web page updates for AECS 2024 round

	<p>Timing:</p> <p>New section added covering timing of work</p> <p>Producing a plan:</p> <p>Updated ditch blocking plan</p>	
Supporting guidance for Ditch Blocking Peat dams	<p>Choice of dam - plastic piling or peat dams?:</p> <p>Added text providing further information</p> <p>Timing:</p> <p>New section added covering timing of work</p> <p>Producing a plan:</p> <p>Updated ditch blocking plan</p>	3 October 2023
Supporting guidance for Restoring (Protecting) River Banks	<p>Identifying the Opportunity:</p> <p>Deletion of invalid final sentence related to facilitation fees</p> <p>Pre-works assessments and approvals:</p> <p>Change of name from Scottish Natural Heritage to NatureScot</p> <p>Further information:</p> <p>Correction of broken links</p>	16 November 2023
supporting guidance for control-of-scrub-or-woody-vegetation---	<p>What needs to be done:</p> <p>Removal of 'Flailing' text, revised text for Spraying and minor edit to Removal of cut material from the site.</p> <p>Further information:</p> <p>Updated / renamed link covering Scottish Forestry felling permission.</p>	14 September 2023
Supporting guidance for Creation of Buffer Areas for Fens and Bogs (ruralpayments.org)	<p>What to plant:</p> <p>Added text stating only native wildflowers which are appropriate for the location should be used.</p> <p>Deletion of final sentence</p> <p>Change of name from Scottish Natural Heritage to NatureScot</p> <p>Further information:</p> <p>Updating of links to information provided</p>	16 November 2023

List of web page updates for AECS 2024 round

Supporting guidance for Pond Creation for Wildlife (ruralpayments.org)	<p>Pond size and profile: Added text - AECS funding for pond creation and restoration is restricted to 2000 square metres per application, with the maximum size for any single pond limited to 600 square metres.</p> <p>Planning permission: Added text - You will need to either have planning permission or confirmation that it is not required by your local planning authority before an AECS contract can be issued</p> <p>Revised text including change of name from Scottish Natural Heritage to NatureScot.</p> <p>Correction to links at 'Useful information'.</p>	<p>3 October 2023</p>
Supporting guidance for Species-rich Grassland Management (ruralpayments.org)	<p>How to assess if a field is species-rich: New section and added Guide</p> <p>What needs to be done?: Added sentence to third paragraph stating: Grazing the sward back after plants have flowered and set seed is important to remove rank vegetation, so a short period of higher grazing with cattle from mid August onwards is beneficial. Addition of 'stock type ' in para. 7 Para. 6 -Change of name from Scottish Natural Heritage to Nature Scot and minor revision.</p> <p>Restoring and creating species rich grassland: Heading changed to 'Restoring species rich grassland'</p> <p>Text removed relating to creating species rich grassland</p> <p>Injurious weeds: Added text stating: The herbicide Asulam is no longer available to treat bracken, therefore, manual or mechanised treatment should be employed on species-rich sites. Updated link names to two Bracken pages.</p> <p>Further Information: Updated links to sites shown and deletion of link to Management of grasslands for insects (Bugs life) site.</p>	<p>9 November 2023</p>
Supporting guidance for Restoration of Species-rich Grassland (ruralpayments.org)	<p>Where should I locate this option?: Text revised covering eligible fields</p>	<p>14 September 2023</p>

List of web page updates for AECS 2024 round

Supporting guidance for Organic Farming: Conversion and Organic Farming: Maintenance (ruralpayments.org)	<p>Conversion of the land: Added text relating to where the land will be subject to a phased conversion.</p> <p>Conversion requirements: Added text covering eligibility requirements to apply for organic conversion as small unit or horticultural enterprise</p>	<p>6 October 2023</p>
Supporting guidance for Bracken Management (ruralpayments.org)	<p>Note: Edits to cater for changes relating to treatment of bracken capital item</p> <p>Introduction:</p> <p>Final sentence amended to read “When bracken encroaches onto sensitive habitats, work to manage its spread may be required”.</p> <p>How best to control bracken on your land:</p> <p>Edits to text within this section. Added text to ‘Grazing (formerly Over winter grazing)’ sub section. Sub sections relating to Herbicide application, Aerial spraying, Do you require consent, After the initial work have been removed.</p> <p>Follow-up treatment:</p> <p>Sub Section heading - Follow up treatment of bracken for mechanised or chemical methods has been amended to Follow up treatment of bracken for mechanised methods. Middle two paragraphs of sub section have been removed.</p> <p>How to plan the work:</p> <p>Updated Bracken control template . Edits to text</p>	<p>7 November 2023</p>
Supporting guidance for Predator Control (ruralpayments.org)	<p>Introduction: Added /revised paragraphs covering the aim, requirements of the option, and what must be demonstrated in the Predator Control Plan.</p> <p>Where to locate the option: Revised/added text explaining claims for ‘crow control only’ and ‘mammal and crow control’ sub options are restricted to land that meets the specified criteria.</p> <p>How to increase the success of this option: Minor edits and updated links to certain Guides, Codes of Practice and websites</p>	<p>22 November 2023</p>

List of web page updates for AECS 2024 round

<u>Supporting guidance for Heath Management (Coastal, Serpentine, Lowland and Special Interest)</u> (ruralpayments.org)	Revised/added text and images across page	13 November 2023
<u>Supporting guidance for Moorland Management</u> (ruralpayments.org)	Other moorland management practices: Updated Deer Management plan. Monitoring: Updated Moorland management plan	19 December 2023
<u>Supporting guidance for Deer Census – Helicopter Counts</u> (ruralpayments.org)	Revised/added text across page	21 November 2023
<u>Supporting guidance for Slurry Storage</u> (ruralpayments.org)	What your application should include From the 2024 round you must use the provided slurry storage calculator in preparation of your manure and slurry management plan, this is to ensure uniformity of information provided and aid consistency of appraisal. What needs to be done: Added text relating to design standards and new sub section covering permissions.	14 February 2024
<u>Supporting guidance for Water-use Efficiency – Irrigation Lagoon</u> (ruralpayments.org)	What needs to be done? Added text to end of first bullet: Contact with SEPA is advised at an early stage to ensure sufficient water is available for an authorisation to be issued. Revision to 4 th bullet: where the lagoon is not connected to the water environment no authorisation will be required from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (for the construction works), if there are any doubts it is best to speak to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency at an early stage. Design guidelines Revisions related to what the lagoon can hold and added text about the The Thinking about an irrigation reservoir booklet Further information Corrected link to Scottish Environment Protection Agency: Creation of Ponds, Pools and Lochans	14 February 2024