

Full Scheme guidance pages

Web page	Summary of main changes	Date Published
Home page	Information added on AECS 2025 round. Notification of results for 2024 round and removal of outdated content related to previous rounds. Information about Fair Work First added.	
Introduction	Updated 2024 to 2025.	
Eligibility	Updated AECS Application Eligibility questions document.	
Improving Public Access	IPA not opening in 2025.	
How to apply	Opening and closing dates for 2025 application round. Updates on options/capital items are available/not available in 2025 round. Slurry Storage removed.	
Checklist of requirements for applications	Heather cutting requires a map. Slurry Storage removed.	
Essential Information for Applications	Information about Fair Work First added. Updated /revised information across whole page for the 2025 round.	
Further requirements for applicants	Consents and licenses – legislative changes related to predator control and the snaring ban. Information about Fair Work First added to the Quotes section.	
Designations: natural heritage, landscape, historic	Information added about Flow Country World Heritage Site (WHS). Updated document about Management of Scheduled Monuments.	
Farm Environment Assessment	Removal of IPA and Slurry Storage. Updated habitat categories in the FEA to align with the Whole Farm Plan Biodiversity Audit habitat mapping requirements. Updated versions of Farm Environment Table, Example Farm Environment Table and Farm Environment Map	
Mapping	Whole Farm Plan Biodiversity Audit information added in relation to Farm Environment Map.	
Endorsements	Information added about Flow Country World Heritage Site (WHS).	
Scoring criteria	Included reference to World Heritage Sites.	

List of web page updates for AECS 2025 round

	Organic Scoring – clarity over % in criteria referring to the application being assessed, not the holding in Scale of Delivery Additional Wader Survey points – wording to advise that CIEEM membership is not a prerequisite for ecologists undertaking surveys.	
Supporting guidance for vulnerable priority species	The Stubbles Followed by Green Manure option was added to qualifying options list for Twite.	
Funding under this scheme	Updated 2024 to 2025.	
Fair Work First	New page added to homepage.	
Management options and capital items	Removal of restrictions on Creation of Hedgerows.	
Capital items	Removal of restrictions on Pond Creation and Restoration, and Planting or Replanting of Hedges.	

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

Web page	Summary of main changes	Date Published
Water-use Efficiency – Irrigation Lagoon	Updates across page for 2025 round.	
Predator Control	Revision to take account of new legislative requirements re trapping and removal of reference to snaring.	
Supporting guidance for Predator Control	Revision to take account of new legislative requirements re trapping and removal of reference to snaring.	
Organic Farming: Conversion	Guidance for common grazing applications and updated NPAC wording.	
Organic Farming: Maintenance	Updated NPAC wording.	
Deer Fence	Specific reference to exclude farmed deer.	
Gate	Eligibility updated.	
Stock Fence	Reminder that funding to create hill parks is excluded.	

List of web page updates for AECS 2025 round

Small-scale Tree and Shrub Planting (on a site not exceeding 0.25 hectares)	Regulation changed.	
Supporting guidance for Small-scale Tree and Shrub Planting	Regulation changed.	
Stock Disposal	Change to disposal date.	
Supporting guidance for Stock Disposal	Change to disposal date.	
Moorland Management	Updated Deer management Plan template.	
Supporting guidance for Moorland Management	Updated Deer management Plan template.	
Deer Census – Helicopter Counts	Updated Deer management Plan template.	
Upland Habitat Impact Assessment for Deer Management	Updated Deer management Plan template.	
Open-range Deer Management	Updated Deer management Plan template.	
Pond Creation and Restoration for Wildlife	Restrictions removed.	
Supporting guidance for Pond Creation for Wildlife	Restrictions removed.	
Creation of Hedgerows	Restrictions removed.	
Wader and Wildlife Mown Grassland	Updated wader management plan template Updated VPS wader survey template. Clarification on who can undertake the VPS wader survey	
Wader Grazed Grassland	Updated wader management plan template Updated VPS wader survey template. Clarification on who can undertake the VPS wader survey	