

Agri-Environment Climate Scheme (AECS) Scoring for applications for corn buntings

1: Continuity

Seeks to secure well established management practices to benefit corn buntings. 5 points will be awarded for those applicants returning from an expiring 2015 or 2016 prefixed AECS contract which included management for corn bunting. For clarity no score will be awarded to applicants who refused the opportunity in 2020 to extend their contract for a further year

Continuity Points	Points per category
Continuing management for corn bunting with no break in contract	5 points
Entering AECS for the first time or with a break in AECS management	0 points

Continuity points awarded	
----------------------------------	--

2: Collaboration

Seeks to reward projects for corn bunting with a larger collective scheme effort

In addition to applicant	Points per category
1 collaborator	2
2 collaborators	3
3 collaborators	4
4 collaborators	5
5 collaborators	6
6 collaborators	7
7 or more collaborators	8

To award points each collaborator must

- hold an active AECS from the 2017, 2018 and 2019 application rounds or be a new or returning applicant to AECS in 2021.
- And the locations involved must be within 5km of your holding at the nearest point as the corn bunting flies.

Collaboration points awarded	
-------------------------------------	--

3: Corn bunting beneficial options

Seeks to reward applications with a greater option benefit to corn buntings.

2 options = **1 point**, 3 options = **2 points**, ≥ 4 options = **4 points**

Key options benefiting corn bunting	Options applied for
Corn Buntings Mown Grassland	
Wild Bird Seed for Farmland Birds	
Grass Strips in Arable Fields	
Beetlebanks	
Retention of Winter Stubbles for Wildlife and Water Quality	
Unharvested Conservation Headlands for Wildlife	
Forage Brassica Crops for Farmland Birds	
Species rich grassland management	

A further two additional points will be awarded if RSPB have endorsed that your options are targeted where they would best support corn buntings on your land.

Additional points awarded	
---------------------------	--

Corn bunting option points awarded	
---	--

4: Participation in existing corn bunting recovery project

5 points will be awarded if your land is within the RSPB corn bunting recovery project area and if your proposal has a written endorsement from RSPB corn bunting recovery project officer.

Participation Points	Points per category
The land is within the RSPB corn bunting recovery project area and the application has a written endorsement from RSPB	5 points
The land is not within the RSPB corn bunting recovery project area and/ or the application does not have a written endorsement from RSPB	0 points

Participation points awarded	
------------------------------	--

Total points awarded	
-----------------------------	--