

Capital items

This is an old version of the page

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The version of this page applicable to the AECS 2021 restricted round can be found in the Agri-Environment Climate Scheme full guidance archive.

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Please note:

For all applications, only essential capital items will be accepted.

For agri-environment type applications this would include:

- Capital items that are directly required to deliver the management option, such as the capital item Creation of Wild Bird Seed for Farmland Birds which is essential for the Wild Bird Seed for Farmland Birds option.
- Essential complimentary capital items, such as Creation of Wader Scrapes or Cutting of Rush Pasture.
- Any other capital items that are essential to achieve the outcome of your application.

It is not anticipated that applicants returning to the scheme from expired or expiring 2015, 2016 and 2017 contracts would seek funding for the same capital items in the same locations as in the original contract. The exception would be where the same capital item is needed in order to deliver essential ongoing management under the new application.

If you received funding for fencing in a previous AECS round you cannot apply for remedial or replacement fencing in a new AECS application. Similarly, you cannot apply for remedial or replacement fencing under AECS if you have received funding for fencing under another SRDP mechanism such as the Crofting Agricultural Grant Scheme.

For fences funded in the early rounds of the Rural Priorities Scheme or comparable previous schemes up to 2014 that are not expected to last another five years, applications can be considered for fencing costs on stretches of fence needing replaced subject to a site visit by the case officer to confirm the costs are justifiable.

Targeted capital items

To apply for one of these capital items, it must first appear in your list of targeted management options and capital items, indicating that you are within the target area for the capital item. It can be applied for on a stand-alone basis.

- [Coastal Embankment Breaching, Lowering or Removal](#)
- [Control of Invasive Non-native Plant Species – Follow-up Monitoring and Treatment](#)
- [Control of Invasive Non-native Plant Species – Primary Treatment](#)
- [Hard Standings for Troughs and Gateways](#)
- [Livestock Crossing](#)
- [Livestock Tracks](#)

- [Managing Steading Drainage and Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems](#)
- [Pesticide Handling Facilities](#)
- [Rhododendron Control – Foliar Spray / Treatment for Rhododendron Control](#)
- [Rhododendron Control – Follow-up Treatment](#)
- [Rhododendron Control – Manual Eradication – Light, Medium or Difficult](#)
- [Rhododendron Control – Mechanised Eradication – Light, Medium or Difficult](#)
- [Rhododendron Control – Stem Injection Eradication – Medium or Difficult](#)
- [River Embankment Breaching, Lowering or Removal](#)
- [Restoring \(Protecting\) River Banks](#)
- [Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems – Pond](#)
- [Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems – Sediment Traps and Bunds](#)
- [Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems – Swales](#)
- [Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems – Wetland](#)
- [Slurry Storage](#)
- [Water-use Efficiency – Irrigation Lagoon](#)

[Non-targeted capital items which can stand alone](#)

To apply for one of these capital items, the specific eligibility requirements must be met. Please check the full capital item wording.

- [Alternative Watering](#)
- [Conversion of Deer Fence to Stock Fence](#)
- [Cutting of Rush Pasture](#) - Only stand alone for white fronted geese, otherwise must be linked to a management option
- [Deer Census – Helicopter Counts](#)
- [Enhancing or Modifying a Deer Fence](#)
- [Enhancing or Modifying a Stock Fence](#)
- [Heather Restoration](#) (Currently suspended)
- [Heather Restoration – Follow-up Molinia Control](#) (Currently suspended)
- [Muirburn and Heather Cutting](#)
- [Planting of Dune Grasses](#)
- [Pond Creation and Restoration for Wildlife](#)
- [Sand-blow Fencing](#)
- [Small-scale Tree and Shrub Planting \(on a site not exceeding 0.25 hectares\)](#)
- [Supplementary Feeding for Golden Eagles](#)
- [Upland Habitat Impact Assessment for Deer Management](#)
- [Wetland Creation – Field Drain Breaking](#)
- [Wetland Creation – Pipe Sluices](#)

[Capital items for Improving Public Access \(IPA\)](#)

The Improving Public Access (IPA) scheme is open for applications from 28 February 2022 to 29 April 2022.

The guidance for IPA has been updated and the capital items requirements further clarified. Please also note that the New Path - semi-bound surface capital item is no longer available.

To apply for these capital items, the specific eligibility requirements for each item must be met, such as if the item is standalone or has to be associated with a path, new IPA path or upgraded IPA path. Check the IPA capital items hyperlinks below for full details of each items individual specifications and requirements:

- [Boardwalk](#)
- [Bridge](#)
- [Gabion Basket Retaining Wall](#)
- [Self-closing, One-way Opening Gate](#)
- [Self-closing, Two-way Opening Gate](#)
- [New Path - unbound surface](#)
- [Upgrade to an existing path](#)
- [Picnic Table](#)
- [Path Drainage Ditches / Pipe Culverts](#)
- [Seats](#)

- Signage
- Stock Fence and Stock Gate for Improving Public Access
- Timber board and aggregate steps

Non-targeted capital items which can stand alone with prior approval from NatureScot

To apply for one of these capital items on a stand-alone basis you must have prior approval from NatureScot. Otherwise, it must support a relevant management option.

- Control of Scrub – Follow-up treatment
- Control of Scrub or Woody Vegetation – Primary treatment – Intermediate and Heavy Vegetation
- Control of Scrub or Woody Vegetation – Primary treatment – Light Vegetation
- Control of Scrub or Woody Vegetation – Removal from Site of the Cut Vegetation
- Ditch Blocking – Peat Dams
- Ditch Blocking – Plastic Piling Dams
- Matting to Prevent Damage to Bogs
- Moving or Realigning Ditches
- Stock Bridges for Bog, Fen or Wetland Management

Non-targeted capital items which must be linked to a management option

To apply for one of these capital items, it must support a relevant management option.

- Coppicing of Hedges
- Creation of Wild Bird Seed for Farmland Birds
- Creation of Beetlebanks
- Creation of Buffer Areas for Fens and Bogs
- Creation of Chough Nest Shelter
- Creation of Cover for Corncrakes
- Creation of Green Manure
- Creation of Grass Strips and Water Margins in Arable Fields
- Creation of Low-input Grassland to Convert Arable Land at Risk of Erosion or Flooding
- Creation of Species-rich Grassland (Currently suspended)
- Creation of Wader Scrapes
- Cutting Stock Access Tracks for Bog or Wetland Management
- Deer Fence
- Diversionary Feeding for Hen Harriers
- Fence Removal
- Follow-up Treatment of Bracken – Mechanised or Chemical (Limited)
- Gate
- Laying of Hedges
- Open-range Deer Management
- Planting or Replanting of Hedges
- Post and Rail Tree Guards
- Primary Treatment of Bracken – Manual
- Primary Treatment of Bracken – Mechanised or Chemical (Limited and additional evidence required)
- Rabbit-proofing an Existing or New Stock or Deer Fence
- Replacement or Planting of Individual Trees within Ancient Wood Pasture or Hedgerows
- Restoration of Species-rich Grassland
- Restoring Drystone or Flagstone Dykes
- Scare and Temporary Electric Fencing
- Stock Fence
- Use of Seaweed as a Fertiliser on Cropped Machair
- Vole, Rabbit or Hare Guards

Recent changes

*Please note (at top of page)	Updated information in late March 22 to explain issues related to funding for fencing and repositioning of Alternative Watering and Small scale tree planting from 'Non- targeted capital items which must be linked to a management option' to 'Non - targeted capital items which can stand alone'.
Capital items for Improving Public Access (IPA)	Updated guidance for individual capital items.
Whole page	Update for 2022.

[Previous versions](#)

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