

# Management options and capital items

**This is an old version of the page**

**Date published: 16 January, 2019**

**Date superseded: 23 January, 2021**

For recent changes to this guidance, please see the [bottom of the page](#).

## Important updates

For those of you intending to apply for Improving Public Access, please be aware that following a record number of high quality applications in 2018 we will not be reopening this element of AECS in 2019. Therefore, no applications should be submitted for Improving Public Access in 2019.

Please use the [Targeting tool](#) to check which options are available on your holding.

You must enter all location codes separately for all holdings that form part of your farm business and which you wish to include in your AECS application. Some options may only be available on some holdings.

If you find your location code is not appearing on the targeting tool, this may be connected to the ongoing mapping and land change work taking place following the introduction of the Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS). Please contact your local RPID office to discuss this matter further.

For some options, there is the ability to undertake activities, generally not permitted, if you have prior approval, **e.g. do not apply lime, unless you have prior approval.**

In general, prior approval is only granted in exceptional circumstances, for example, when the case is made that an activity is required to maintain or enhance biodiversity value. The AECS contract provides the prior approval and it is up to the Case officer to assess if the activity proposed is acceptable. Justification will need to be provided as part of the application.

You may wish to discuss the activity proposed before submission, to ensure that it is appropriate. Otherwise, there is a risk that the case officer will not approve it.

As all the activities requiring prior approval are slight deviations from the option management requirements, if approval is not granted, it will result in you having to adhere to all management requirements as they stand, or removing the option from your application.

If, by removing the option, there is a significant change to the scale and value of the application, there is a risk that the whole application will be rejected.

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A wide range of management options and capital items are available under the Agri-Environment Climate Scheme.

There are rules and management requirements for each and they must be followed over the course of your contract. Also, supporting information is available which provides recommendations and best practice in relation to the why, where, how and what for each option and capital item.

For all arable options, the spatial targeting maps include the entire upland area. This is to allow for arable activity on the in-bye in these areas, it does not mean all the upland area is eligible for these options.

Only land which meets the individual option eligibility requirements can be entered for the option. For example, you cannot apply for Wild bird seed for Farmland Birds on rough grazing. If you have any queries, please contact your local RPID or SNH office.

[Contact us](#)

Also, supporting information is available which provides recommendations and best practice in relation to the why, where, how and what for each option and capital item. Your application could gain additional points if you follow these.

## Arable options

- [Unharvested Conservation Headlands for Wildlife](#)
- [Wild Bird Seed for Farmland Birds](#)
- [Forage Brassica Crops for Farmland Birds](#)
- [Stubbles Followed by Green Manure in an Arable Rotation](#)
- [Retention of Winter Stubbles for Wildlife and Water Quality](#)
- [Beetlebanks](#)
- [Grass Strips in Arable Fields](#)
- [Water Margins in Arable Fields](#)
- [Cropped Machair](#)

## Grassland options

- [Species-rich Grassland Management](#)
- [Water Margins in Grassland Fields](#)
- [Wader and Wildlife Mown Grassland](#)
- [Wader Grazed Grassland](#)
- [Corn Buntings Mown Grassland](#)
- [Corncrake Mown Grassland](#)
- [Corncrake Grazing Management](#)
- [Management of Cover for Corncrake](#)
- [Chough Mown Grassland](#)
- [Chough Grazing Management](#)
- [Hen Harrier Grassland Management](#)

## Upland, peatland, moorland and heath options

- [Moorland Management](#)
- [Stock Disposal](#)
- [Away Wintering Sheep](#)
- [Summer Hill Grazing of Cattle](#)
- [Heath Management \(Coastal, Serpentine, Lowland and Special Interest\)](#)
- [Predator Control](#)
- [Wildcat Friendly Predator Control](#)

## Wetland and bog options

- [Wetland Management](#)
- [Lowland Bog Management](#)
- [Management of Buffer Areas for Fens and Lowland Bogs](#)

## Farmland habitat and feature options

- [Management or Restoration of Hedgerows](#)
- [Creation of Hedgerows](#)
- [Habitat Mosaic Management](#)
- [Managing Scrub of Conservation Value](#)
- [Tall-herb Vegetation Management](#)

- [Ancient Wood Pasture](#)

## Small unit options

- [Conservation Management of Small Units](#)
- [Cattle Management on Small Units](#)

## Control of invasive non-native species options

- [Control of Invasive Non-native Plant Species – Primary Treatment](#)
- [Control of Invasive Non-native Plant Species – Follow-up Monitoring and 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](#)
- [Rhododendron Control – Foliar Spray / Treatment](#)
- [Rhododendron Control – Follow-up Treatment](#)

## Managing water quality and flood risk options

- [Converting Arable at Risk of Erosion or Flooding to Low-input Grassland](#)
- [Management of Floodplains](#)
- [Alternative Watering](#)
- [Coastal Embankment Breaching, Lowering or Removal](#)
- [Hard Standings for Troughs and Gateways](#)
- [Livestock Crossing](#)
- [Livestock Tracks](#)
- [Managing Steading Drainage and Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems](#)
- [Pesticide Handling Facilities](#)
- [Restoring \(Protecting\) River Banks](#)
- [River Embankment Breaching, Lowering or Removal](#)
- [Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems – Pond](#)
- [Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems – Sediment Traps and Bunds](#)
- [Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems – Swales](#)
- [Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems – Wetland](#)
- [Water-use Efficiency – Irrigation Lagoon](#)

## Organic options

- [Organic Farming: Conversion](#)
- [Organic Farming: Maintenance](#)

## Public access options (Closed to applications in 2019)

- [Improving Public Access](#) (Closed to applications in 2019)

## All capital items

[All capital items](#)

## Management of Scheduled Monuments



[Management of Scheduled Monuments: Management options and capital items \(PDF, Size: 756.0 kB\)](#)

doc\_external\_url: <https://www.ruralpayments.org/media/resources/>

srdp\_external\_guidance\_\_\_02\_sep\_15\_hes-v2.pdf Historic Environment Scotland

Section	Change
Important updates	Link to new spatial targeting maps added and guidance regarding prior approval added

## Previous versions

[Previous versions of this page](#)