

Business Update – Mid-Tier Countryside Stewardship Scheme

Information correct as at 10:00am on 14.05.2021

- The Mid-Tier CSS application window is open now
- Request your application pack by 28th May (hard copy) or 30th June (online) to apply
- The submission deadline for applications is 31st July 2021
- The options available can go some of the way to bridging the gap in lost income from the reduction in BPS payments that take effect in England this year

During the transition period of the phase out of BPS and introduction of ELMS, we are encouraging clients to join a Countryside Stewardship Scheme to bridge some of the gap in lost BPS income. At present, the CSS is set to continue taking new applications until 2023.

A Countryside Stewardship scheme will be rolled over into the ELMS meaning that you will not have to go through the competitive tender process that ELMS registration will entail.

Applications for mid-tier schemes are now open for this year and information on the different options and how to apply can be found on the GovUK website: [Countryside Stewardship: How to apply - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/countryside-stewardship-how-to-apply).

28 May 2021: Deadline to request a hard copy mid-tier application pack from the RPA by phone 03000 200 301. If you have more than 200 land parcels for your SBI you must request a pack by phone.

30 June 2021: Deadline to request a mid-tier application pack from the RPA online <https://www.ruralpayments.service.gov.uk/>

31st July 2021: Deadline for applications.

Some mid-tier options, including the capital grants, require the approval from a CSF officer and it is recommended to allow 6 weeks to obtain this ahead of the submission deadline so make contact early for these options.

If you have not applied for Countryside Stewardship in the past, below are the options for the Mid-Tier Scheme:

- Management options: multi-year grants with payments made every year for 5 years.
- Capital items: a range of 2-year grants for specific capital works and water capital grants to be completed within a 2-year period.
- Wildlife Offers are non-competitive packages and designed the help farms choose the right option for their farmland and include Arable, Lowland Grazing, Mixed Farming and Upland offers. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/countryside-stewardship-farm-wildlife-package> These calculators will help you design a wildlife offer for your farm.

There is no minimum area that you must enter on a scheme but there are minimum areas for individual management options and capital items.