

# [Guidance: Higher Tier manual for 1 January 2017 agreements: Countryside Stewardship](#)

*Updated:* Passed 10 July deadline for late revenue claims and amendments.

Use the manual and addendum to understand the rules and conditions that apply to Countryside Stewardship (CS) agreements.

Use the options, supplements and capital items documents:

- to understand the rules for each option, supplement and capital item
- for advice on carrying out options, supplements and capital items

Mid Tier options, supplements and capital items which can be included as part of a Higher Tier application.

Use the terms and conditions document to understand the rules of the scheme.

Use the conversion guidance document to know how to convert land in year nine (of a ten year) Higher Level Stewardship to Higher Tier.

Use the record keeping document to understand what evidence you need to keep to show you're meeting scheme requirements.

Use the [Countryside Stewardship forms](#) to support your agreement.

The manual has been designed with portrait and landscape pages. To make sure these print correctly, select 'auto rotate' in your printer settings before you print.

## **Overlap of CS options with Ecological Focus Areas (EFAs)**

In 2018, you can overlap the following CS options with EFAs declared on your Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) 2018 application:

- [AB1 Nectar flower mix](#)
- [AB3 Beetle banks](#)
- [AB4 Skylark plots](#)
- [AB5 Nesting plots for lapwing and stone curlew](#)
- [AB6 Enhanced overwinter stubble](#)
- [AB8 Flower rich margins and plots](#)
- [AB9 Winter bird food](#)
- [AB11 Cultivated areas for arable plants](#)
- [AB15 Two year sown legume fallow](#)
- [AB16 Autumn sown bumblebird mix](#)

- [HS2 Take historic and archaeological features out of cultivation](#)
- [OP2 Organic wild bird seed mixture](#)
- [SW1 4 to 6 metre buffer strip on cultivated land](#)
- [SW3 In-field grass strips](#)
- [SW4 12 to 24 metre watercourse buffer strips on cultivated land](#)
- [SW6 Winter cover crops](#)
- [SW12 Making space for water](#)
- [WD3 Woodland edges on arable land](#)
- [WT2 Buffering in-field ponds and ditches on arable land](#)

Your CS options that share land with BPS claims (known as 'double funding') will receive a reduced payment rate. You can find the rate in the page for each listed option, under 'How much will be paid', and in the manual (section 3.3.1).

From 1 January 2019, you will not be able to overlap the 19 CS 'double funding' options with EFAs declared for BPS. You can place the options and EFAs in the same land parcel but they cannot overlap.

You can include hedges in both CS options and EFAs without payment deductions.

## Revenue claims

The deadline for Natural England to receive late revenue claims and amendments was 10 July 2018. Natural England will not accept any further revenue claims in 2018.

## Contact

Contact Natural England for help with your agreement.

## Enquiries

Natural England  
County Hall, Spetchley Road

Worcester

WR5 2NP

Email  
[enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk)

Telephone  
0300 060 3900

Opening times: 8:30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays)

Find out about call charges at [www.gov.uk/call-charges](http://www.gov.uk/call-charges).

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## **News story: MMO support second round of EMFF England FLAG launch events**

Cornwall FLAG will hold their launch event at Looe on 10 March 2017, closely followed by Dorset and East Devon on 13 March 2017 at Weymouth. North of Tyne will then launch at North Shields on 16 March 2017 and finally on 17 March 2017 North Thames will hold their event in Leigh on Sea.

The launches mark a significant step in the progression of the FLAG community led local development strategies after six FLAGs were awarded £800,000 under the EMFF scheme, and the four FLAGs follow [Holderness and Hastings FLAGs](#) who launched in January.

Commenting on the FLAG launches Michelle Willis (MMO Director of Finance and EU) said:

“Senior MMO staff will attend all of the FLAG launches to show our support for the critical work of the FLAGs. The strategies being pursued by all of the FLAGs will make a significant contribution to fisheries, industry and the wider community.

I personally find it very rewarding to follow the progress of the FLAGs and to see the difference EMFF funding is making to individuals and business. Both the journey of the FLAGs and a focus on projects funded by EMFF is available on our [Marine Developments Blog](#).”

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## **Notice: CH65 4HB, Essar Oil (UK) Limited: environmental permit issued**

The Environment Agency publish permits that they issue under the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED).

This decision includes the permit and decision document for:

- Operator name: Essar Oil (UK) Limited
- Installation name: Stanlow Manufacturing Complex
- Permit number: EPR/FP3139FN/V008

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## [Official Statistics: Weekly rainfall and river flow summary: 1 to 7 March 2017](#)

The first week of March was wet across England. River flows are normal or higher for the time of year at almost all indicator sites.

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## [National Statistics: UK sea fisheries annual statistics report 2015](#)

Each statistical table breaks down information by key areas, such as species and landing port. They are presented according to the chapter of the report they relate to.

The following underlying data sets provide full information on landings, both quantity and values, by vessel length (such as 10 metres and under and over 10 metre vessels), gear grouping and species.

### **Summary of changes to tables**

The statistical tables in both the United Kingdom Sea Fisheries Statistics publication itself and accompanying tables may differ slightly from year to year. This summary details changes to the tables since 2006.

### **Pre-release access list**

The pre-release access order 2008 restricts who can see official statistics before they're published. Ministers and officials are provided with early access for the sole purpose of being able to respond completely when questions arise at the time of release. In line with the Release Practices Protocol, early pre-access is provided no earlier than 24 hours before release.