

Guidance: Groundwater protection position statements

Updated: Updated The Environment Agency's approach to groundwater protection.

These position statements describe the Environment Agency's approach to managing and protecting groundwater. They update Groundwater protection: principles and practice (GP3).

This document helps anyone whose current or proposed activities have an impact on, or are affected by groundwater such as:

- developers
- planners
- environmental permit applicants and holders
- water abstractors

Many of the approaches set out in the position statements are not statutory but may be included in, or referenced by, statutory guidance and legislation.

Environment Agency staff use these position statements as a framework to make decisions on activities that could impact on groundwater. This clear approach aims to remove uncertainty and potentially inconsistent decision-making.

Research and analysis: ACRE advice: application for a trial of GM Adenovirus 4 (16/R49/01)

This document is the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (ACRE's) advice to government in considering a [request from Imperial College London \(16/R49/01\)](#). The application is for a deliberate release of genetically modified virus (the vaccine) based on Adenovirus 4.

ACRE is satisfied that the trial will not have an adverse effect on human health or the environment.

Guidance: Mid Tier manual for 1 January 2017 agreements: Countryside Stewardship

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

Use the manual to understand the rules and conditions that apply to Mid Tier (including water quality capital items) agreements.

Use the options, supplements and capital items document:

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

Use the [Countryside Stewardship \(CS\) 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](#)
- [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 18 CS 'double funding' options with EFAs declared for BPS. You can however 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 if you have any queries:

Enquiries

Natural England
County Hall, Spetchley Road

Worcester

WR5 2NP

Email
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.

[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.

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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

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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