

Water Capital Grants Under the Mid-Tier Scheme 2019

April 2019

Introduction

Water Capital Grants are available to clients under the Mid-Tier Scheme. This paper provides information on these grants and advice on making a successful application.

If you wish to apply, you must, by 31st May 2019:

- Order a Mid-Tier application pack from the RPA.
- Contact your local Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer (CSFO) to discuss your proposals.
- Have an SBI and any land likely to be affected by the Scheme registered under the RLR.

Then you must lodge the application itself by **31st July 2019**.

Where 2019 applications are successful, the relevant schemes will commence on 1st January 2020.



Description

Water Capital Grants are available to farmers and landowners under the Mid-Tier Scheme operated by RPA/ Natural England. They are payable for works designed to improve water quality by reducing the amount of silt, nutrients or pollutants entering watercourses and groundwater aquifers.

These grants present an opportunity to obtain public assistance for works which not only enhance water quality, but improve fixed equipment on farms, at a time when it may otherwise be hard to find the money for this. Many S & P clients have benefited from these grants over the past few years. They have had the double satisfaction of knowing that they are helping the environment as well as improving their farms



Eligible items include:

Item	Rate of grant £
Concrete yard renewal	27.14 /sq m
Roofing silage clamps, muck heaps, sprayer washdown areas, collecting yards, slurry and silage stores	62.00 /sq m
Livestock and machinery tracks	33.00 /m
Installing piped culverts to ditches	340/unit
Hard bases for livestock drinkers	110/unit
Hard bases for livestock feeders	170/unit
Sprayer or applicator washdown areas	40.00 /sq m
Installing drinking troughs	110.00/ unit
Lined biobed plus pesticide loading and washdown areas	118/sq m
Installing piped water supplies	2.65/m
Underground drainage works in yards	5.50/m
Watercourse crossings	300/unit
Post and wire fencing (eg to fence off watercourses)	4.00/m
Sheep netting	4.90/m
Re-siting sheep dip and pens	3,675/unit

For a full list of eligible works and grant rates, see Annex 2 and Annex 2b of The Countryside Stewardship Mid- Tier and Wildlife Offers Manual. Annex sets out the options available under the 2 year, stand-alone scheme.

Grants are paid at prescribed unit rates. Successful applicants may carry out the approved work using contractors or their own labour.

Applicants can apply for:

- Water Capital-only grants under a 2 year stand-alone scheme, up to a maximum of £10,000, or:
- Water capital items as part of a wider, 5 year Mid-Tier scheme. which incorporates other management options. In these cases, the amount of grant is unlimited.

Water Capital-only Grants

Here, the application is for capital grants only under a 2 year, stand-alone Mid-Tier scheme which will not involve any other management options or annual payments.

The maximum grant is £10,000 per application. You must be in a High Water Quality Priority Area to qualify.

Applicants can apply for grants towards the works listed in Annex 2b of The Countryside Stewardship Mid- Tier and Wildlife Offers Manual.

Many clients have successfully applied in several consecutive years, enabling them to make substantial improvements to water quality and to their farms.

Applications forming part of a wider, 5 year agreement.

Here, the application is for water capital grants as part of a wider, 5 year Mid-Tier scheme involving other management options and annual payments. In this instance, the amount of grant is not limited, but the application will be subject to a value-for-money calculation. Although the overall scheme will run for 5 years, the water capital works will have to be completed within the first two years of the scheme.

For applications including capital expenditure of over £50,000, you must submit a statement from a chartered accountant (known as a Business Viability Test). This is to confirm that the business has the resources from trading profits, reserves or loans to undertake the work in the proposed agreement schedule.



Eligibility and Preliminary Work

You **must**, if you are applying for Water Capital-Only grants, or Water Capital Grants within a wider scheme where you are in a High Water Quality Priority Area:

1. Contact your local Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer (CSFO) **prior to 31st May 2019** to discuss your proposals. Any such applications which do not have the endorsement of the CSFO will be rejected. To locate your local CSFO, visit: www.gov.uk/government/publications/catchment-sensitive-farming-officer-contacts.

To check whether you are in a High Water Quality Priority Area visit www.gov.uk/guidance/catchmentsensitive-farming-reduce-agricultural-water-pollution.

2. Arrange all relevant planning and other consents, permissions, exemptions and written advice needed for your application. Your application will not be approved without all the consents being in place.

3. Apply for a Mid-Tier application pack by 31st May 2019 by contacting the RPA (see final section of this paper).

4. Complete a Farm Environment Record (FER) map. The FER does not need to cover the whole holding but must include:

- any parcels on which you apply for (permanent or rotational) options or capital items
- any SSSI or Scheduled Monuments even if options or capital items are not proposed on them.

There will be guidance in your application pack about how to complete the FER.

Improving your Chances of Success

If you are applying for a Water Capital Only Grant (2 year scheme), you must be within a High Water Quality Priority Area and your proposals must have the endorsement of your local CSFO. You can find CSFO contact details and guidance on finding out whether your land is in a Countryside Stewardship Higher Water Quality Priority Area at www.gov.uk/guidance/catchment-sensitive-farming-reduce-agricultural-water-pollution

If you are applying for a wider (5 year) scheme, you should:

- Take advice from your CSFO.
- If run-off and /or erosion are identified in your Farm Environment Record (FER), address these by including appropriate measures in your application.
- Include a Wild Pollinator and Farm Wildlife Package (WPFWP) within your Scheme.
- Enlist the help of a Facilitation Fund Group Co-ordinator (if there is one in your locality).
- Choose items which address local environmental priorities. You can check these by using the Countryside Stewardship Statements of Priorities and Priority Maps at: www.gov.uk/government/collections/countryside-stewardship-statements-of-priorities. You can also use the MAGIC website www.magic.gov.uk to find water quality information for your land. On the list in the Table of Contents, choose 'Countryside Stewardship Targeting & Scoring Layers', then 'Water, and then 'Countryside Stewardship Water Quality Priority Areas'. You can then make this layer transparent by using the slider under 'Countryside Stewardship Targeting & Scoring Layers'. You will need to navigate to your land and then use the 'Identify' tool in order to check the information specific to your land parcels.

Requesting an Application Pack

- Sign into Rural Payments at www.ruralpayments.service.gov.uk
- Check that your personal details include the email address you are currently using; the application pack will be sent to your email address
- If necessary, select the SBI you want an application pack for
- From the Business Overview page for the SBI, select 'Countryside Stewardship' and then 'Applications'
- Select the blue button to request your Mid-Tier application pack (this may generate overnight in periods of high demand)



Once it has successfully generated, the application pack will be automatically sent to the mail address included in your personal details. If your parcel details change and you need to refresh the details in your pack or you wish to download your application pack directly you can do this by opening the pack and selecting 'generate' or 'download'. If you do not have access to the internet, contact The RPA on 03000 200 301 to request an application pack.

If you have Scheduled Monuments or other historic features on your land, you will receive a Historic Environment Farm Environmental Record (HEFER) within 20 working days.