

# Guidance: Mid Tier: Countryside Stewardship

*Updated:* Mid Tier is closed for applications.

Mid Tier closed for applications on 31 August 2018.

Use the manual to understand:

- the payments you could receive and how this scheme benefits the environment
- eligibility requirements
- the rules and conditions that apply to Mid Tier and the [4 Wildlife Offers](#)

Use the options, supplements and capital items document or [CS grant finder](#):

- to understand the rules for each of them
- for advice on how to carry them out

The manual has portrait and landscape pages. Before printing, select 'auto rotate' in your printer settings.

## **Overlap of Countryside Stewardship (CS) options with Ecological Focus Areas (EFAs) in 2019**

You can no longer overlap the following CS options with EFAs declared on your Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) 2019 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](#)

This is to avoid funding the same activity on the same land parcel under both CS and BPS, known as 'double funding'. You can continue to place CS options and EFAs in the same land parcel but they cannot overlap.

In 2018, your Ecological Focus Area (EFA) cover crops must be established by 1 October 2018 and retained until at least 15 January 2019. Natural England will not consider the retention of the EFA cover crops as an overlap with 1 January 2019 CS agreements. This assumes you'll move the cover crops to a different location in 2019.

Hedges can be used for EFA and for Entry Level Stewardship, Higher Level Stewardship and CS options without payment deductions.

## **Find out more about CS funding**

See [Countryside Stewardship](#) for details of other funding.

## **Contact**

Contact Natural England if you have any queries:

### **Enquiries**

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