<u>News story: Countryside Stewardship</u> <u>claims are just a click away</u>

This <u>online service</u> should be used to submit Countryside Stewardship annual revenue claims and any capital claims.

The online system is simple and convenient to use. Customers can save and return to the claim whenever they like. The online system guides customers through the steps and provides instant confirmation that submitted claims have been received. Customers will receive a letter inviting them to submit a claim.

The online validation means less worry about errors. It prevents overstating of field sizes and blocks claims on ineligible land parcels. Claiming online will feel familiar for the 80% of customers who claimed BPS online in 2016, as this all sits within the same online service.

Whilst applicants are encouraged to use the online service, some customers may still require paper claim forms and these can be requested from Natural England. Anyone who has further questions can call the Rural Payments helpline on 03000 200 301 for support from a Natural England adviser.