

Environmental Stewardship



Environmental Stewardship is a three-tiered agri-environment scheme that provides funding to farmers and other land managers in England to deliver effective environmental management on their land.

The three principle elements to the scheme are Entry Level Stewardship (ELS), Organic Entry Level Stewardship (OELS) and Higher Level Stewardship (HLS).

Summaries of the ELS and HLS schemes are provided below.

Entry Level Stewardship

Key Information

- Acceptance in ELS is determined by a simple points per hectare calculation, based on the land you would like to enter into the scheme
- You earn points for each environmental management option you choose for your land. There are over 50 to choose from.
- In general you need to have an average of 30 points per hectare, which will get you an annual payment of £30 per hectare for all your land in the scheme
- Agreements last for 5 years, so you must be prepared to continue with your chosen options of at least this long.

How to Apply

Natural England has tried to make application as simple as possible, to help farmer make the process themselves. If you would prefer though, you can employ an adviser to guide them through the process of signing up to ELS.

Applications can be made both online and by post. The Natural England website has more details: <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/>

Higher Level Stewardship

Key Information

- To apply for HLS you must already be in ELS, or apply for it at the same time.
- Unlike ELS, the level of payment you receive will depend on the number of options you are able to deliver.
- Payments are also available for capital schemes, such as pond creation, hedge-laying and tree planting.
- You will need to produce a Farm Environment Plan (FEP), which identifies all the environmental interest features already present on your farm. The FEP surveyor needs to have the ability to identify all the relevant features from the FEP manual.

How to Apply

It is vital to contact a Natural England Adviser before proceeding with an HLS application to discuss likely success and content of the application.

Applications must be made by post, as there is no facility for an online application. Again, some people choose to employ an adviser to help guide them through the application procedure.

For further information please contact: