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Agri-Environment Climate Scheme (AECS): online application guidance for customers

December 2017 v6

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About this guidance

What is this document?

This is guidance is for customers who want to complete an AECS application.

How will it help?

By taking you through each step of the process using screenshots complete with instructions.

How can I find specific parts of information?

You can skip to any part of the application process listed in the contents by clicking on the subjects above.

How can I find out more about using this system?

Speak to your local area office who will be able to help.

<https://www.ruralpayments.org/publicsite/futures/topics/contact-us/>

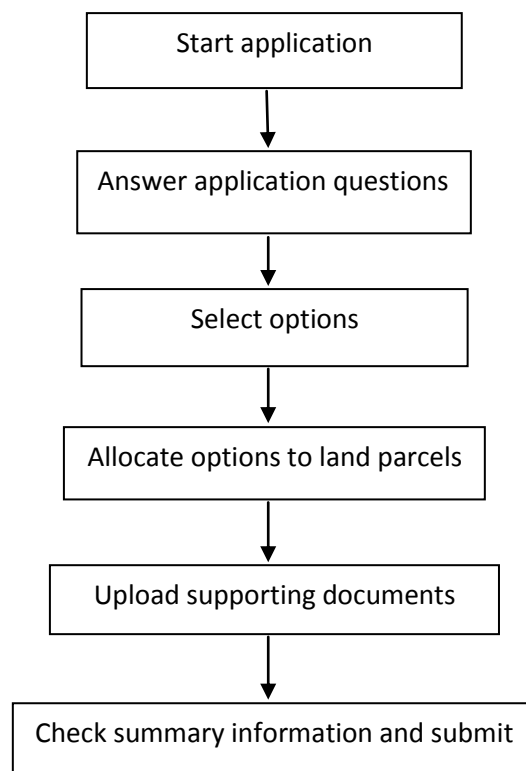
Agri-Environment Climate Scheme (AECS) online application process: guidance for customers

Before you get to the point of beginning your online AECS application, you should:

- consult the guidance for individual options
- consider the targeting information to see which options are appropriate for the land
- consider any issues over designated sites, ancient monuments or water catchment areas including any consultation with [SNH](#), [HES](#) or [SEPA](#)
- carry out the Farm Environment Assessment as detailed in the guidance, if appropriate (including drawing up any maps)
- consider what management options are appropriate for the land in question and the farming or land management regime
- consider what capital items are required to support the management options which you wish to undertake (including getting quotes if any actual costs are to be undertaken)
- draft any specialist grazing plans or similar which will need to be documented and supplied when the application is submitted

To be able to complete an online application, you must register on the new Rural Payments and Services system to get access. Agents must be mandated to start and submit an AECS application on behalf of your business.

The application system is designed as 'linear process' which means you progress through each section individually



You can move back and forward through these sections before submission. The following pages provide a description of how to submit your online AECS application

Once you've registered, log in to Rural Payment and Services.

The screen below shows what you'll see after logging in. There are several things that can be carried out from here including 'accessing applications'.

The screenshot shows the 'Rural Payments and Services' website. The browser address bar displays 'https://www.ruralpaymentsandservices.org/publicsite/futures/account'. The user is logged in as 'PO1_AECS'. The navigation menu includes 'Home', 'R & A Shand & Son', 'Business Details', 'Applications', 'Delegates', 'Locations', and 'Other Options'. The 'Applications' menu item is highlighted with a red box. Below the navigation menu, there are sections for 'Associated Advisory Firms', 'Business Representatives', and 'Proposed Business Representatives'. A 'Recent communication' table is also visible. A text box with the text 'Click on 'Applications'' has an arrow pointing to the red box around the 'Applications' menu item.

Date and time	Document type	Category	Description	Added by
Sat Feb 07 15:57:54 GMT 2015	EMAIL	Registration	Business Registration Submission Complete	SystemGenerated

Manage my applications

After clicking 'Applications' a list of all the applications you have submitted or have in draft is shown.

The screenshot shows the 'Manage my applications' page on the Rural Payments and Services website. The page is titled 'Applications' and displays a list of applications under the heading 'Your applications'. The applications are categorized into 'Single Application Form', 'Agri-Environment Climate Scheme Application', and 'Forestry Grant Scheme Application'. Each application entry includes details such as the application type, name, status (e.g., Draft Online), last updated date, and a 'Resume' button. A 'Start' button is also visible next to the 'Start Application' dropdown menu. Callout boxes provide instructions on how to start a new application, resume an existing one, and find tips for filling out the application.

To start a new application, select the application type from the 'Start Application' drop-down and then click on 'Start'

To resume an application that is already started select 'Resume'

Tips on how to fill in your application can be found by clicking the question marks available throughout the application

Type	Name	Reference	Date
AECS	Test Mary 1	15AEC00007	10 Feb 2015

Application start page

Essential information about what is required to complete the application is displayed on this page. Some hints and tips about screen navigation are also provided here. We recommend you read the details here before the 'application name' is entered and the declaration is agreed to.

Your Agri-Environment Climate Scheme Application

What you will need

Completing an application

Before you complete an online application make sure you understand the basic requirements of the scheme. Full guidance on the Rural Development - Agri-Environment Climate Scheme (AECS) and its relevant options can be found at [Agri-Environment Climate Scheme](#).

To complete this application you must:

- answer questions about the land and business
- provide details of any other businesses you collaborate with
- select the management options you wish to undertake
- answer questions relating to these options including which species or habitats may benefit from the proposed management
- provide Land Parcel details
- provide supporting documentation, including a map of existing habitats and a separate map showing the proposed management

Guidance on completion

A short explanation of what to do is provided throughout this application as help text – indicated by '?' next to the text on your screen. To view the help, just click the symbol.

The flow of the application takes you through each section to be completed. To help you, a navigation panel on the right hand side of the screen lets you move between sections already completed.

Remember that ALL sections must be completed before you can submit this application.

If you experience 'errors' during the process, a message will appear with instructions on how to resolve it. Some errors must be resolved at point of entry, others can be resolved later in the application.

But ALL errors must be resolved before the application can be submitted.

Eligibility

To apply for AECS funding, you must have control of the land affected by the management you wish to undertake.

For applications which involve management of the land over a number of years, this means either owner-occupancy or a tenancy covering the total period of a potential commitment.

If your current tenancy expires before the end of a potential commitment, you can still apply, but you'll need the agreement of your landlord to continue this commitment. Evidence of your landlord's agreement must be provided with your application.

In some circumstances, it may be possible to apply to carry out capital works on land you don't control if you have the explicit agreement of the landowner or tenants. Evidence of your tenant/landowner's agreement must be provided with your application.

AECS funding cannot be used to support works that you are required to complete as part of a statutory or legislative obligation, you cannot include any options or items in your application that you have a duty to complete.

AECS funding must not be used where the work proposed has already, partly or fully, secured funding from other source.

You must check the tick box further down this page confirming your eligibility before starting your application.

Registering land

In order for the application to be processed completely, the land entered on the application must be registered with us.

You can do this by completing a [PF06 Land Maintenance Form](#).

If you need more information about this, contact your local RPID area office.

Please enter a name for your application to allow you to easily find it in future. Please choose a name you have not used before.

Application Name:

I confirm the applicant or business occupies and has control over land, as either the owner, secure tenant or by other legal requirement; does not have any statutory or legislative obligation to carry out any of the works proposed in this application and that the work proposed has not already, partly or fully, secured funding from another source.

[Cancel](#)

[Start a new application](#)

Enter a name for the application. The name must be unique, be relevant to the application for ease of reference, and cannot be used on another application

It can only contain letters and numbers, it won't accept special characters

Check the box to confirm land occupancy and that you are not statutorily obliged to complete the work

Click on 'Start application'

Application information

A list of questions about the application will be shown.

Rural Payments and Services

Home R & A Shand & Son
BRN: 222316 MLC: 73/285/0094

Agri-Environment Climate Scheme - Application Information

Please answer the following additional questions about your application.

Application Name: Test application for demo

Are there any Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designations on the land proposed for management within this application? No Yes

Will the work benefit any designated site features on a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)? No Yes

Is any of the land in a National Park? No Yes

Is any of your application within a National Scenic Area? No Yes

Is any of your application within a Scheduled Ancient Monument? No Yes

Will the project be managed in a specific water catchment area? No Yes

Will the project contribute to peatland restoration? No Yes

Is this application as a result of a Cooperative Action Fund (CAF) project? No Yes

Is the proposed work in this application in collaboration with any other business?
 No Yes

Is the area proposed for management:
 Held under a secure tenancy
 Held under contractual license
 Owned

What is the area of basic payment scheme eligible land (which is not rough grazing) in your IACS business permanent land holding?
Select one

Do you intend to apply for capital works on any march fences within this application? No Yes

Please tell us: how many full time employees in agriculture will be safeguarded through the work in the proposed contract?
[Text input field]

How many full time employees in agriculture will be created through the project?
[Text input field]

How many temporary full time employees in agriculture will be created through the project?
[Text input field]

Is grant funding essential for the project to take place? No Yes

[Save and close](#) [Save and continue](#)

Your application sections

- Application Information
- Select Options
- Allocate Options
- Supporting Documents
- Validation Errors
- Summary

Use these links to navigate quickly back and forward to other screens within the application

The recommended way to progress through the application is to press 'save and continue' when you complete each screen. This route ensures the application is validated as you go along

All schemes
Schemes by customer
Contact us
How payments work
Inspections
Customer services

Your business
Updates
Common Agricultural Policy

Contact us
Terms of use
Privacy
Crown Copyright
FOI
Accessibility
Cookies

Rural Payments and Services

All the questions must be answered. Depending on the answer to some of the questions, more questions will appear. See appendix 1 for details of all the application questions that may be asked.

Once all the questions have been answered, click 'Save and continue' or 'Save and close'.

- 'Save and continue carries out validation to make sure the format of the answers are correct and that all answers have been given. If no errors occur,

the details are saved and the application moves to the next stage. If errors occur they must be sorted and then 'save and continue' selected again to revalidate, save and move to the next stage

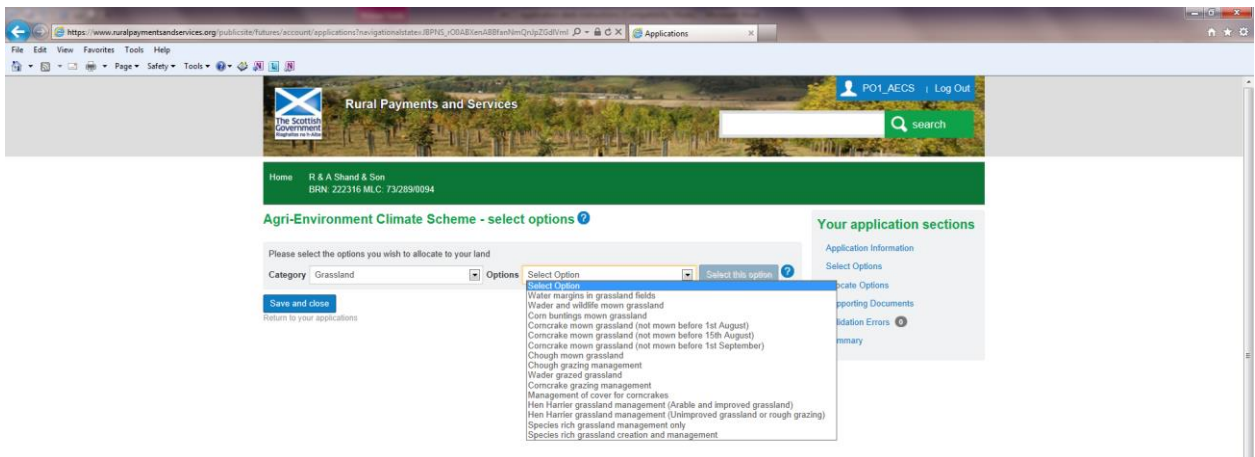
- 'Save and close' carries out validation to make sure the format of answers is correct. If incorrect, the errors must be sorted before the application can save and close. If no errors occur, but some answers have still to be provided, the application can still save and close. Answers already provided will be retained. 'Save and close' will return the applicant to the manage my applications screen

'Save and continue' and 'Save and close' work in the same way throughout the application.

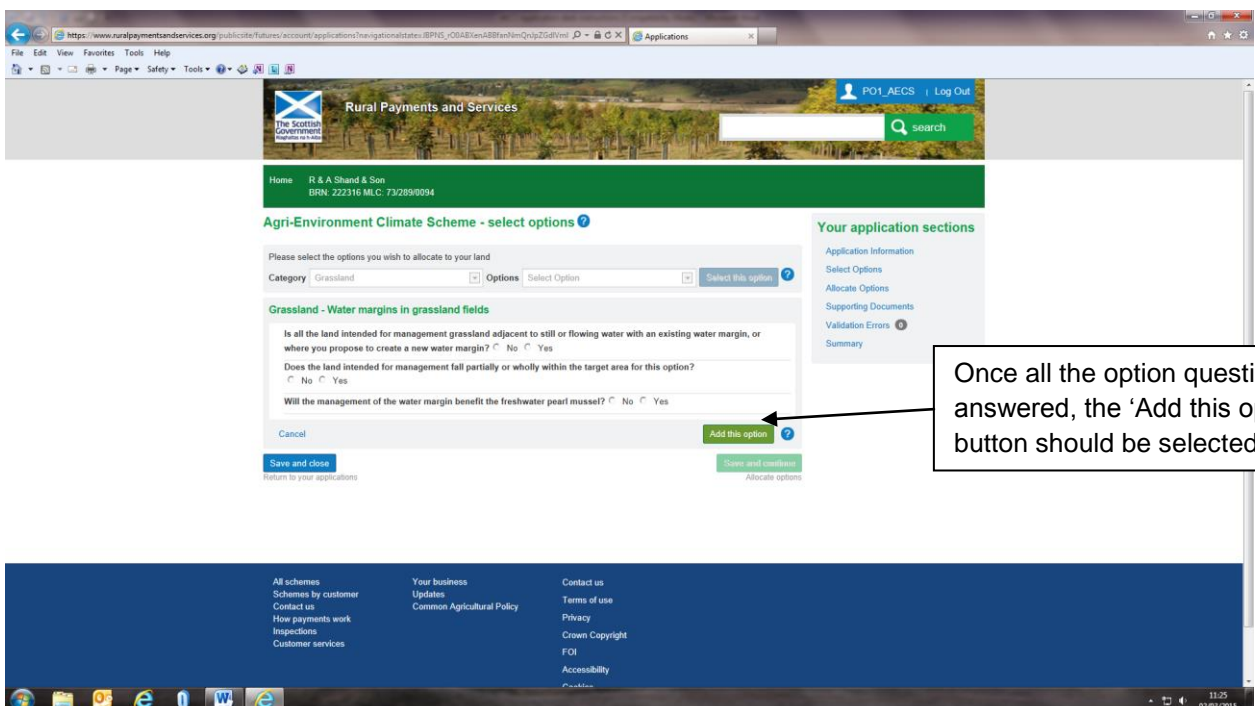
Note: Sometimes, the system takes a minute or two to save if there is a lot of validation to carry out. Please be patient as clicking on 'save' again can result in system errors.

Select options

This is where options are selected and any questions regarding the options are answered. A category must be selected first, see appendix 2. Then the list of options is displayed for the category selected, as shown below.

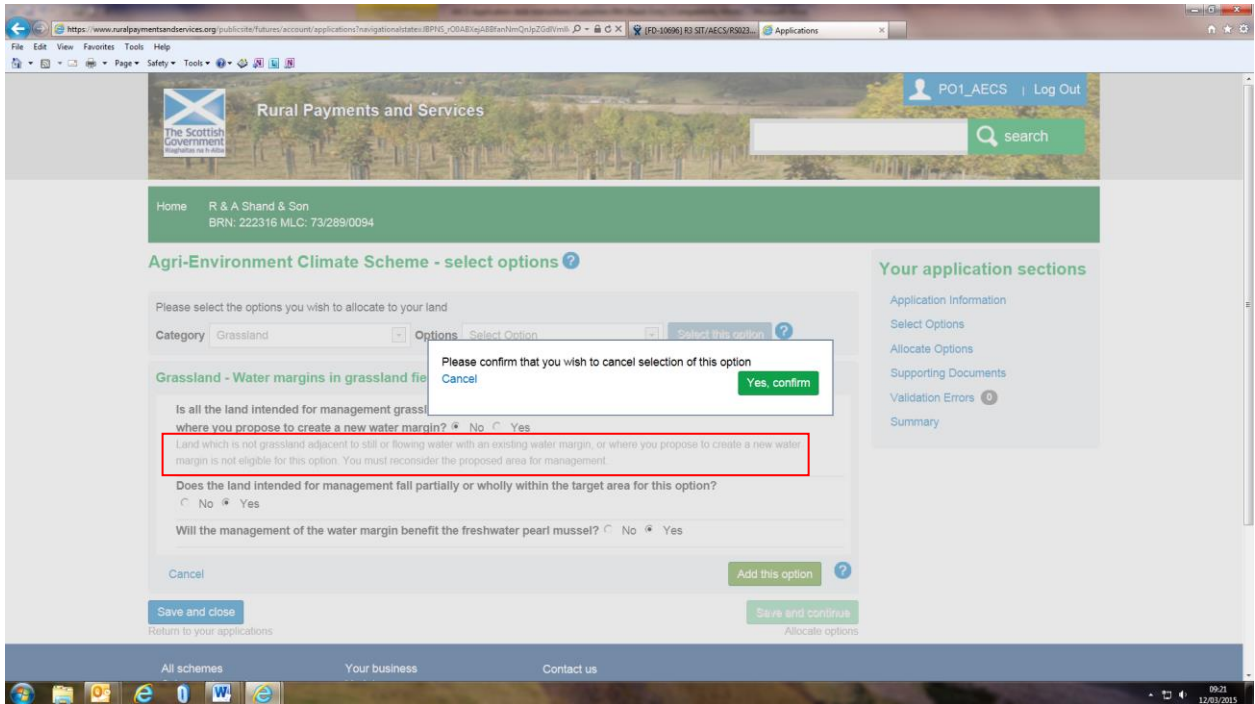


An option should be selected from the list, then click on 'Select this option'. Some option questions will then display. The questions are intended to be a simple check on basic eligibility – information regarding which species will be benefited by the management is also required so that we can carry out basic monitoring of how much money is benefiting particular species or habitats. In this example the 'Grassland – Water margins in grassland fields' option is selected:



The option questions must all be answered before the 'Add this option' button can be selected.

If any of the answers make the option ineligible, a message will display below the answer to advise. To remove the option from the application select 'Cancel'. A pop-up will display asking for confirmation.



Once the option is added the following screen will show:

The screenshot shows the 'Agri-Environment Climate Scheme - select options' page. At the top, there is a header with the Scottish Government logo and 'Rural Payments and Services'. Below this is a green bar with the user's name 'R & A Shand & Son' and BRN '222316 MLC 73/289/0094'. The main content area is titled 'Agri-Environment Climate Scheme - select options'. It features a form to select options, a table of 'Your Selected Options', and a sidebar with 'Your application sections'. Two callout boxes with arrows point to the 'Deselect' and 'Edit' buttons in the table.

The option selected can be removed by clicking the 'deselect' button

Answers to the option questions can be changed, by selecting the edit button

If another option is to be added to the application, it can be selected on this screen. The category box will contain the category previously selected. If you need to change the category, choose from the drop-down. As more options are added this, screen will expand to show all the options on the 'Your selected options' table.

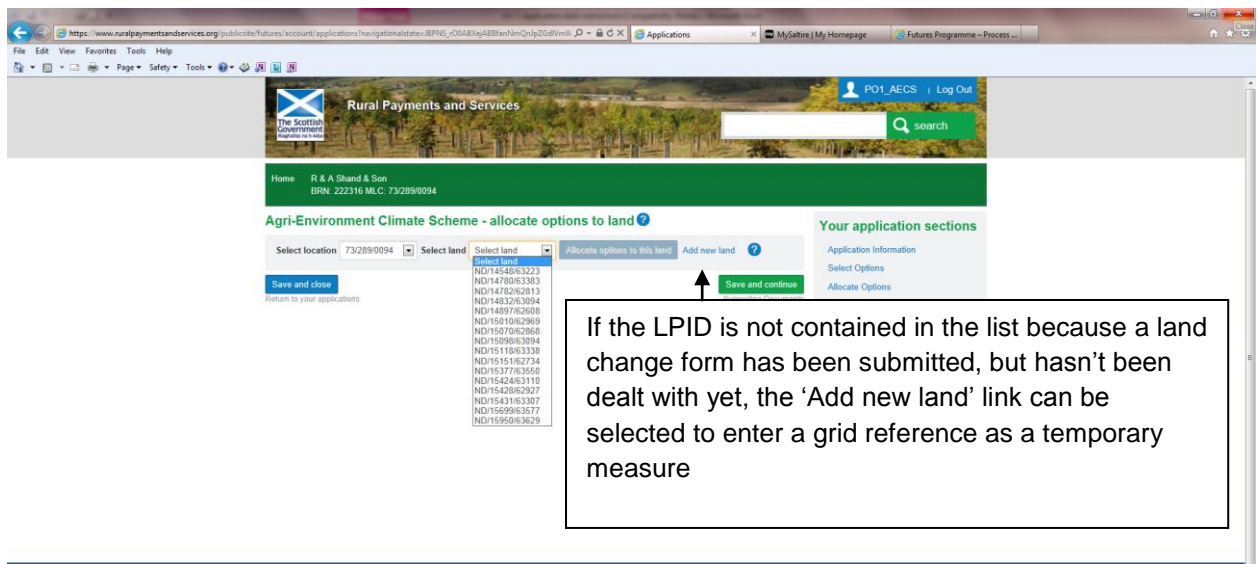
To advance to the next screen the 'Save and continue' button should be selected.

Allocate options to land

Once all the options that are to be contained on the application have been selected, the next step is to allocate these options to the relevant land parcels.

All the locations/holdings linked to the business on our system are contained in the 'Select location' drop-down. The Main Location Code is the default display but if more locations are linked to the BRN they can be selected from the drop-down. In this example only one location code is linked to the BRN.

By clicking on the 'Select land' drop-down, all the Land Parcels (LPIDs) linked to the selected location code display. Only valid, active LPIDs display. A LPID should be selected from the list before clicking on the 'Allocate options to this land' button.



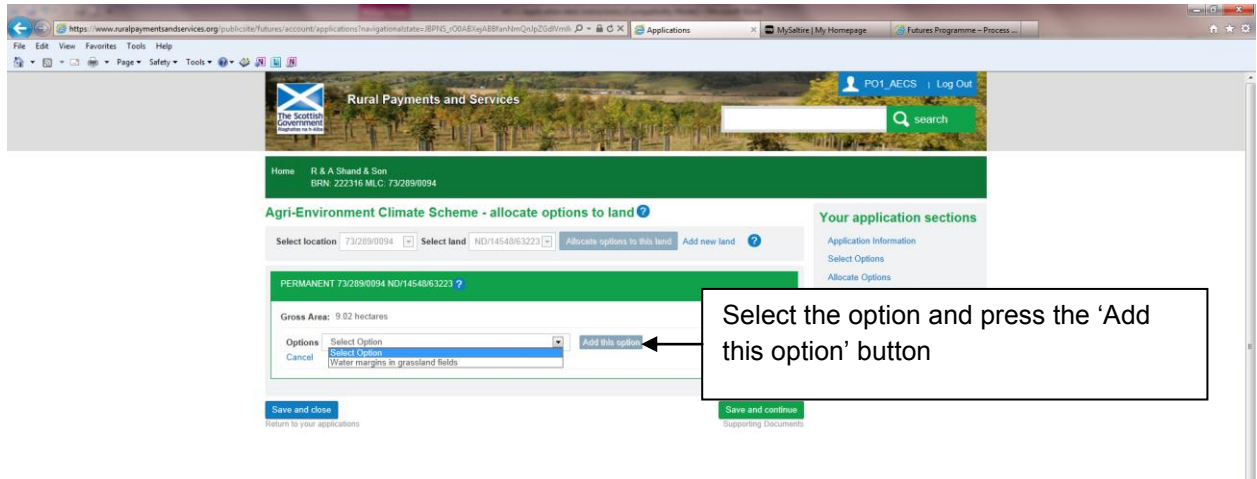
The screenshot shows the 'Rural Payments and Services' web application. The main heading is 'Agri-Environment Climate Scheme - allocate options to land'. Below this, there are several interactive elements:

- Select location:** A dropdown menu showing '73289/0094'.
- Select land:** A dropdown menu with a list of Land Parcel IDs (LPIDs) displayed below it. The list includes: ND155450/3223, ND14780/3383, ND14782/2813, ND14832/3094, ND14897/2608, ND15010/2969, ND15070/2968, ND15096/3094, ND15110/3336, ND15151/2734, ND15377/3550, ND15424/3110, ND15428/2927, ND15431/3307, ND15699/3577, and ND15950/3629.
- Allocate options to this land:** A button with an upward-pointing arrow.
- Add new land:** A link with a question mark icon.
- Save and continue:** A green button.

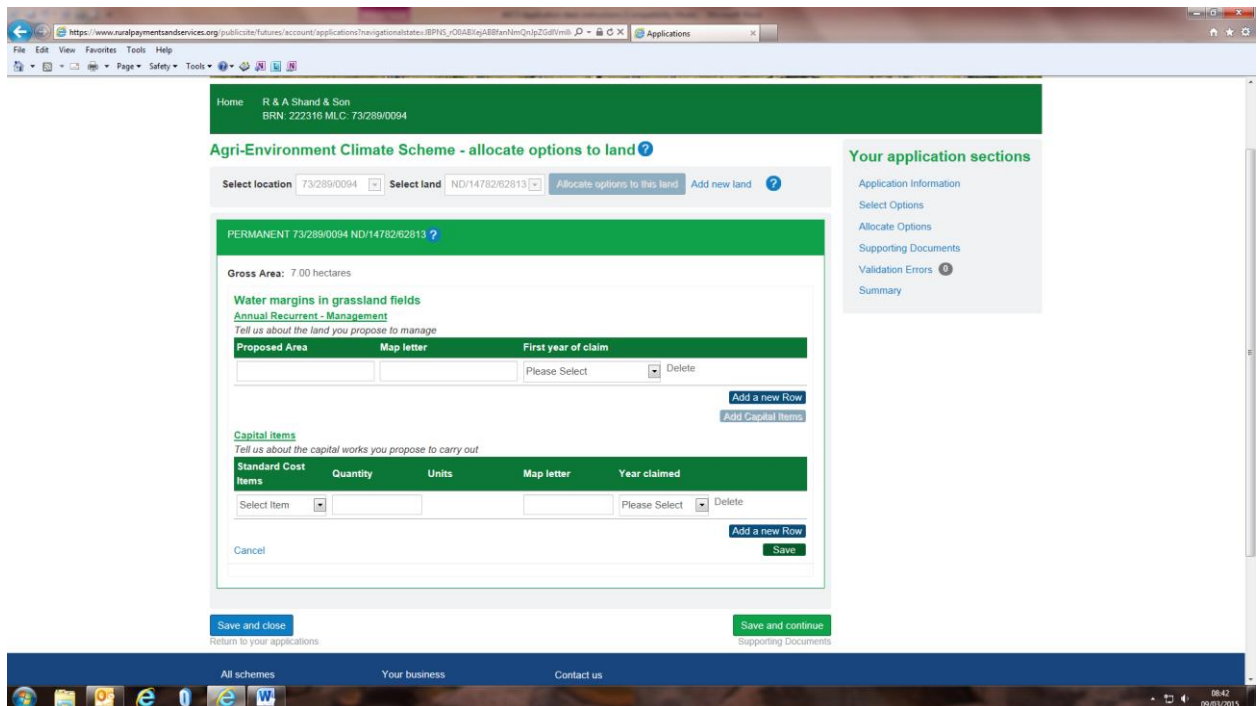
A callout box with a black border and white background contains the following text:

If the LPID is not contained in the list because a land change form has been submitted, but hasn't been dealt with yet, the 'Add new land' link can be selected to enter a grid reference as a temporary measure

Once a LPID is selected and the 'Allocate options to this land' button clicked on, the screen expands. The option that has to be allocated to the LPID should be selected from the 'Options' drop-down. The 'Options' drop-down will only contain the options that were selected previously on the 'Select options' screen.



The screen expands further to display the 'Capital' and 'Annual Recurrent' tables that must be completed for the option selected. If an option is a capital-only option, no annual recurrent table will display.



The details requested on the 'Capital' and 'Annual' recurrent tables differ depending on the option selected. One row will display at a time. To add another area of management or another capital item, select the relevant 'Add a new Row' button.

Note: If actual costs are available on the option, a separate table will display for 'Actual cost' items.

Detail should be selected/entered in each column. Most options require a quantity, map letter and claim year entered along with the name of any capital items. To change an entry made before exiting the screen the data entered can be overwritten.

Agri-Environment Climate Scheme - allocate options to land

Select location: 73/289/0094 | Select land: ND/14782/62813 | Allocate options to this land | Add new land

PERMANENT 73/289/0094 ND/14782/62813

Gross Area: 7.00 hectares

Water margins in grassland fields
Annual Recurrent - Management
Tell us about the land you propose to manage

Proposed Area	Map letter	First year of claim	
1	a	2016	Delete
2	b	2016	Delete
3	c	2016	Delete
1	d	2016	Delete

Add a new Row | Add Capital Items

Capital Items
Tell us about the capital works you propose to carry out

Standard Cost Items	Quantity	Units	Map letter	Year claimed	
Scare fencing	100	Length in Metres	a	2015	Delete

Add a new Row | Save

Save and close | Save and continue

Your application sections
Application Information

To delete an invalid entry, select delete to delete the row. Note: If only one row of 'Annual Recurrent' detail exists it cannot be deleted. Details can be overwritten

To add another 'Annual Recurrent' row, select 'Add a new row'. The same boxes will appear for completion

To add another capital item select 'Add a new row'

Once the tables are completed, 'Save' should be selected. On selecting 'Save', validation runs, if errors exist they will display. If there are no errors, the screen below will show:

Home R & A Shand & Son
BRN: 222316 MLC: 73/289/0094

Agri-Environment Climate Scheme - allocate options to land

Select location: 73/289/0094 | Select land: Select land | Allocate options to this land | Add new land

PERMANENT 73/289/0094 ND/14782/62813

Gross Area: 7.00 hectares

Water margins in grassland fields 1 Standard Cost Capital Items have been added
Total Proposed Area 7.0
Remove Edit

Options: Select Option | Add this option

Remove all options from this Land Parcel | Finish allocation for this Land Parcel

Land you have allocated options to

Location	Land	Options allocated
73/289/0094	ND/14782/62813	show options

Save and close | Save and continue

Return to your applications | Supporting Documents

All schemes | Your business | Contact us

The option that was allocated to the LPID displays with a summary of the detail entered. The details can be edited or removed from here

Another option can be added to the same LPID by selecting it from the 'Options drop-down' and selecting 'Add this option'

If all options that are to be allocated to the LPID have been completed, select the 'Finish allocation for this Land Parcel' button

If several options have been added to a single LPID, they can all be removed at once by selecting the 'Remove all options' from this land parcel link

Once the 'annual recurrent' and/or 'capital item' details for the options being added to a single Land Parcel have been completed, the 'Finish allocation for this land parcel' button should be selected.

Validation will run to make sure that there is no conflict between the options added to the Land Parcel. If errors display, they should be fixed. If no errors appear, another Land Parcel can be selected to allocate options to. Or, alternatively, the 'Save and continue' button can be selected to move on to the 'Supporting information' screen.

Rotational options

Rotational options are options which do not have to stay on the same area of land during the five years of management. Rotational options can be added to multiple land parcels and can vary in area over the five-year period as long as the area is never less than 90% of the area in the first year of management.

Home R & A Shand & Son
BRN: 222316 MLC: 73/289/0094

Agri-Environment Climate Scheme - select options

Please select the options you wish to allocate to your land

Category: Arable Options: Wild bird seed for farmland birds Select this option

Arable - Wild bird seed for farmland birds

Is the land intended for management Basic Payment Scheme eligible land that is not rough grazing?
 No Yes

Does the land intended for management fall partially or wholly within the target area for this option?
 No Yes

Please select up to three species which will benefit from the proposed management

Corn Bunting
 Grey Partridge
 Seed eating birds - general

First Year of Rotation: 2016

Cancel Save this option

Your Selected Options

Your application sections
Application Information
Select Options
Allocate Options
Supporting Documents
Validation Errors 3
Summary

In 'Select options' choose the year the rotation will start

When allocating a rotational option to land you can choose the year you wish to have the option in the land parcel. In the example below, the land parcel chosen will contain the rotational option in 2016, 2018 and 2020.

Home R & A Shand & Son
BRN: 222316 MLC: 73/289/0094

Agri-Environment Climate Scheme - allocate options to land

Select location: 73/289/0094 Select land: ND/14782/62813 Allocate options to this land Add new land

PERMANENT 73/289/0094 ND/14782/62813

Gross Area: 7.00 hectares

Wild bird seed for farmland birds
Rotational Recurrent - Item
Tell us about the land you propose to manage

Proposed Area	Map letter	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
1	a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delete
		Add a new Row					
Totals		1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	

Cancel Save

Save and close Save and continue

Your application sections
Application Information
Select Options
Allocate Options
Supporting Documents
Validation Errors 1
Summary

All schemes Schemes by customer Your business Updates Contact us Terms of use

16:22 08/01/2015

The screen below shows the rotational option in another land parcel for 2017 and 2019 – making up the full five years of management.

The screenshot shows the 'Agri-Environment Climate Scheme - allocate options to land' interface. The main content area displays a 'Rotational Recurrent - Item' for 'Wild bird seed for farmland birds'. Below this, there are two tables. The first table, 'Proposed Area', shows a single row with a proposed area of 1.0, map letter 'a', and management options for 2017 and 2019. The second table, 'Other Land Parcels you have allocated to this option', shows a single row with an area of 1.0, map letter 'a', and management options for 2017 and 2019. A callout box points to this second table with the text: 'The detail of the rotational options for other land parcels is displayed to give a full picture of the option'. The interface also includes a sidebar with 'Your application sections' and a bottom navigation bar.

Proposed Area	Map letter	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
1	a	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Delete

Area	Map Letter	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Land Parcel
1.0	a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ND/14782/628 13
Totals		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	

Rotational options must have management for each of the five years presented.

Adding new rows of annual recurrent and adding capital items performs in the same way as adding any option.

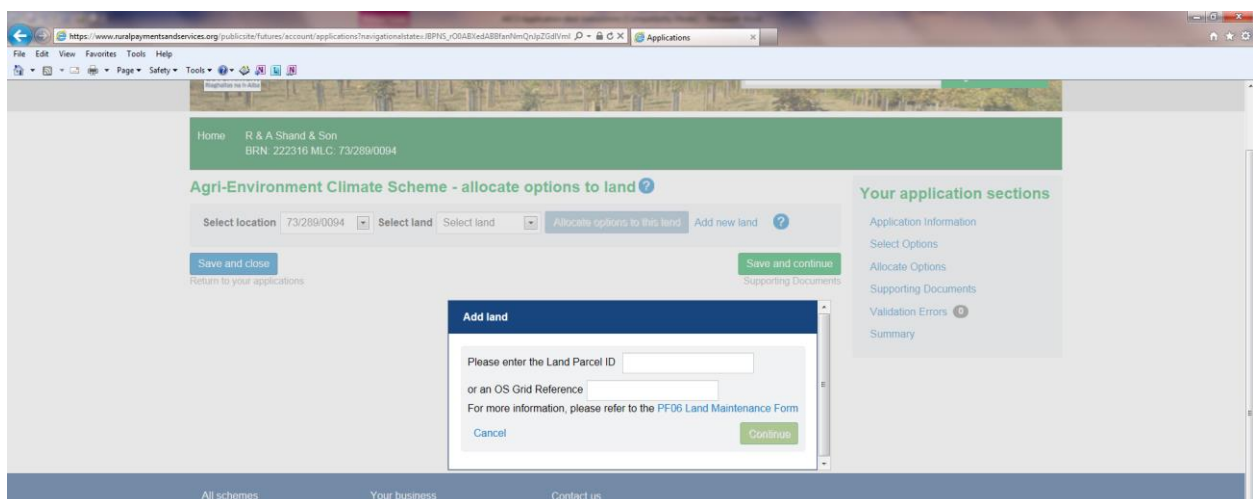
Add new land on the 'Allocate options to land' screen

If the 'Select land' drop-down does not contain the land parcel that the proposed work is to be carried out in, the 'Add new land' link should be selected. This could be for several reasons, including:

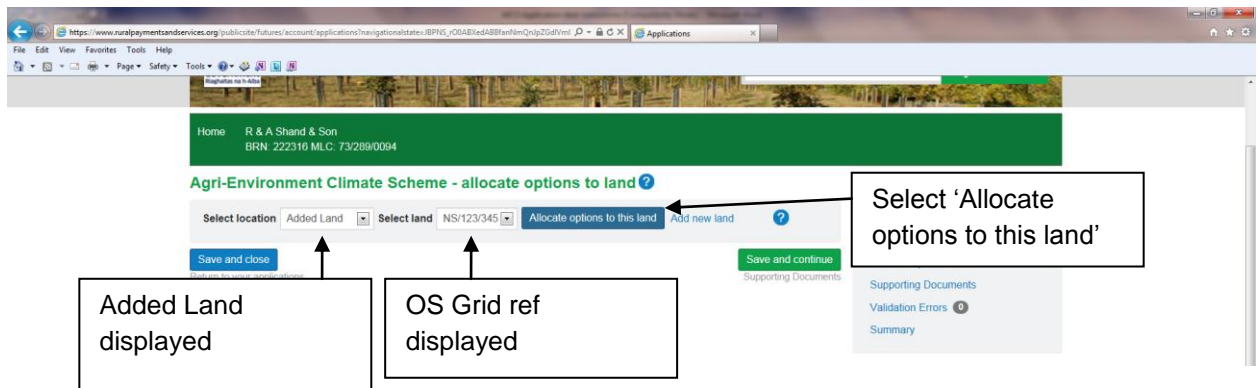
- land parcels are in the process of being re-mapped but the new land parcels have not been allocated yet.
- land parcels have been purchased but the transfer of land on our system is still in progress
- a Land Maintenance and/or Registering a Business form is still to be submitted
- option does not require a Land Parcel Identifier (LPID)
- applicant does not hold the land permanently but has a contractual license or agreement that allows them access to the land to carry out the work

Enter a LPID or grid reference

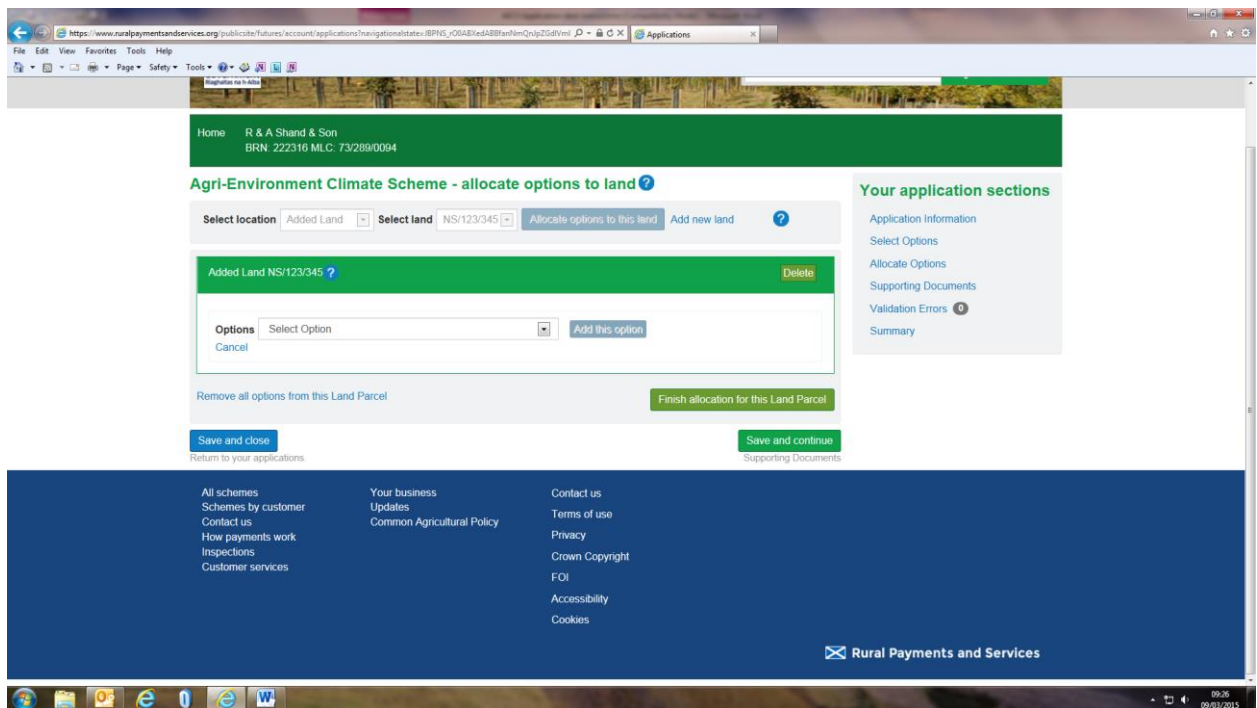
If you know the Land Parcel Identifier, enter it in the 'Please enter the Land Parcel ID' box. It should be typed in the format XX/12345/12345. If you don't know the Land Parcel identifier or the option does not require a land parcel to be entered, enter an OS grid reference in the box indicated for this. The OS grid ref should be in the format XX/123/456.



After clicking 'Continue', the LPID/OS grid reference will be inserted on the 'Select land' list. The location code list will contain a new entry called 'Added land'.



To allocate options to the 'Added land' select 'Allocate options to this land'. From now on the normal process described under the 'Allocate options to land' section can be followed.



Note: Adding new land to the application **only** allows you to submit your application, it does not register the added land. **If the option requires a land parcel to be entered on it, a valid land parcel must be registered before a contract can be issued.**

If the land change has been instigated by the customer, a Land Maintenance Form (LMF) to move land, or have a new LPID registered must be completed, submitted and processed by RPID before a contract can be issued.

Grazing Plan

A grazing plan is required for each of the following options:

- Wetland Management
- Habitat Mosaic Management
- Species-rich Grassland Management
- Management of Buffer Areas for Fens and Lowland Bogs
- Tall-herb Vegetation Management
- Ancient Wood Pasture
- Heath Management (Lowland, Coastal, Serpentine & Special Interest)
- Lowland bog management (if grazing proposed)

The following options require a Grazing Management Plan as part of the supporting documentation, but there is no online grazing table requirement:

- Moorland management and associated options e.g Away wintering
- Chough management options

In addition;

- Wader grazed grassland

requires the online grazing table to be completed, but no formal Grazing Management Plan to be attached with your application.

A grazing plan is also required if any of the following options have been selected and if any of the following option questions have been answered as indicated in the table below:

Option	Question	Possible answers	Result
Species rich grassland Creation and Management	Q2) Will any of the land intended for management be grazed?	Yes/No	If yes , grazing plan required if no , no grazing plan required
Wetland Creation and management	Q2) Will the wetland be grazed?	Yes/No	If yes , grazing plan required If no , no grazing plan required
Managing Non-Montane scrub of conservation value	Q2) For the areas intended for management, do you intend to exclude livestock?	Yes/No	If Yes , grazing plan not required If No , grazing plan required

After you have entered your management details and capital items:

- you must enter the grazing plan details
- the grazing plan details captured must span a calendar year

Note: If for any period of the year there is to be no grazing, select “**upto**” in the density section and add the value of zero.

For options that require a grazing plan when you allocate the option the following screen will appear:

Agri-Environment Climate Scheme - allocate options to land ?

Select location Select land [Allocate options to this land](#) [Add new land](#)

PERMANENT 95/809/0021 NS/79909/82511 ?

Gross Area: 3.54 hectares [Show LPID Details](#)

Habitat mosaic management
 BPS Eligible Area: 3.54
 Annual Recurrent - Management
 Tell us about the land you propose to manage

Proposed Area	Map letter	First year of claim
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Please Select <input type="button" value="Delete"/>

[Add a new Row](#)
[Add Capital Items](#)

Grazing Plan ?
 Tell us how you intend to graze this land

Date from(dd/mm)	Date to(dd/mm)	Density	Livestock Units / Ha
<input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/>	Select Item <input type="button" value="Delete"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/>	Select Item <input type="button" value="Delete"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/>	Select Item <input type="button" value="Delete"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/>	Select Item <input type="button" value="Delete"/>	<input type="text"/>

[Cancel](#) [Save](#)

[Save and close](#) [Return to your applications](#) [Supporting Documents](#) [Save and continue](#)

Your application sections

- Application Information
- Select Options
- Allocate Options
- Supporting Documents
- Validation Errors 0
- Summary

Validation error relating to option compatibility and land parcel area

When an option is allocated to land, if it is in conflict with any of the following conditions:

- the area entered for the current option AND any other options AND any existing commitments (e.g. Rural Priorities contract) added to the land parcel, is greater than the gross field area of the land parcel
- the area entered for the current option AND any other options AND any existing commitments (e.g. Rural Priorities contract) added to the land parcel, is greater than the Basic Payment Scheme eligible area of the land parcel

A validation error will appear for each applicable year.

(Note: this means several errors will appear in most cases, one for each option, for each year. Usually a single change will resolve the error for every year)

Permanent 95/809/0021 NS/79662/82615 ?

Although you do not need to deal with these errors now, you must resolve them before submitting your application. Note that these are errors for this page only.

The Habitat mosaic management option is applied for on the Land Parcel NS/79662/82615. However, the total proposed area of all option(s) for 2017 in this application and any previous contracts on this Land parcel is 11.00 ha which is more than the BPS Eligible Area of 10.2 ha. The Show LPID details link displays all area based option/capital items on this Land Parcel. The area on this Land Parcel will need to be reduced to clear the error or a justification reason given.

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The Habitat mosaic management option is applied for on the Land Parcel NS/79662/82615. However, the total proposed area of all option(s) for 2021 in this application and any previous contracts on this Land parcel is 11.00 ha which is more than the BPS Eligible Area of 10.2 ha. The Show LPID details link displays all area based option/capital items on this Land Parcel. The area on this Land Parcel will need to be reduced to clear the error or a justification reason given.

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Gross Area: 10.20 hectares [Show LPID Details](#)

[Habitat mosaic management](#) [Remove](#) [Edit](#)
Total Proposed Area 11.0

For errors with conflicts in area declared, you can select the “Show LPID Details” button and the following pop up box will appear

The Retention of winter stubble for wildlife and water quality option is applied for on the Land Parcel NS/86258/75762. However, the total proposed area of all option(s) for 2017 in this application and any previous contracts on this Land parcel is 4.04 ha which is more than the BPS Eligible Area of 3.4 ha. The Show LPID details link displays all area based option/capital items on this Land Parcel. The area on this Land Parcel will need to be reduced to clear the error or a justification reason given.

The Beetlebank option(s) for 2019 in this application and any previous contracts on this Land parcel is 0.02 ha which is more than the BPS Eligible Area of 3.4 ha. The Show LPID details link displays all area based option/capital items on this Land Parcel. The area on this Land Parcel will need to be reduced to clear the error or a justification reason given.

The Creation of hedgerows option(s) for 2019 in this application and any previous contracts on this Land parcel is 0.02 ha which is more than the BPS Eligible Area of 3.4 ha. The Show LPID details link displays all area based option/capital items on this Land Parcel. The area on this Land Parcel will need to be reduced to clear the error or a justification reason given.

The Habitat mosaic management option(s) for 2019 in this application and any previous contracts on this Land parcel is 2.00 ha which is more than the BPS Eligible Area of 3.4 ha. The Show LPID details link displays all area based option/capital items on this Land Parcel. The area on this Land Parcel will need to be reduced to clear the error or a justification reason given.

The Retention of winter stubble for wildlife and water quality option(s) for 2019 in this application and any previous contracts on this Land parcel is 2.00 ha which is more than the BPS Eligible Area of 3.4 ha. The Show LPID details link displays all area based option/capital items on this Land Parcel. The area on this Land Parcel will need to be reduced to clear the error or a justification reason given.

The Beetlebank option(s) for 2021 in this application and any previous contracts on this Land parcel is 0.02 ha which is more than the BPS Eligible Area of 3.4 ha. The Show LPID details link displays all area based option/capital items on this Land Parcel. The area on this Land Parcel will need to be reduced to clear the error or a justification reason given.

The Creation of hedgerows option(s) for 2021 in this application and any previous contracts on this Land parcel is 0.02 ha which is more than the BPS Eligible Area of 3.4 ha. The Show LPID details link displays all area based option/capital items on this Land Parcel. The area on this Land Parcel will need to be reduced to clear the error or a justification reason given.

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The Retention of winter stubble for wildlife and water quality option(s) for 2021 in this application and any previous contracts on this Land parcel is 2.00 ha which is more than the BPS Eligible Area of 3.4 ha. The Show LPID details link displays all area based option/capital items on this Land Parcel. The area on this Land Parcel will need to be reduced to clear the error or a justification reason given.

Options / Capital Items from agreed contracts

Land Parcel Id: NS/86258/75762

Gross Field Area: 9.35 hectares

BPS Eligible Area: 3.40 hectares

Option	Scheme	Contract Reference	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Beetlebanks	AECS	NA	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Creation of hedgerows	AECS	NA	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Habitat mosaic management	AECS	NA	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
Management or restoration of existing hedgerows	AECS	NA	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Retention of winter stubble for wildlife and water quality	AECS	NA	2.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	2.00

[Close](#)

This pop up shows you

- the gross field area
- the BPS Eligible area (where appropriate)
- a list of all of the options, area based capital items and their areas for this application and existing commitments

You can use this table along with the compatibility matrix to determine what options and capital items you can fit within the land parcel.

The compatibility matrix can be found here:

<https://www.ruralpayments.org/publicsite/futures/topics/all-schemes/agri-environment-climate-scheme/agri-environment-climate-scheme-full-guidance-menu/agri-environment-double-funding/>

If you disagree with the information within this pop up, you can justify the errors on the validation errors screen providing the reason why you think the items are compatible.

Supporting documents screen

Each option has a supporting document requirement as does some capital items. Those that can be determined by the system will be listed on the supporting documents screen.

Each document listed on the supporting document screen must be supplied. Other documentation not listed can also be supplied if it is pertinent to the application.

Documents can be:

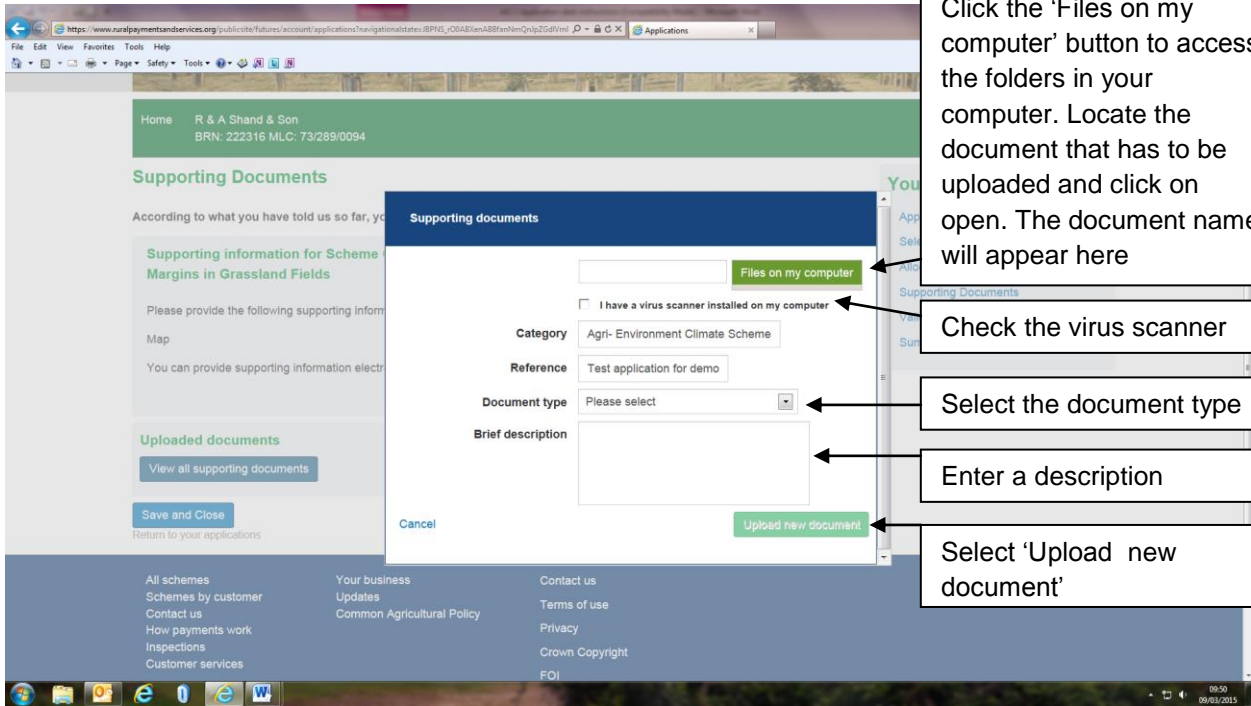
- uploaded electronically
- emailed to the RPID area office. Where only paper versions exist they can be sent to the relevant office for upload
- if provided already for another application, this can be indicated. In the comments box please tell us which application it was provided for, so that it can be located easily

As a general rule, documentation should be uploaded electronically if possible. If there is a system issue, documents should be emailed instead.

The screenshot displays the 'Supporting Documents' section of the Rural Payments and Services portal. The page title is 'Supporting Documents' and the user is identified as 'R & A Shand & Son' with BRN: 222316 and MLC: 73/289/0094. The main heading is 'Supporting Documents' and the sub-heading is 'Supporting information for Scheme Option: Water Margins in Grassland Fields'. The page contains a form with the following elements:

- Supporting Documents:** A section with two radio button options:
 - All documents are uploaded (either as part of this application or previously)
 - Other documents will be provided later through post or directly to area office (Please provide comments below other)
- Comments:** A text area labeled 'Comments (Max 100 Characters)'.
- Buttons:** 'Upload new document', 'View all supporting documents', 'Save and Close', and 'Save and Continue'.

A callout box with a white background and black border points to the 'Upload new document' button and the 'Other documents will be provided later...' option. The text in the callout box reads: 'To upload a document click on 'Upload new document' and follow the instructions on the screenshot below. Once uploaded, check the box against the supporting document that has been supplied'.



Click the 'Files on my computer' button to access the folders in your computer. Locate the document that has to be uploaded and click on open. The document name will appear here

Check the virus scanner

Select the document type

Enter a description

Select 'Upload new document'

Validation error screen

As well as validation errors appearing at the top of the page they occur on, in a pink banner, there is a validation error screen where all errors for the application display. In this example only one error exists. You can return to the page the error occurs on by selecting the 'Go to error' button beside the error message.

The system is unable to direct you to the screen an error occurs in if it appears under the 'General error' heading. You must select one of the links on the right-hand side of the screen to be able to fix errors which show in the 'General error' section.

The 'Go to error' button takes you to the screen the error exists on

For some errors you will be able to select a justification from a drop-down list

Note. Some errors allow you to provide a justification for ignoring the error. The error may be displayed on the screen where it occurred but, you can only provide justification on the validation error screen.

To provide justification, select a reason from the justification dropdown and click the 'Update' button at the bottom of the screen. The error and the justification provided will move to the bottom of the screen under the "Errors you have provided justification for" section.

Summary screen

This screen builds up as the application is completed. The Draft Schedule of Works can be accessed from this screen. Each section of the application must be completed before the application can be submitted.

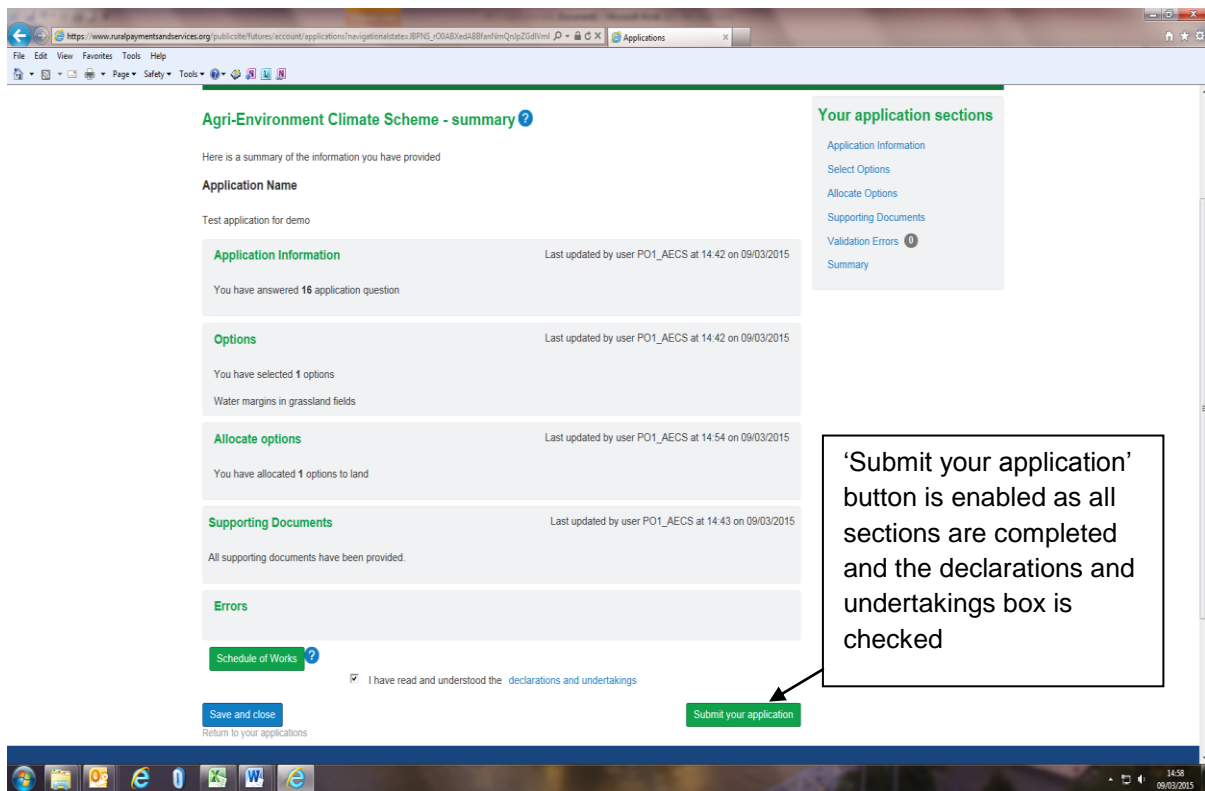
The number of options allocated on the 'Allocate options' section must balance with the the number of options shown on the 'options' section. All supporting documents must be provided and no errors can exist before the Submit button will become available.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the 'Summary screen' for an 'Agri-Environment Climate Scheme' application. The page header includes the 'Rural Payments and Services' logo and a search bar. The main content area is titled 'Agri-Environment Climate Scheme - summary' and provides a summary of the application's progress. A sidebar on the right lists 'Your application sections' with links for 'Application Information', 'Select Options', and 'Allocate Options'. A callout box points to these links, stating: 'Use the above links to navigate back to the screen that is yet to be completed'. The main content area shows the following sections:

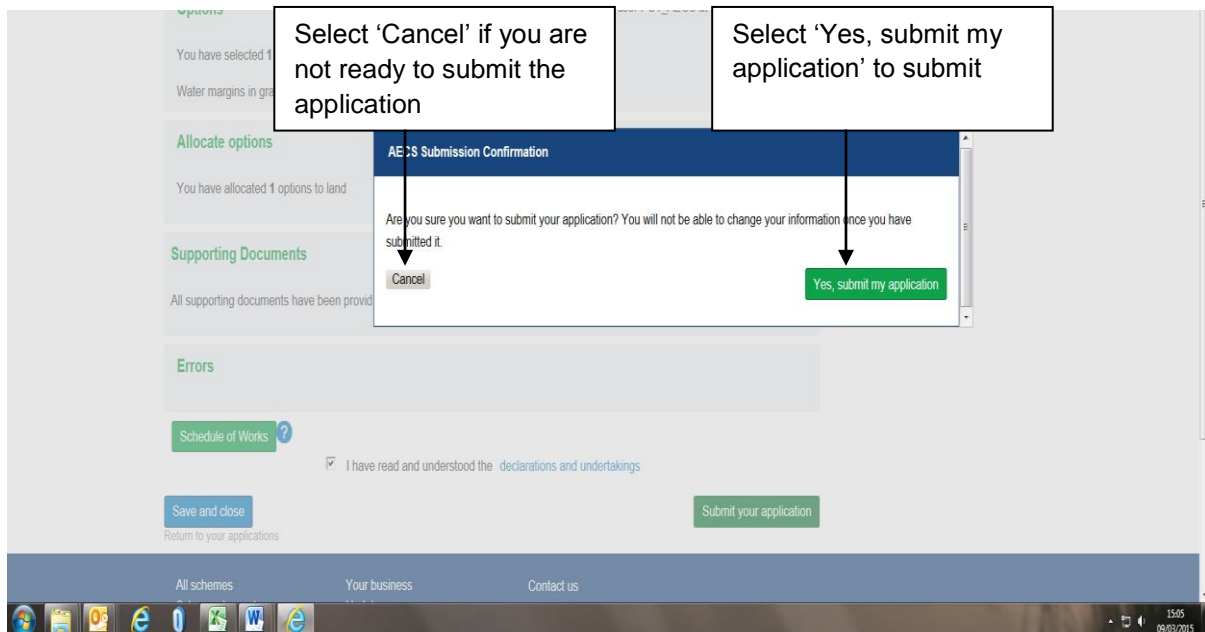
- Application Information:** Last updated by user PO1_AECS at 10:13 on 09/03/2015. You have answered 16 application questions.
- Options:** Last updated by user PO1_AECS at 10:12 on 09/03/2015. You have selected 2 options: Water margins in arable fields, Water margins in grassland fields.
- Allocate options:** Last updated by user PO1_AECS at 10:12 on 09/03/2015. You have allocated 1 options to land.
- Supporting Documents:** Last updated by user PO1_AECS at 11:19 on 02/03/2015. You have yet to supply supporting documents to meet 2 outstanding requirements.
- Errors:** Last updated by user PO1_AECS at 09:53 on 09/03/2015. You have 3 unresolved errors.
- Schedule of Works:** A checkbox labeled 'I have read and understood the declarations and undertakings' is present.

At the bottom of the page, there is a 'Submit your application' button, which is currently disabled. A callout box points to this button, stating: 'Submit your application' button is not enabled until every section is completed and the declarations and undertakings box is checked. There is also a 'Save and close' button and a 'Return to your applications' link.

Example summary screen for a completed application.



On selecting the 'Submit your application' button the following pop-up displays:



A receipt is displayed which includes the application reference number.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL https://www.ruralpaymentsandservices.org/publicsite/futures/account/applications/navigation/submit-BSPIUS_0068/E/x/1/88F/x/n/m/Q/n/25d/V/m/. The browser's address bar shows the page title 'Applications'. The website header includes 'Home', 'R & A Shand & Son', and 'BRN: 222316 MLC: 73/289/0094'. The main content area features a green banner with the text 'Thank you for your submission'. Below this, a section titled 'Your application reference is ?' displays the reference number '15AEC00024' in large green text. A sub-header 'What happens next' follows, containing several paragraphs of text and a bulleted list of assessment steps. At the bottom right of the content area, there is a green button labeled 'Return to my applications'. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows various application icons and the system clock indicating 15:54 on 09/03/2015.

Home R & A Shand & Son
BRN: 222316 MLC: 73/289/0094

Thank you for your submission

Your application reference is ?

15AEC00024

An acknowledgement and receipt has been generated with this reference number and a summary of your application

What happens next

Thank you for your application for the Rural Development - Agri-Environment-Climate Scheme.

If you have any outstanding supporting documents to attach to the application, please upload them via [Supporting Documents](#) screen. If you can't upload the documents electronically, you can post or deliver them to the office detailed on your acknowledgement.

Your assessment will begin, on receipt of all your supporting documentation.

Assessment includes:

- Checking your eligibility for the scheme
- A site visit or direct contact with the business
- Scoring based on application criteria

As part of the assessment, we may request additional information in support of your application. This can be uploaded to the [Supporting Documents](#) screen or sent to the office detailed above.

We will contact you at a later date telling you if your application is approved or has been rejected.

If you wish to view your application at any time, you can select it from the Manage My Applications screen. The Draft Schedule of Works is available on the Summary screen of your application.

[Return to my applications](#)

Context sensitive help is available by clicking on the blue question marks dotted about each screen. This is not a replacement for the guidance but gives hints and tips as you progress through the application.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the 'Agri-Environment Climate Scheme - select options' page. The page header includes the user's name 'R & A Shand & Son' and a BRN number. The main content area is titled 'Agri-Environment Climate Scheme - select options' and contains a form for selecting options. The form has a 'Category' dropdown set to 'Arable' and an 'Options' dropdown set to 'Water margins in arable fields'. Below the form, there are two questions with radio button options: 'Has the land intended for management been in arable crops for at least 3 of the past 5 years (including current year) or, is it an existing water margin immediately adjacent to land in an arable rotation?' and 'Does the land intended for management fall partially or wholly within the target area for this option?'. A 'Save this option' button is visible next to the second question. Below the form is a table titled 'Your Selected Options' with two rows: 'Arable' with 'Water margins in arable fields' and 'Grassland' with 'Water margins in grassland fields'. A 'Save and close' button is at the bottom left, and a 'Save and continue' button is at the bottom right. On the right side, there is a sidebar titled 'Your application sections' with links for 'Application Information', 'Select Options', 'Allocate Options', 'Supporting Documents', 'Validation Errors', and 'Summary'. A context-sensitive help popup is open over the 'Save this option' button, containing the text: 'I've made all my changes, what do I do now? Click 'save this option'. Validation will take place. If we spot any errors they will be displayed on screen for you to fix. If there are no errors, the option and answers to the...'. The footer contains navigation links for 'All schemes', 'Your business', and 'Contact us'. The browser's address bar shows the URL 'https://www.ruralpaymentsandservices.org/public/other/futures/account/applications?navigationstate=BPV6_C064E1en48B1en4mCvlp2GdVmi...'. The system tray at the bottom right shows the date '09/01/2015' and the time '10:19'.

Appendix 1 – Questions contained on the application information screen

The table below provides the questions you must answer before moving to the next section of the application. The answer to some questions will dynamically produce supplementary questions.

Q1	Are there any Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designations on the land proposed for management within this application?	Answers are yes or no If answer is yes, Q1a will be displayed and we will require the name of the SSSI, SPA or SAC
Q1a	What is the name of the SSSI, SPA, or SAC?	Free text to be entered
Q2	Will the work benefit any designated site features on a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)?	Answers are yes or no If answer is yes, Q2a and Q2b will be displayed and we will require the name of the SSSI, SPA or SAC and which features will benefit.
Q2a	What is the name of the SSSI, SPA, or SAC?	Free text to be entered
Q2b	Please tell us which features will benefit	Free text to be entered
Q3	Is any of the land in a National Park?	Answers are yes or no If answer is yes, Q3a will be displayed and we will require the name of the National Park.
Q3a	Please enter the names of the National Park	Free text to be entered
Q4	Is any of your application within a National Scenic Area?	Answers are yes or no If answer is yes, Q4a will be displayed and we will require the name of the National Scenic Area.

Q4a	Please enter the names of the National Scenic Area	Free text to be entered
Q5	Is any of your application within a Scheduled Ancient Monument?	Answers are yes or no If answer is yes, Q5a will be displayed and we will require the name of the Scheduled Ancient Monument.
Q5a	Please enter the names of the Scheduled Ancient Monument	Free text to be entered
Q6	Will the project contribute to peatland restoration?	Answers are yes or no
Q7	Is this application as a result of an Environmental Co-operative Action Fund (ECAAF) project?	Answers are yes or no If answer is yes, Q7a will be displayed and we will require the ECAF reference number.
Q7a	Please give the ECAF reference number	Free text to be entered
Q8	Is the proposed work in this application in collaboration with any other business?	Answers are yes or no If answer is yes, Q8a and Q8b will be displayed and we will require the Business Reference Numbers of any businesses you are collaborating with.
Q8a	What is the Business Reference Number of the business you are collaborating with?	Free text to be entered Note that validation errors will be raised if you use your own BRN, the BRN is not valid or the format is not correct.

Q8b	<p>What is the application ID of the business you are collaborating with?</p>	<p>The application IDs which are proposing collaborative work with you should be given.</p> <p>This question is optional to answer at the submission stage but we will need the information to allow us to confirm the collaborative approach</p>
Q9	<p>Is the area proposed for management:</p> <p>a) held under a secure tenancy</p> <p>b) held under contractual licence</p> <p>c) held under crofting tenure</p> <p>d) owned</p>	<p>This question is being asked so that we can ensure we have evidence of your right to carry out the work on the land.</p> <p>You need to check a box to say which applies and any combination of answers can be entered.</p> <p>If (a) (b), or (c) are checked you will need to provide evidence that your tenancy, licence or tenure covers the period of the contract.</p> <p>Please see occupancy of land guidance for further details</p> <p>https://www.ruralpayments.org/publicsite/futures/topics/all-schemes/agri-environment-climate-scheme/agri-environment-climate-scheme-full-guidance-menu/agri-environment---occupancy-of-land/</p>

Q10	<p>What Is the area of basic payment scheme eligible land (which is not rough grazing) in your IACS business permanent land holding?</p> <p>a) less than or equal to 5Ha b) between 5ha and 30Ha c) greater than 30Ha</p> <p>(NB. for crofting counties this limit includes the area of your croft, any in-bye apportionment and any arable cropped land on the common grazing, but NOT the remainder of the common grazing)</p>	<p>The information from the answer to this question will be used to carry out an initial assessment of whether you can apply for the Conservation of small units options.</p> <p>If you are able to answer either (a) or (b) then Q10 a will be displayed.</p>
Q10a	<p>Do you wish to apply for the conservation management of small units supplementary payment?</p>	<p>Answers are yes or no</p> <p>If you answer yes to this question, the supplementary payment will be added to the value you will receive for the relevant options if your application is approved.</p>
Q11	<p>Do you intend to apply for capital works on any march fences within this application?</p>	<p>Answers are yes or no</p> <p>If you answer yes to this question, then capital items which relate specifically to march fencing will be available for selection later in the application.</p>
Q12	<p>Please tell us: how many full time employees in agriculture will be safeguarded through the work in the proposed contract?</p>	<p>An answer must be given but it is acceptable to enter 0.</p>
Q13	<p>How many full time employees in agriculture will be created through the project?</p>	<p>An answer must be given but it is acceptable to enter 0.</p>

Q14	How many temporary full time employees in agriculture will be created through the project?	An answer must be given but it is acceptable to enter 0.
Q15	Is grant funding essential for the project to take place?	<p>Answers are yes or no</p> <p>If answer is no then Q15 a will be displayed.</p>
Q15a	<p>Will the grant funding enable the project to:</p> <p>a) be undertaken at a larger scale OR</p> <p>b) include new outputs or services that would not otherwise have happened OR</p> <p>c) be carried out to a higher standard than would otherwise be affordable OR</p> <p>d) be carried out at alternative sites and/or occur sooner than planned OR</p> <p>e) deliver to more beneficiaries?</p>	If one of the responses here is not selected you will be unable to take the application forward.

Appendix 2 – Select options

The table below shows the categories within which options are grouped in the online system. The options have been grouped in categories to make selection of individual options easier.

Category	Option name
Arable	Wild bird seed for farmland birds
	Forage brassica crops for farmland birds
	Unharvested conservation headlands for wildlife
	Retention of winter stubble for wildlife and water quality
	Stubbles followed by green manure in an arable rotation
	Beetlebanks
	Grass strips in arable fields
	Water margins in arable fields
	Cropped machair
Cattle management on small units	Cattle management on small units (retention)
	Cattle management on small units (introduction)
Grassland	Water margins in grassland fields
	Wader and wildlife mown grassland
	Corn buntings mown grassland
	Corncrake mown grassland (not mown before 1 August)
	Corncrake mown grassland (not mown before 15 August)
	Corncrake mown grassland (not mown before 1 September)
	Chough mown grassland

	Chough grazing management
	Wader grazed grassland
	Corncrake grazing management
	Management of cover for corncrakes
	Hen harrier grassland management (arable and improved grassland)
	Hen harrier grassland management (unimproved grassland or rough grazing)
	Species rich grassland management only
	Species rich grassland creation and management
Wetland and bog management	Wetland creation and management
	Wetland management only
	Lowland bog management without grazing
	Lowland bog management with grazing
	Management of buffer areas for fens and lowland bogs
Water quality and flood risk management	Management of floodplains
	Converting arable at risk of erosion or flooding to low-input grassland
Farmland habitats and features	Ancient wood pasture
	Managing montane scrub of conservation value
	Managing non-montane scrub of conservation value
	Creation of hedgerows
	Management or restoration of existing hedgerows
	Tall-herb vegetation management
	Habitat mosaic management

Upland, peatland, moorland and heath management	Moorland management (livestock only)
	Moorland management (deer only)
	Moorland management (deer and livestock)
	Stock disposal
	Stock Disposal (Scottish Upland Sheep Support Scheme supplement)
	Away wintering sheep
	Summer Hill grazing of cattle
	Heath management (coastal, Serpentine and special interest.)
	Heath management (lowland)
	Predator control (mammal and crow control)
	Predator control (crow control)
	Wildcat friendly predator control
Organic farming	Organic farming conversion – arable
	Organic farming conversion – Improved grassland
	Organic farming conversion – unimproved grassland/rough grazing
	Organic farming conversion – fruit and vegetables
	Organic farming maintenance – arable
	Organic farming maintenance – improved grassland
	Organic farming maintenance – unimproved grassland/rough grazing
	Organic farming maintenance – fruit and vegetables
Control of non-native invasive species	Rhododendron control (capital only)

	Non-native plant control (capital only)
Environmental capital work with no associated management	Wetland creation (capital only)
	Ditch blocking (capital only)
	Bog management (capital only)
	Scrub control (capital only)
	Sand dune erosion mitigation (capital only)
	Upland, peatland, moorland and heath (capital only)
	Farmland habitats and features (capital only)
Water quality and flood risk (capital work only)	Managing steading drainage and rural sustainable drainage systems (capital only)
	Pesticide handling facilities (capital only)
	Alternative watering (capital only)
	Diffuse pollution control (capital only)
	Embankment engineering (capital only)
Access	Improving public access
Slurry Storage	Slurry Storage

Appendix 3 – Some hints and tips on system usability

Removing the row of standard capital cost items if there is only one row

If you want to remove a row of standard cost capital you can use the “delete” function to remove the whole row. However, if there is only one row of standard cost capital this function is not enabled – you can:

- remove the entries from the “quantity” and “map letter” boxes
- set the entry in the Standard Cost Items box set to “Select Item” and also
- set the entry in the “Year Claimed” to select year.

Alternatively there is an easier way to do this is:

- click the “Add a new Row” button – a new blank row will appear,
- the delete function will be available on both rows and you can remove the row you want to delete

Adding actual costs to an application

Detail on the use of actual costs can be found here:

<https://www.ruralpayments.org/publicsite/futures/topics/all-schemes/agri-environment-climate-scheme/agri-environment-climate-scheme-full-guidance-menu/agri-environment-funding-under-the-scheme/>

When adding actual cost items to an application there are two different methods to use depending on the category of actual costs that you are applying for.

The first method is for actual costs that are permitted for Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Natura sites (Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation).

These items have the same unit of measure as the equivalent standard cost item. So, if the standard cost is paid per metre, the actual cost will be too.

When you enter actual costs for an item that the unit of measure is “length in metres”, you should enter the quantity of metres you wish to erect in the “Quantity” box and the price per metre in the “Cost per unit” box. The same principals apply for other units of measure such as “area in hectares” where you should enter the

quantity of hectares in the “Quantity” box and the price per hectare in the “Cost per unit” box.

The second method is for actual costs for capital items where no standard costs are available.

These items have the unit “unit of measure”.

For these items, enter a quantity of “1” in the “Quantity” box and enter the total value of the item that you are applying for in the “Cost per unit” box.

The quotations provided in support of any actual cost capital items should include the detail of the works that are to be carried out.

Rotational options

When allocating a rotational option to land it is important to remember that if the total area you are applying for on all the land parcels is not the same for all five years then the following rules apply:

1. the first year of rotation must have the highest total area
2. the total area for all other individual years must be no less than 90% of the total area entered for the first year

Validation error messages

Where errors exist, messages are displayed in a pink banner at the top of the screen. Sometimes when you correct the information which caused the error, the error message will not disappear until you select ‘save and continue’ or access the summary screen.

Uploading supporting documents

After completing all the detail on the Supporting documents upload pop-up box, the ‘Upload new document’ button should be selected. It may look like the button is disabled, but if so just click on it twice and the document will upload.

Web-based navigation

As this is a web based application which includes validations within its internal navigation, it is important to remember that you should not use browser navigation.

Browser navigation (the back and forward keys), will not save or validate your application and the use of these keys means that there is a risk that you will lose information.

Communications Log

Every time you press the Schedule of Works button on the summary screen, a new Schedule of Works will be created and stored in your communications log showing the date and time it was created. You will also receive an e-mail each time a Schedule of Works has been created. If you want to view a previously created Schedule you should access it through your communications log.

Options with non-standard behaviour

When allocating most options to land it is a relatively simple matter of entering the area which is to be managed, giving it a map letter and saying in which year the management will commence. There are one or two options where the standard process does not follow.

Conservation management for small units

This “option” is in fact a supplementary payment made on top of the normal payment rates for the relevant options (given below):

- Wild Bird Seed for Farmland Birds
- Forage Brassica Crops for Farmland Birds
- Unharvested Conservation Headlands for Wildlife
- Retention of Winter Stubbles for Wildlife
- Cropped Machair
- Wader and Wildlife Mown Grassland
- Corn Buntings Mown Grassland
- Corncrake Mown Grassland
- Chough Mown Grassland
- Species-rich Grassland Management

Where your IACS business permanent land holding comprises more than five hectares (not including rough grazing), you must manage at least one hectare of your land split between two or more of the above options.

Where your IACS business permanent land holding comprises five hectares or less (not including rough grazing), you must manage at least 0.5 hectares of your land under one of the above options.

The supplementary payment will be added to the application costs if you answer “Yes” to the question “*Do you wish to apply for the conservation management of small units supplementary payment?*” in the “Application Information Screen”

Cattle management on small Units (introduction or retention)

For this option, it is necessary to tell us the number of cows which you will either introduce or retain, as well as give us the land parcels on which the cows will graze.

When you select the option in the “Select Options” section you will be asked to enter the number of cows which you will either introduce or retain (minimum 2, maximum 10).

Thereafter you will need to allocate the option to every land parcel which the cattle may graze during the year (giving area, map letter and the year management will commence as with other options).

Note that if you enter less than two ha for every cow that is being introduced or retained then errors will be generated.

Stock disposal

When selecting this option the “Select Options” section you will need to tell us the number of ewes and gimmers which will remain if your application was successful and you sell the relevant number of sheep. This is to allow us to carry out annual monitoring of your commitment and must be recorded accurately.

When you allocate the option to land you will need to enter the number of sheep which will be removed from each land parcel. The system will then automatically calculate the number of ha which will benefit (0.8 ha for every sheep) – the total for each parcel must not exceed the eligible area of the land parcel.

Stock disposal (Scottish Upland Sheep Support Scheme Supplement)

If the business will lose out on aid from the Scottish Upland Sheep Support Scheme, you can apply for a supplementary payment of £8.08 per ha.

Due to the late nature of the decision to have this supplement, it has been necessary to make it work in much the same way as the overall stock disposal option.

When you allocate the option to land you will need to enter the number of sheep which will be removed from each land parcel **which should receive the supplement.**

The number of sheep (and thus number of ha) which will be eligible for the supplement depends on the land you hold and the number of sheep you remove.

We are currently updating the additional guidance section of the Stock Disposal option so that it contains information on how to work out how many sheep removed would be eligible for the supplement – a calculator will also be provided to help you work out what is eligible overall or at individual parcel level. This guidance update should be completed by 3 April.

Using the creation of wild bird seed and creation of green manure capital items

For the options:

- wild birdseed for farmland birds, and
- stubbles followed by green manure in an arable rotation

If you wish to receive payment for the establishment of these crops, it is essential that you apply for the capital item for every time that the crop is to be established

For example, if you intend to create a wild bird seed crop for management in all five years of a contract then you must apply for the creation of wild birdseed for farmland birds capital item in each individual year.

How to apply for open range deer management

<https://www.ruralpayments.org/publicsite/futures/topics/all-schemes/agri-environment-climate-scheme/management-options-and-capital-items/open-range-deer-management/>

The Open range deer management capital item is paid depending on the size of reduction cull as follows:

Payment rate per hectare	Size of reduction cull
£0.80	At least two deer per 100 hectares
£1.20	At least three deer per 100 hectares
£1.60	At least four deer per 100 hectares
£2.00	At least five deer per 100 hectares

You must apply for the payment rate which reflects the intended size of reduction cull within your deer management plan. If you are successful in achieving a contract you will need to provide larder receipts to verify your claim and should claim for the actual size of reduction cull.

We cannot pay for any more than the size of cull entered in the application

Below we have noted one or two system issues which may arise. We are working to correct these but in the meantime this guidance will help you complete and submit an application.

If you started your draft in the year previous to submitting the application

As we update the application each year to include the necessary updates to the scheme, some parts of an application started in the previous year will become incomplete when the changes are implemented.

If you started your draft in the year prior to choosing to submit, there may be some information that you now need to provide that you didn't before.

Please:

- revisit the application questions section to make sure they are all completed
- edit each option in the "select options" section to make sure they are all completed
- edit each option within the allocate options to land section to make sure they are all completed prior to submitting your final application