



The European Agricultural Fund  
for Rural Development:  
Europe investing in rural areas



# Countryside Stewardship:

## Hedgerows and Boundaries Grant Scoring Process

Published 1st February 2016

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

High Level Criteria	Criteria	Score	
1. Strategy/Policy	<b>1. Previous Agri-Environment Funding</b> 10 supplementary points available where the holding has previously been in ELS and 5 supplementary points available where the holding has previously been in HLS/EWGS. Additional points are available also as set out below.		
	One of the principles of the grant is to retain the benefits secured from previous investment in agri-environment schemes. Applications from previous ES beneficiaries will score more. Former (U/O) ELS beneficiaries will score higher than HLS beneficiaries on the basis that HLS would have been more environmentally demanding than ELS, have already had access to capital grants.	<b>2016</b> ELS	50
		HLS/EWGS	25
		<b>2015</b> ELS	30
		HLS/EWGS	15
		<b>2014</b> ELS	20
HLS/EWGS		10	
2. Value for Money	<b>2. Previous HBG Funding</b>		
	Applicants [from year 2 onwards] who have not previously received funding under the Hedgerow and Boundaries Grant will score more highly. Applicants looking for larger scale funding would be encouraged to apply for mid or high tier schemes, which have a greater environmental outcome.	Minus 20 points for previous agreement holders.	
	<b>3. Application Cost</b>		
	Very low value agreements are more expensive to administer in relation to environmental benefit. High value agreements are better funded via multi-annual delivering holistic benefits.	Minus 10 points for applications whose total value < £1K spend.	

<b>3. Environmental Value</b>	<b>4. Size of holding (as defined in Council Regulation 1307/2013 Article 4 (b))</b>		
	A smaller holding operating within a maximum grant has the potential to deliver a higher intensity of environmental delivery. Applicants who deliver that intensity will score more highly.	Length (m) / Ha	
	<b>5. Applications with hedge and wall options score higher.</b>		
	One of the underpinning principles of CS is to enhance connectivity and establish ecological corridors. This allows for an enhanced environmental outcome and arguably greater value for money by linking environmental clusters. In addition the scheme will promote outcomes for pollinators and farm wildlife. Hedgerows are a key environmental feature in this respect and in particular areas are also an important landscape feature as are walls.	BN5	2 pts/m
		BN6 & 7	0.30 pts/m
		TE1	5 pts/tree.
BN12		1 pt/m	
<b>6. Applications linked to a group receiving Facilitation Funds</b>			
The scheme is looking to promote greater cooperation as a means to secure landscape scale outcomes. Applications from land managers that are linked to a group under a facilitation agreement would score more points.	10 points		

This covers the standalone capital grants for:

<b>Code</b>	<b>Option Title</b>
BN5	Hedgerow laying/m
BN6	Hedgerow coppicing/m
BN7	Hedgerow gapping-up/m
TE1	Planting standard hedgerow tree
BN10	Hedgerow supplement – top binding & staking/m
BN1	Stone-faced bank repair/m
BN2	Stone-faced bank restoration/m
BN13	Stone wall supplement – top wiring/m
BN14	Stone wall supplement – stone from quarry/m
BN12	Stone wall restoration/m
BN4	Earth bank restoration/m
BN8	Hedgerow Supplement – Casting up /m



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



The European  
Agricultural Fund for  
Rural Development:  
Europe investing in  
rural areas

---



**Natural England is here to secure a healthy natural environment for people to enjoy, where wildlife is protected and England's traditional landscapes are safeguarded for future generations.**

ISBN 978-1-78367-214-1

Catalogue Code: NE619

**[www.gov.uk/natural-england](http://www.gov.uk/natural-england)**

---

Natural England publications are available as accessible pdfs from **[www.gov.uk/natural-england](http://www.gov.uk/natural-england)**. Should an alternative format of this publication be required, please contact our enquiries line for more information: 0300 060 3900 or email **[enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk)**.

This publication is published by Natural England under the Open Government Licence v3.0 for public sector information. You are encouraged to use, and reuse, information subject to certain conditions. For details of the licence visit **[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3)**.

**Please note:** Natural England photographs are only available for non-commercial purposes. For information regarding the use of maps or data visit **[www.gov.uk/how-to-access-natural-englands-maps-and-data](http://www.gov.uk/how-to-access-natural-englands-maps-and-data)**.

© Natural England 2016