



Rural Payments  
Agency

# BIAC UPDATE

**Rural Payments Update**  
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# 2020 performance

By 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021:

- Paid 99.6% of BPS customers £1.81bn, c 98.5% of fund value.
- Paid 95% of CS claims
- Paid 75% of ES claims
- More than £200m paid to CS and ES agreement holders
- 96% of CS 2021 Agreements issued.

# 2021 Scheme timeline



Rural Payments Agency

## Key dates: Basic Payment Scheme (BPS), Countryside Stewardship (CS) and Environmental Stewardship (ES)

- ◆ BPS/Cross Compliance
- ◆ CS/ES Revenue Claims
- ◆ CS 2021 Applications

		2021												2022								
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul		
BPS 2021 applications / CS and ES claims	Basic Payment Scheme	1 Jan: BPS 2021 scheme year begins												31 Dec: BPS 2021 scheme year ends								
	Making a BPS application (including young farmer payment and application for new entrants) / Making a CS/ES Revenue Claim				◆ 18 Mar: BPS application window and CS/ES Revenue claims submission period opens																	
							◆ 17 May (Midnight): BPS 2021 applications (including Young and New Farmers applications) and entitlement transfer deadline, and CS/ES revenue claims deadlines (without penalty)															
							◆ 31 May (Midnight): deadline for making certain changes to a CS revenue claim that was submitted before midnight on 17 May without receiving a reduction.															
							◆ 11 June (Midnight): deadline for making certain changes without penalty to a BPS application already submitted before midnight on 17 May															
						◆ 11 June (Midnight): BPS late application and CS/ES late revenue claim deadline (with penalty)																
	Payments													1 Dec		RPA makes BPS and CS/ES 2021 payments						30 June
CS Capital Claims	Open for capital claims all year												Open for capital claims all year									
ES HLS Capital Claims	Open for capital claims all year												Open for capital claims all year									
Countryside Stewardship (2021 applications)	Higher Tier				◆ Application pack deadline: 31 Mar (paper and online)																	
	9 Feb		Application window			30 Apr								Agreement offers sent out								
						◆ ◆ Application pack deadlines: 28 May (paper) & 30 June (online)																
	9 Feb		Application window						30 July		Agreement offers sent out											
						◆ Application pack deadline: 28 May (paper) or apply directly online by 30 July - no need to request an application pack for online applications																
	9 Feb		Application window			30 July		Agreement offers sent out														
	* New Capital Grants	9 Feb		Application window		30 Apr		Agreement offers sent out														
	* New Woodland Creation and Maintenance Grant	9 Feb		Open for applications all year												Open for applications all year						
	Woodland Creation	9 Feb		Applications accepted until 8 Feb. From 9 Feb replaced by the new Woodland Creation and Maintenance Grant																		
	Woodland Tree Health	Open for applications all year												Open for applications all year								
Woodland Management Plan	Open for applications all year												Open for applications all year									

v2.0 March 2021

# BPS 2021 Application campaign

- Transfer land and entitlements online from 28 January.
- Amend land-use online from 9 February.
- No Drop In Centres.
- Add Land by Email.
- Electronic RLE1 available.

# Tips for submitting BPS Applications

- Always open the “Apply less BPS area” screens to ensure that any changes to activated areas have been captured.
- Always generate, save & print a PDF Claim summary following submission.

# Accessing Rural Payments (1)

- No longer possible to log in on multiple computers using same CRN and password. Users warned not to share their CRN and password with anyone else during the registration process.

## Options to view data on two screens while completing an application:

- Download the land information using the Defra Data Services link on the 'View land' page on Rural Payments. Link will open in a separate window and customers can use this to download or link to the data in the Rural Payments service to use in farm or mapping software (more information on this is available on [GOV.UK](#)).
- PDF versions of each parcel can be downloaded by going to the 'View land' screen on Rural Payments, selecting the parcels individually, and clicking 'Download a print-friendly version of this page (PDF)' from the right side of the screen. More information can be found in the ['How to apply online for BPS'](#) guide on GOV.UK.
- Download a previous year's BPS application summary as a PDF.

# Accessing Rural Payments (2)

- Barclays, Experian and SecureIdentity will no longer be providing Identity Check Services to GOV.UK Verify after 24 March 2021. They are contacting affected customers directly.
- Those affected can create a new identity account on GOV.UK with Digidentity or Post Office.
- Anyone experiencing difficulty should contact RPA CSC.

# BPS Simplifications / Changes

- Removal of Greening

*Greening rules will be removed in 2021. This includes crop diversification, Ecological Focus Areas (EFA) and the greening permanent grassland rules.*

- No cross border applications

*From the 2021 scheme year onwards, farmers need only include their English land in their BPS application. Farmers who previously claimed as a Cross-Border customer will be exempted from the minimum claim size rules.*

- No entitlement usage rules

*Farmers will no longer lose their BPS entitlements if they go unused for two years.*

- Force Majeure Deadline extended

*The Force Majeure deadline has been extended to 8 weeks. In previous years, this was 15 days.*

- Change to the inspection selection requirements

*From 2021 there is no longer a regulatory requirement to carry out inspections on 5% of all BPS claimants.*

- Changes to the late submission of supporting documents

*Late penalties will no longer be applied against any supporting documentation received following the initial claim submission deadline.*

- More flexible interpretation of obvious error rules

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# Impact on BP5 application form

- 'Use less EFA than available' screen disappears.
  - Entitlements use-by column disappears from entitlements screen.
  - Declarations simplified.
  - Hedge data retained on land viewer.
  - BPS summary updated for 2021, but historic data retained.
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# BPS 2021 payment calculations

- All calculations and payments now made in sterling.
- Greening payments consolidated into core entitlement values.
- Young Farmer Payment now paid at 17.5% of average entitlement value on up to 90 entitlements.
- BPS payments reduced as part of agricultural transition:

Up to £30,000:	payment reduced by 5%
£30,000 - £50,000:	payment reduced by 10%
£50,000 - £150,000:	payment reduced by 20%
Above £150,000:	payment reduced by 25%

- Reductions will be itemised on claim statements.

# Countryside Stewardship

- EU-Exit more complicated for multi-annual schemes
  - Less punitive penalties for national CS agreements – payment recovery only and more opportunity to correct mistakes.
  - Mid-tier revenue options re-written – simpler, more outcome focused and fewer mandatory prescriptions.
  - Removal of greening simplifies siting of options.
  - Upland offer expanded – eligibility expanded for management of upland grazing for birds (UP2). and Upland Wood Pasture options with enhanced payment rates.
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# Countryside Stewardship – capital offer

- CS mid-tier agreements can no longer be capital only. Payments capped at £120,000 for air and water quality items and £50,000 for boundaries, trees and orchards.
  - New 2 year CS capital grant scheme introduced to replace Hedgerows and Boundaries Grants and Water Capital Grants. Original 12 options expanded to 67 capital items grouped under 3 headings:
    - Boundaries, trees and orchards;
    - Water quality;
    - Air quality.
  - £60,000 payment ceiling (£10,000 previously), with maximum £20,000 spend under each heading.
  - Can't include items on land parcels already in CS agreements, apart from Wildlife Offers. (Land in HLS agreements also okay).
  - Some items will require CSFO approval and for land parcels to be in CS high priority area for water or air.
  - Deadline for requesting CSFO support form 19 March for capital grants and 18 June for full CS Mid-Tier application.
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# Future CS ambitions

- Increasing our digital offer to encourage applications online.
  - Increase flexibility by including the introduction of a rolling application window and moving away from constraints of a fixed window to help customers manage their business better and plan ahead.
  - Simplify the claim and agreement process. Especially where there is no change and introducing the capability for customers to make amendments to their agreements online.
  - Maximise flexibility for customers to deliver targeted outcomes.
  - Develop a control regime clearly targeted on risk and fraud, more proportionate and clearly supporting the customer to deliver environmental outcomes
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