

# UTASS Briefing: 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021.

## CAPITAL GRANTS

DEFRA have launched a new capital grant scheme to replace and expand the Hedgerow and Boundary Capital Grant scheme that has operated in recent years. It has three elements:

- Boundaries, Trees and Orchards
- Water Quality
- Air Quality

Grants are available on a competitive basis up to £60,000 in total but maximum of £20,000 per element. There are 67 different capital items available all at “standard costs” (fixed sum per item). Most of the water items need to be located in a catchment sensitive area or targeted water quality area to be eligible (East of Eggleston running towards West Auckland and North of the A67 is classified as Medium Priority in the CS Water Targeting Strategy). The deadline for application is the **30<sup>th</sup> April 2021** with agreements being a maximum of 2 years duration. Land already in Environmental Stewardship and Countryside Stewardship (mid-tier) Wildlife Offer is eligible. However, Common land, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), land containing Scheduled Monuments and Higher Tier Countryside Stewardship are **not** eligible.

## BASIC PAYMENT SCHEME (BPS) 2021

The RPA expect to open the application window on 18th March 2021. However, the system now allows the transfer of land and entitlements and the updating of the “land use” section. The major change for 2021 is that all the greening elements (crop diversification, Environmental Focus Areas (EFAs) and permanent grassland rules) have been removed. The greening element is now permanently added to the entitlement value. The usage rule for entitlements is also being discontinued from 2021. This means that unused entitlements will not now be lost. As the 15<sup>th</sup> May is a Saturday, the deadline for applications for BPS 2021 is **midnight 17<sup>th</sup> May**. Late applications can still be accepted but will incur penalties.

For further advice and assistance please call UTASS 01833 641010.

**Richard Betton.**