



Countryside Enhancement Scheme (CES)

Guidance Notes 2023

The CES is an environmental improvement scheme open to farmers, growers, land managers and owners, businesses, charities, schools, Government Departments and the general public.

The Scheme is funded by the Government of Jersey, Infrastructure, Housing and Environment and offers financial incentives to support environmental initiatives that improve Jersey's countryside including: enhancement or protection of wildlife, landscapes, historic features and natural resources (soils and water) as well as opportunities for new public access to the countryside.

These guidance notes explain the application process, key sections of the scheme and rules that apply. Applicants are advised to read these notes before making an application and committing themselves to expenditure.

The CES is designed to enhance Jersey's unique environmental features and is open to any individual who wishes to develop and implement a project that improves the natural environment on a local, island-wide or international basis:

- Enhances, conserves and protects Jersey's natural environment on a local scale.
- Implement an Island-wide strategic environmental project that will either enhance biodiversity or make beneficial additions to the present Island-wide access network.
- Assists with the delivery of the Island's commitments to International Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs – see Appendix 1) and local environmental objectives.
- Assists with delivery of Government strategic aims as set out in the Economic Framework for the Rural Economy.

The CES has two options for project types:

- Option 1- Local Environmental Projects
- Option 2 - Delivery of Island-wide Strategic Projects

Option 1: LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

Description:	Small scale projects that enhance and improve local environmental features benefitting the Islands landscape, wildlife, access infrastructure and the quality of life of the Islands population.		
Code:	OP1	Length of Commitment:	All work for your project must be completed by 26 th November 2023. All completed projects should be maintained for a period of at least 10 years
Eligibility:	Farmers, businesses, charities, societies, groups and schools, Government Departments, general public.		
Requirement:	<p>Any project aiming to benefit Jersey's rural environment, landscape and biodiversity or access network will be eligible for funding if selected by the CES panel.</p> <p>Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project proposal with a relevant CES Adviser in the first instance.</p> <p>Option 1 projects (OP1) can be capital projects (e.g. hedge planting, fencing streams, creating ponds, or new access infrastructure) or land management projects involving a change or improvement of current management (e.g. wetland projects, planting nectar and feed crops, flower meadow management, heathland management or habitat enhancement).</p> <p>CES projects are intended to provide long term environmental benefit. Applicants must ensure that any landowners or land tenants involved are made aware of the project details, including the length and nature of the commitment and that they have signed the Tenant/Landlord section of the application form.</p> <p>With your application you will need to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A completed application form • A full description of the aims and benefits • Detailed breakdown of costs including two written quotes/estimates from contractor/supplier where applicable • An aftercare and maintenance plan • Map(s) showing the area relating to the application if applicable 		
Funding Limits:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The maximum level of funding for OP1 projects is £5,000 • If costs exceed this they can be met by the applicant, or, if certain criteria are met, the proposal may be considered as an Island-wide strategic project and fall into Option 2 (OP2). • Up to 100% of agreed costs can be claimed. 		
Rationale:	To allow the development of environmental projects tailored to site-specific conditions.		

Option 2: ISLAND-WIDE STRATEGIC PROJECTS

Description:	Larger scale projects that meet Island wide strategic objectives and/or help in the delivery of Jersey's Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).		
Code:	OP2	Duration:	<p>All work for your project must be completed by 26th November 2023.</p> <p>All completed projects should be maintained for a period of at least 10 years</p>
Eligibility:	Farmers, businesses, charities, consultants, societies, groups and schools, Government Departments and individuals.		
Requirement:	<p>Jersey has a wide range of mechanisms in place to protect the countryside and wildlife habitats. In addition, Natural Environment is responsible for the implementation and delivery of 24 Multi-Lateral Agreements (MEAs – see full list - appendix 1) to which Jersey is a signatory each of which requires specific actions and monitoring to ensure compliance.</p> <p>Option 2 projects (OP2) are therefore designed to complement the Island's MEA delivery mechanisms and the Island's reputation as a responsible jurisdiction. Department Officers are available to applicants to discuss MEAs)</p> <p>OP2 projects must have a wider impact than OP1 projects by benefitting an important landscape, habitat or protected site, provide improved wildlife corridors between important habitats or wildlife populations or create new access or improve parts of the Islands countryside access network.</p> <p>Preference will be given to OP2 projects that support Government strategic aims as set out within the Economic Framework for the Rural Economy (available to view on www.gov.je).</p> <p>OP2 proposals require a detailed plan including costs, timescales and a clear definition of proposed outcomes.</p> <p>CES projects are intended to provide long term environmental benefit (minimum 10 years). Applicants must ensure that any landowners or land tenants involved are made aware of the project details, including the length and nature of the commitment and that they have signed the Tenant/Landlord section of the application form.</p> <p>Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project proposal with a relevant CES Adviser – please discuss with Natural Environment team in the first instance.</p> <p>OP2 applications must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A completed application form • A full description of the aims and benefits • Detailed breakdown of costs including two written quotes/estimates from contractor/supplier where applicable • An aftercare and maintenance plan • Map(s) showing the area relating to the application if applicable 		
Funding Limits:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 100% of agreed project costs can be claimed 		
Rationale:	To compliment Government of Jersey delivery of its long-term environmental objectives and delivery of MEA commitments.		

Project Examples

It is important that projects are appropriate to the site of the proposal. The applicant needs to consider both potential planning consent requirements and Sites of Scientific Interest (available to view on www.gov.ie).

When applications are assessed, the species, habitats and landscape features present in area are taken into account and a higher 'score' is achieved in the selection panel's eyes for projects which support and enhance them. Comprehensive applications that address all aspects of the project and include detailed background information have a greater chance of success. Department Officers are available to help applicants.

Projects examples:

Climate change mitigation and adaptation

Hedgerow planting and maintenance

Farm biodiversity audits

Woodland establishment and maintenance

Pond creation; especially in areas which support amphibians

Wetland creation and enhancement

Wet meadow management

Pollen and nectar crops

Heath land creation and management

Community environmental enhancement projects

Dry stone walls – especially in areas which support Biodiversity Action Plan species

The provision of bird boxes, bat boxes and reptile hibernation points

Restoration/management of historic features.

New footpaths, cycle paths and bridle ways which enhance the existing network.

Projects that support Biodiversity Action Plans

Interpretation and education materials

Production of habitat management plans – identifying long term work plans to improve a habitat (including woodland, wet meadow, heathland and sand dune).

Fencing off watercourses, control of stream crossings and providing alternate sources of drinking water for livestock to prevent water pollution

Sustainable drainage and run-off attenuation schemes to reduce runoff and diffuse pollution, increase localised infiltration of rainwater or conserve water use.

Conditions and consents.

<p>Conditions:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Before any work commences the project must be agreed by the CES Panel. ▪ Domestic curtilage is not eligible. ▪ The CES Panel will set funding conditions relevant to each project and these will be detailed in the CES Offer letter. ▪ The conditions detailed in the approval CES offer letter must be followed and a copy of the offer letter must be signed by the applicant and returned to the department. ▪ The CES is reluctant to support applications seeking grants to fund employment. ▪ Work stipulated under a planning obligation or other legal requirement cannot be funded by the scheme. ▪ Any funding that you receive under the scheme may be subject to audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General. ▪ All records and details relating to each application must be kept for 10 years and be available for inspection by Natural Environment or their appointed agents at any time during this period. ▪ Funding for OP1 projects is limited to £5,000 including any building work or capital infrastructure required. OP2 projects will need to be fully costed with at least two estimates if contractors are employed to complete the work. ▪ Provision of funding under the CES is discretionary and applications may be rejected or deferred if they do not meet the objectives or because of budgetary constraints. ▪ Funding will be awarded to projects that best meet CES criteria and objectives in the view of the CES Panel. ▪ Natural Environment reserves the right to withhold part or all of the payment or to require part or all of the payment to be re-paid if; information provided in the application or in subsequent correspondence is found to be substantially or materially incorrect or incomplete; there is a change to the work agreed with Natural Environment which is considered to be substantial or material in the nature, scale, cost or timing of the work without prior approval. ▪ Any items bought with CES funds should be readily available for inspection by Natural Environment or their appointed agents. ▪ All items that are constructed or purchased through this scheme must remain in use for the purpose for which funding was approved for at least 10 years. ▪ Natural Environment accepts no liability in respect of loss due to any delay in the payment of claims or to any suspension, reduction or cancellation of funding.
<p>Consents:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Providing any necessary project related consents from the relevant authorities will be the responsibility of the applicant. ▪ Applicants will be required to obtain the agreement of the landowner/tenants before the application can be processed or agreed, especially in the case of items of work which are of a permanent nature, such as hedgerow planting. These project agreements should be either be permanent or a minimum of 10 years to ensure the long term nature of individual projects. ▪ Approval from all relevant authorities must be obtained and any relevant regulations must be met before submitting the application. Proof of approval must be submitted with the application form. ▪ You must inform Natural Environment if land changes ownership or tenancy during the period of a project. The new occupier must also be informed of any CES conditions which apply to that land.
<p>Monitoring:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The type and extent of monitoring will depend on the project. It will be agreed by the CES Panel and detailed in the CES Offer letter.
<p>Expectations:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In order to receive payment the project proposal must be completed according to the agreed conditions which will include ongoing care and maintenance.

Applicants will need to complete an application form highlighting the project option, clearly describing the objectives of the project, its extent, duration, when and how the work will be undertaken.

Applications can now be made online – search Countryside Enhancement Scheme on gov.je or click on link below. Applicants can still use the pdf if they wish and forms should be sent to Natural Environment, Howard Davis Farm, Trinity, JE3 5JP or emailed to cescoordinator@gov.je
<https://www.gov.je/Benefits/Grants/Environmental/Pages/CountrysideRenewalFunding.aspx>.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The CES panel is an independent group of people with expertise and knowledge in certain environmental areas. The panel will evaluate each application based on its merits and the merits of other projects competing for funding. Financial need of applicants does not form part of the evaluation process. Priority is given instead to projects that will support Government objectives. After these assessments, the project will either be approved or rejected. This could include the entire project or parts of it, or the CES Panel may suggest changes with the applicant prior to approval being granted.

If all or part of an application is approved, the applicant will receive a ‘**CES Offer Letter**’ detailing the actions required by the applicant for each approved part of the project. Before any work on any project commences, the CES offer letter must be signed and returned to Natural Environment at the address below.

Applicants will be informed of funding decisions within 30 working days of the date of the CES Panel meeting.

If an application is not approved, notification will be provided in writing explaining the reasons for refusal.

SUBMITTING CLAIMS

Claims can be submitted as soon as projects have been completed, otherwise the deadline is 26 November 2023 for submitting the claim form.

The CES **Compliance Officer** will visit the site if applicable once the work has been completed, to check all the conditions outlined in the offer letter have been followed. This is carried out prior to payment being processed.

A CLAIM SHOULD CONSIST OF:

- Completed claim form
- Receipted copies of invoices to show payment has been made by the applicant, where applicable
- Copies of required documentation as specified in the CES offer letter e.g. management plans, schedule of planting, copy of public liability insurance.

CONTACTS AND HELP

The Countryside Enhancement Scheme is administered by:-

Natural Environment
Howard Davis Farm
La Route de la Trinite
Trinity
JE3 5JP

Tel: 441600

Email: CEScoordinator@gov.je

Appendix I – List of Natural Environment MEAs

Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD)
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn)
African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)
Memorandum of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia
Agreement on the Conservation of European Bats (EUROBATS)
Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern)
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
International Plant Protection Convention
Agreement on the Conservation of small cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS)
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as a Waterfowl Habitat
Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and other Matter 1972
1996 Protocol to the above Convention
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic (OSPAR)
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
Kyoto Protocol to above Convention
UN Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone layer
Montreal Protocol to above Convention
UNECE Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution and Associated Protocols (CLRTAP)
Associated Protocols to above Convention
Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in Transboundary Convention (ESPOO)
Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe (Valletta)
Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada)
Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage
Basel Convention of the Control of Transboundary Waste, Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal