



Cambridge Water



South Staffs Water



SPRING ranking system explanation

As the SPRING scheme has increased in size and number of applicants, there has been a requirement for caps to be placed upon certain options. These caps have limited the total funds available for popular high-cost options such as fencing, concrete or hardcore tracks. Avoiding this as much as possible is considered a priority and so we have made a change to the application process.

To achieve this and to ensure funds are shared fairly, we have created a ranking system. This will avoid bias placed upon farm type or size and promotes the greatest benefits for biodiversity and water quality.

The main options have been ranked from 1-3 (with 3 being the best) based upon their benefits to both water quality and the environment using data from the Atkins Natural Capital Assessment carried out for SSW and assumptions developed through prior knowledge.

We have calculated the score as follows.

- 1 The overall application request is totalled.
- 2 The proportion of the cost attached to each rank is noted as a percentage of the total cost. (i.e., 25% rank 3, 50% rank 2, 25% rank 1)
- 3 This percentage is then multiplied by its rank to gain a decimal score for each rank.
- 4 The scores are then added to view the total score with a minimum score of 1 and a maximum score of 3.
- 5 The highest scores indicate the strongest application, funds are then allocated from highest score to lowest until the funds are expended.

If an application includes an item not on the pre-ranked list, we will allocate it a rank using assumptions on its benefits.

Example:

Application A requests £10,000, of which 25% is rank 3, 50% is rank 2 and 25% is rank 1.

Rank 3: $0.25 \times 3 = 0.75$

Rank 2: $0.5 \times 2 = 1$

Rank 1: $0.25 \times 1 = 0.25$

Application is weighted at 2.

We think this method allows farms of all size to have an equal chance of acceptance, assuming they are selecting options with the greatest benefits to water quality and the environment.

Current options and ranks

Field options			
Option Code	Title	Payment	Rank
SSW2	4 - 6m buffer on cultivated land (ha)	£452.00	2 (3)*
SSW3	4 - 6m buffer on intensive grassland	£200.00	2 (3)
SSW4	12-24m watercourse buffer on cultivated land	£613.00	2 (3)
SSW5	Flower rich margins	£674.00	2 (3)
SSW7	Beetle banks	£600.00	2 (3)
SSW8	Take field corners out of management	£400.00	2 (3)
SSW9	Wild bird seed mixture	£769.00	2 (3)
SSW10	Cover Crops	£130.00	3
SSWSPL	SFI Cover Crop Top Up	£21.00	3
SSW11	Contour cropping	£10.00	2
SSW14	Arable reversion to grassland	£326.00	2 (3)
SSW15	Undersowing cereals	£300.00	3
SSW40	Coppicing bankside trees	£25.00	1
SPL	Annual sown cover crop	£500.00	3
SPL	Cover crops (Grazed)	£70.00	2
SPL	Hedge planting	£15.00	2
SPL	Hedge Laying	£11.00	2
SPL	Herbal ley	£115.00	2
SPL	Legume Fallow	£593.00	2 (3)
SPL	Low input grassland	£125.00	2 (3)
SPL	Nectar pollen mix	£500.00	2 (3)
SPL	Oats, peas and vetch	£110.00	3
SPL	Undersown maize	£120.00	2

Capital options			
Option Code	Title	Payment	Rank
SSW16	Sprayer washdown area and parts	£40.00	3
SSW21	Post and wire fencing	£5.50	2
SSW22	Sheep netting	£7.50	2
SSW23	Permanent electric fencing	£5.50	2
SSW25	Gates	£200.00	1
SSW26	Gateway relocation	£320.00	2
SSW27	Gateway resurfacing	£130.00	2
SSW29	Hard bases	£200.00	2
SSW30	Trough	£150.00	2
SSW31	Trough pipework	£2.00	1
SSW32	Hardcore track	£42.00	2
SSW33	Cross drains	£300.00	2
SSW34	Ditch culverts	£350.00	2
SSW35	Rain goods	£12.00	1
SPL	Box muck store	£40.00	3
SPL	Bird feeder	£30.00	2
SPL	Concrete Capital	£30.00	2
SPL	Dirty water tank	£350.00	2
SPL	GPS system	50%	1
SPL	Inspection pits	£200.00	1
SPL	Machinery	£1,000.00	2
SPL	PA training	50%	3
SPL	Rain water harvesting	£115.00	3
SPL	Roofing for yard area	£40.00	2
SPL	Soakaways	£400.00	2
SPL	Soil testing	50%	Variable
SPL	Sprayer calibration	100%	3
SPL	Sprayer efficiency add-ons	100%	1
SPL	Spray store	£4,000.00	3
SPL	Strip tillage	£25.00	2

There are additional options not included within this list that will be ranked based on their overall benefits/costs. The rank for these options can be justified if any queries are brought forward.

*** Options with ranks in brackets are varied depending upon the situation. A newly established option is worth 2. An existing option with us is worth 3.**