

Cheshire

Agri-Environment Schemes:

Key information, scheme uptake and expenditure data – November 2012

Total area of county (hectares)	233,317
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Agri-Environment Scheme	Number of Agreements	Area of the county under agreement (hectares)	Payments over lifetime of agreement (£)³	Percentage of county in agreement
Environmental Stewardship (ES) ¹ :				
• Entry Level Stewardship (ELS)	1,067	78,219	£2,429,481	33.5%
• Combined ELS and Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) ²	114	11,848	£1,779,618	5.1%
• Higher Level Stewardship (HLS)	12	1,992	£488,804	0.9%
Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA)	76	3,198	339,537	1.4%
Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS)	69	1,702	447,239	0.7%
Grand Total	1,338	96,959	5,484,679	41.6%

Note 1 - All ES data includes conventional ES and Organic ES agreements.

Note 2 - For combined ELS/HLS, the area figure refers to total agreement area i.e. underpinning ELS area on which HLS options are located (not the area under HLS management).

Note 3 - Payment figures excludes payments for Capital Items and Conservation Plans.

Designated sites	Area of county designated (hectares)	Percentage of county designated (hectares)
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	6,576	2.8%
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	2,540	1.1%
Special Protection Areas (SPAs) (for birds)	3,452	1.5%
Ramsar sites (wetlands of international importance)	4,912	2.1%