



Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

1981 CHAPTER 69

PART II

NATURE CONSERVATION, COUNTRYSIDE AND NATIONAL PARKS

^{x1}[^{F1} Sites of special scientific interest and limestone pavements]

32 Duties of agriculture Ministers with respect to areas of special scientific interest. **E+W**

- (1) Where an application for [^{F2}a farm capital grant] is made as respects expenditure incurred or to be incurred for the purpose of activities on [^{F3}land included in a site of special scientific interest]. . . , the appropriate Minister—
- shall, so far as may be consistent with the purposes of [^{F4}the grant provisions], so exercise his functions thereunder as to further the conservation of the flora, fauna, or geological or physiographical features by reason of which the land is of special interest; and
 - where [^{F5}Natural England] have objected to the making of the grant on the ground that the activities in question have destroyed or damaged or will destroy or damage that flora or fauna or those features, shall not make the grant except after considering the objection and, in the case of land in England, after consulting with the Secretary of State.
- (2) Where, in consequence of an objection by [^{F5}Natural England] , an application for a grant as respects expenditure to be incurred is refused on the ground that the activities in question will have such an effect as is mentioned in subsection (1) (b), [^{F5}Natural England] shall, within three months of their receiving notice of the appropriate Minister's decision, offer to enter into, in the terms of a draft submitted to the applicant, an agreement under section 16 of the 1949 Act or section 15 of the 1968 Act—
- imposing restrictions as respects those activities; and
 - providing for the making by them of payments to the applicant.

Status: There are multiple versions of this provision on screen. These apply to different geographical extents. **Skip to:** E+W - England and Wales extent S - Scotland extent

Changes to legislation: Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Section 32 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 23 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

[^{F6}(2A) Subsection (2) has effect in relation to Wales as if the reference to an agreement under section 16 of the 1949 Act or section 15 of the 1968 Act were a reference to an agreement under section 16 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.]

[^{F7}(3) In this section—

“the appropriate Minister” means the Minister responsible for determining the application;

“farm capital grant” means—

- (a) a grant under a scheme made under section 29 of the Agriculture Act 1970; or
- (b) a grant under regulations made under section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972 to a person carrying on an agricultural business within the meaning of those regulations in respect of expenditure incurred or to be incurred for the purposes of or in connection with that business, being expenditure of a capital nature or incurred in connection with expenditure of a capital nature;

“grant provisions” means—

- (i) in the case of such a grant as is mentioned in paragraph (a) above, the scheme under which the grant is made and section 29 of the Agriculture Act 1970; and
- (ii) in the case of such a grant as is mentioned in paragraph (b) above, the regulations under which the grant is made and the [^{F8}EU] instrument in pursuance of which the regulations were made.]

Extent Information

E1 This version of this provision extends to England and Wales only; a separate version has been created for Scotland only

Textual Amendments

- F2** Words substituted by [Agriculture Act 1986 \(c. 49, SIF 2:1\), s. 20\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- F3** Words in s. 32(1) substituted (E.W.) (30.1.2001) by [2000 c. 37, ss. 75\(1\), 103\(2\), Sch. 9 para. 4](#)
- F4** Words substituted by [Agriculture Act 1986 \(c. 49, SIF 2:1\), s. 20\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- F5** Words in s.32 substituted (1.10.2006) by [Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 \(c. 16\), ss. 105\(1\), 107, Sch. 11 para. 79; S.I. 2006/2541, art. 2](#)
- F6** [S. 32\(2A\)](#) inserted (E.W.) (21.5.2016) by [Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016 \(anaw 3\), s. 88\(2\)\(a\), Sch. 2 para. 3\(4\)](#)
- F7** [S. 32\(3\)](#) substituted by [Agriculture Act 1986 \(c. 49, SIF 2:1\), s. 20\(3\)](#)
- F8** Words in Act substituted (22.4.2011) by [The Treaty of Lisbon \(Changes in Terminology\) Order 2011 \(S.I. 2011/1043\), arts. 2, 3, 6 \(with arts. 3\(2\)\(3\), 4\(2\), 6\(4\)\(5\)\)](#)

32 Duties of agriculture Ministers with respect to areas of special scientific interest. S

^{F9}

Extent Information

E2 This version of this provision extends to Scotland only; a separate version has been created for England and Wales

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Textual Amendments

- F9** S. 32 repealed (S.) (29.11.2004) by [Nature Conservation \(Scotland\) Act 2004 \(asp 6\)](#), ss. 57, 59, [Sch. 7 para. 4](#); [S.S.I. 2004/495](#), [art. 2](#)

Status:

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Changes to legislation:

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 53(3)(c)(ia) inserted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 2\(b\)](#)
- s. 53B(4A)(4B) inserted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 4](#)
- s. 53ZA inserted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 3](#)
- s. 54B54C inserted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 5](#)
- Sch. 13A inserted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 6](#)
- Sch. 14A inserted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 7](#)