

Environmentally Sensitive Areas

SCHEME PRESCRIPTIONS

CLUN ESA

NB. If you carry out any work contrary to the scheme's objectives, for example the destruction of features such as walls, buildings or hedges, or the ploughing of valuable grassland, shortly before applying to join or rejoin the scheme, the Department is likely to reject your application.

The Department may modify the prescriptions set out below, to introduce additional requirements or amend existing ones, where this will help to protect and/or enhance habitats and species which are of importance within the designated area. Such modifications may be made for the lifespan of the agreement or from time to time, by means of a written agreement with you which will form part of your ESA agreement for the term specified.

TIER 1A – ALL LAND (ARABLE LAND, LEY GRASSLAND & WOODLAND)

1. Do not increase your area of arable and fodder crops (including ley grasses under 5 years old) beyond the area that they covered on 31 August 1992.
2. Maintain all hedges using traditional methods and materials. Do not remove any hedges, banks or parts thereof. All stockproof hedges, which will be identified on your agreement map, must be kept in a stockproof condition according to local custom.
3. Agree in writing with the Project Officer and implement a 5 year programme for the restoration through traditional management by replanting, laying, coppicing, gapping-up and back-fencing as necessary, of 10 metres per hectare in total over the period. The programme will include the tagging or planting of hedgerow trees. Payment for this work will be calculated on the basis of the actual length of restoration completed in each year.
4. Maintain watercourses and ditches in rotation by mechanical means not sprays. After drying, spoil must be spread adjacent to the watercourse or ditch. Do not fill in any watercourses or ditches.
5. Retain any woodland, copses or groups of trees. Agree in writing with the Project Officer and implement a programme to conserve and protect areas of non net-income generating woodland. These will be identified on the agreement map and will receive payment at the woodland maintenance rate. Seek Project Officer consent before planting any woodland.
6. Do not install any new field drainage system or substantially modify any existing field drainage system so as to bring about improved drainage.
7. Maintain all ponds and retain wet areas.
8. Do not damage, destroy or remove any feature of archaeological or historical value or interest.
9. Do not remove any mounds or infill existing natural depressions.

10. Maintain any weatherproof traditional farm buildings which you own or for which you are responsible in a weatherproof condition using traditional local styles and materials.
11. Obtain written advice on siting and materials before constructing buildings or roads or carrying out any other engineering or construction works which do not require planning permission or prior notification determination by the local planning authority.
12. Dispose of sheep dip safely. Do not spread sheep dip where it may affect areas of nature conservation value.
13. Do not increase your existing application rates of organic or inorganic fertilisers, lime, slag, or any other substance to reduce soil acidity on any field and in any case do not exceed 175 kg per hectare of nitrogen per year as total nitrogen. Do not apply organic fertiliser within 50 metres of a spring, well or borehole that supplies water for human consumption or within 10 metres of a water course. You may only apply farmyard manure and slurry produced on the farm.
14. You must abide by the Codes of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Soil, Air and Water, published by the Department (references PB 0617, PB 0618 and PB 0587) as amended from time to time.

TIER 1B – EXTENSIVE PERMANENT GRASSLAND AND ROUGH GRAZING

Observe prescriptions 1-14 (Tier 1A) plus additional prescriptions set out below:

15. Maintain unimproved grassland and rough grazing and do not plough, level or reseed the land. Do not chain harrow or roll at any time of the year on rough grazing land. On other grassland you may chain harrow or roll but not during the period 31 March and 16 July.
16. Land currently managed as hay meadow must be identified on your contract map and must continue to be managed as such for the length of your agreement. You must continue to make hay in such fields and not convert to silage production.

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17. Exclude stock from meadows at least 7 weeks before the first cut of hay or silage and by 27 May at the latest. All meadows must be cut and the crop removed. They must not be cut before 16 July. The aftermath must be grazed.
18. Do not mow or top rough grazing land at any time of the year.
19. Do not graze any land so as to cause any poaching, overgrazing or undergrazing.
20. Do not apply any inorganic fertiliser, pig or poultry manure or slurry.
21. Apply only farmyard manure produced on the farm and do not exceed your existing level of application on any fields. In any case do not use more than 12.5 tonnes per hectare in one application in any three year period. Do not apply farmyard manure during the period 1 April to 31 May. Farmyard manure produced off the farm may only be used with the prior written approval of the Project Officer and must be well rotted.
22. Herbicides may be used only to control nettles, spear thistle, creeping or field thistle, curled dock, broad-leaved dock, ragwort, bracken or for stump treatment of cleared scrub. These weeds must be controlled either by mechanical means or by herbicides. Herbicides may only be applied by weed wiper or spot treatment except for bracken control.
23. Do not use fungicides and insecticides.
24. Do not apply lime, slag or any other substance to reduce soil acidity.
25. Do not erect any new permanent or temporary fences without the Department's prior written consent.
26. Any bracken control must be carried out in accordance with a programme agreed in advance with the Project Officer and any other necessary consents obtained. This must include adequate follow-up treatment. Where bracken cannot be controlled by mechanical means and a herbicide is necessary then only asulam may be used.
27. Do not cut or top existing areas of rushes except in accordance with a written programme agreed with the Project Officer. This will encourage the positive management of 'dry rush' areas and prevent further spreading where this is considered to be detrimental to environmental objectives.

TIER 2A – REVERSION OF IMPROVED GRASSLAND TO EXTENSIVE PERMANENT GRASSLAND

Observe prescriptions 1-14 (Tier 1A) plus additional prescriptions set out below:

28. Do not plough, level, reseed or otherwise cultivate your grassland.
29. Do not apply any inorganic fertiliser, slurry, pig or poultry manure.
30. Apply only farmyard manure produced on the farm and do not exceed your existing level of application on any fields. In any case do not use more than 12.5 tonnes per hectare in one application in any three year period. Farmyard manure produced off the farm

may only be used with the prior written approval of the Project Officer and must be well rotted.

31. You may use a chain harrow or roller but not between 31 March and 16 July.
32. Exclude stock from meadows at least 7 weeks before the first cut of hay or silage and by 27 May at the latest. All meadows must be cut and the crop removed. They must not be cut before 16 July. The aftermath must be grazed.
33. Do not graze any land so as to cause poaching, overgrazing or undergrazing.
34. Herbicides may be used only to control nettles, spear thistle, creeping or field thistle, curled dock, broad-leaved dock, ragwort, bracken or for stump treatment of cleared scrub. These weeds must be controlled either by mechanical means or by herbicides. Herbicides may only be applied by weed wiper or spot treatment except for bracken control.
35. Do not use fungicides and insecticides.
36. Do not apply lime, slag or any other substance to reduce soil acidity.
37. Do not erect any new permanent or temporary fences.
38. Any bracken control must be carried out in accordance with a programme agreed in advance with the Project Officer and any other necessary consents obtained. This must include adequate follow-up treatment. Where bracken cannot be controlled by mechanical means and a herbicide is necessary then only asulam may be used.
39. Do not cut or top existing areas of rushes except in accordance with a written programme agreed with the Project Officer. This will encourage the positive management of 'dry rush' areas and prevent further spreading where this is considered to be detrimental to environmental objectives.

TIER 2B – REVERSION OF IMPROVED GRASSLAND TO ROUGH GRAZING

Observe prescriptions 1-14 (Tier 1A) and 28-39 (Tier 2A) plus additional prescriptions set out below:

40. Do not use a chain harrow or roller at any time of the year.
41. Do not mow or top at any time of the year.
42. Do not apply farmyard manure.

TIER 3A – REVERSION OF ARABLE LAND TO PERMANENT GRASSLAND

Observe prescriptions 1-14 (Tier 1A) plus additional prescriptions set out below:-

43. Cease arable or ley grassland production and establish a new permanent grass sward within twelve months of the start of the agreement using suitable species chosen from an approved list. Agree in writing with the Project Officer before purchase the seed mix to be used. Seed of native origin and local provenance should be used wherever the Department considers it appropriate.

44. During the first 12 months of the agreement do not apply any of the following without obtaining prior approval from the Department:

- i) Organic or inorganic fertiliser;
- ii) Lime, slag or any other substance to reduce acidity of the soil;
- iii) Pesticides.

45. Cut the grass and remove as hay, but not silage during the first three years following grassland establishment and graze the aftermath with cattle or sheep.

46. Do not cut the grass before 16 July.

47. From the start of your agreement you must follow all of the Tier 1A – prescriptions.

48. After the 12 month period you must follow all of the prescriptions in Tier 1B plus, in agreement with the Department, those in either Tier 2A or Tier 2B.

49. You must agree in writing with the Project Officer and implement a programme of nutrient stripping before the required seed mixture is sown.

50. On grassland reverted from arable, do not exceed an annual average stocking level of 1.4 Livestock Units (LU) per hectare.

TIER 3B – CONSERVATION HEADLANDS

Observe prescriptions 1-14 (Tier 1A) plus additional prescriptions set out below:

51. Do not apply any insecticides to the strip except between 31 August and the following 15 March.

52. Do not apply herbicides to the strip other than:-

- i) tri-allate, diclofop-methyl, difenzoquat, flumprop-m-isopropyl, fenoxaprop-ethyl, tralkoxydim or clodinfop-propargyl;
- ii) glyphosate provided it is applied only in the pre or post harvest period;
- iii) fluroxypyr provided it is applied by spot treatment and solely for the control of cleavers; or
- iv) other herbicides and their method of application which may be approved by the Department.

HEDGEROW RESTORATION SUPPLEMENT

53. In the second 5 years of your agreement the Department will make a supplementary payment if you agree in writing and implement a 5 year programme for the restoration to traditional management of hedgerows by replanting, laying, coppicing, gapping and back-fencing. The programme will include the tagging or planting of hedgerow trees which must be protected thereafter. Payment will be calculated on the basis of the actual length of restoration completed in each year.

WET AREA SUPPLEMENT

54. Agree in writing a programme of work including any necessary blocking of drains to impede drainage and fencing to control access by stock on areas agreed with the Project Officer. There should be no stock grazing between 1 April and 30 June.

WOODLAND TIER

55. Adopt a programme agreed in writing with the Project Officer to enhance the conservation and landscape value of non net-income generating woodland. These will be identified on your agreement map. This will involve making and keeping the woodland stockproof and the carrying out of an ongoing programme of woodland management. Individual areas of woodland below 1 hectare may be entered into this tier.

PUBLIC ACCESS TIER

56. Make the access route available for public access at no charge.

57. Maintain a free passage over the access route.

58. Do not erect new fences on or adjacent to the access route without the prior written approval of the Department.

59. Keep the access route and fields crossed by it free of litter and other refuse.

60. Exclude bulls from the access route and fields crossed by it, except for bulls which do not exceed the age of 10 months or are not of a recognised dairy breed and are at large in any field or enclosure in which cows and heifers are also at large.

61. Agree with the Department in writing in advance the public liability insurance cover which you will maintain for the duration of the access agreement.

62. Provide and maintain adequate means of entry to the access route.

63. Affix and maintain appropriate signboards and waymarking.

64. Do not permit any of the following activities on the access route or on fields crossed by it: camping, caravanning, lighting of fires, organised games or sports, riding of motor vehicles (except those used for agricultural operations on the land) without the Department's prior written approval.

65. Agree with the Department in writing whether the riding of horses or cycles may be permitted on the access route.

66. If you wish to apply for temporary closure of the access route you must agree this with the Department in writing in advance. Where temporary closure is permitted you must post signs giving notice of the intended closure and the reasons for it at each entry point to the access route at least two weeks in advance of the date of closure.

