

# Environmentally Sensitive Areas

## SCHEME PRESCRIPTIONS

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### DARTMOOR 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

1. Do not increase your existing area of arable land without the Department's prior written approval.
2. Do not increase your existing application rates of organic or inorganic fertiliser.
3. 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 any watercourse.
4. Retain hedges, walls and banks and do not remove any part thereof.
5. Maintain stockproof hedges, walls and banks in a stockproof condition using traditional materials.
6. Do not plough or apply pesticides or fertiliser on land within 1 metre of any hedge, wall or bank.
7. For a supplementary payment, you MAY agree a programme to manage stockproof hedgerows in a traditional manner, so that laying of the hedge occurs at the appropriate time in the management cycle. Payment for this annual management will be calculated on the basis of every 10 metres of traditionally managed stockproof hedges per hectare of agreement land with hedges (excluding Newtakes and Moorland). You must agree to manage at least 10 metres of stockproof hedges per eligible hectare of land in your agreement. The maximum length that you can enter is 200 metres per hectare for the first 10 hectares of your agreement with 100 metres for every hectare thereafter. Payment will be stepped accordingly.
8. For a supplementary payment you MAY agree a programme, for a minimum of five years and a maximum of ten years, for the restoration of stone walls and banks. Payment will be calculated on the basis of every metre of wall or bank restored in each year.
9. Do not erect any new permanent fences, other than for side protection of stockproof hedges, banks and walls, without the Department's prior written approval.
10. Retain and manage existing watercourses, ditches, ponds and wetland (including margins and banks) for which you are responsible. Carry out any maintenance by mechanical means, not pesticides. Do not construct any new ponds without the Department's prior written approval.
11. Retain and, where necessary, manage all individual and 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 All Land rate. Seek prior written approval from the Department before planting any new woodland or trees.
12. Do not remove large boulders or rock outcrops.
13. Manage scrub.
14. Any bracken control must be carried out in accordance with a programme agreed in advance with the Project Officer and any other consents obtained. Where bracken cannot be controlled by mechanical means and the use of a herbicide is necessary, only asulam may be used where application is by means of a boom sprayer (including aerial application). Other herbicides and application methods may be used only in agreement with the Project Officer.
15. Dispose of sheep dip safely. Do not spread sheep dip where it may affect areas of nature conservation value.
16. Maintain any weatherproof traditional farm buildings for which you are responsible in a weatherproof condition using traditional styles and materials.
17. Do not damage, destroy or remove any feature of archaeological or historic value or interest.
18. Obtain written advice on the management of known archaeological and historic features on your land. Where standard advice on agricultural management is provided this should be implemented within 12 months. Where more specific advice is required this

should be obtained within the first 12 months of your agreement and appropriate advice implemented within two years.

19. Obtain written advice on siting, design 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.
20. You must identify on your application any common land within the ESA where you have grazing rights and your current use of those rights. Where common land is not subject to agreement you must not increase your use (stock numbers and period of grazing) of the common land except by prior written agreement with the Department. You may, however, continue to carry out normal stock movements.
21. 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 0585) as amended from time to time.

### **TIER 1B IMPROVED PERMANENT GRASSLAND**

*Observe prescriptions 1-21 (Tier 1A) plus additional prescriptions set out below:*

22. Maintain improved permanent grassland by grazing and/or cutting. If regeneration or modification of the sward is considered necessary, this should only be carried out with the Department's prior written approval and only by direct drilling or surface treatment. Only seed mixtures intended to produce a long term sward may be used. Do not plough or cultivate without the Department's prior written agreement.
23. Do not graze so as to cause poaching, overgrazing or undergrazing.
24. If you cut the grass, graze the aftermath.
25. Do not install any new land drainage system or modify any existing land drainage system so as to bring about improved drainage.

### **TIER 1C LOW-INPUT PERMANENT GRASSLAND**

*Observe prescriptions 1-21 (Tier 1A) plus additional prescriptions set out below:*

26. Maintain low-input permanent grassland. Do not plough, level or reseed. Cultivate only with a chain harrow or roller.
27. Do not graze so as to cause poaching, overgrazing or undergrazing.
28. Do not exceed your existing application rates of inorganic fertiliser and, in any event, do not exceed 50 kg nitrogen, 25 kg phosphate and 25 kg potash per hectare per year.
29. Do not apply any organic fertiliser except for farmyard manure (FYM) or slurry. Do not exceed your existing application rates and, in any event, do not exceed 25 tonnes per hectare per year. Do not apply pig or poultry manure or sewage sludge.

30. Do not apply lime, slag or any other substance designed to reduce soil acidity without the Department's prior written approval.
31. Do not apply fungicides or insecticides.
32. Do not apply herbicides except to control bracken, spear thistle, creeping or field thistle, curled dock, broadleaved dock or ragwort or to carry out stump treatment of cleared scrub. With the exception of bracken control, apply herbicides only by means of a wick applicator or by spot treatment.
33. If you cut the grass for hay, continue to do so and graze the aftermath. Wilt any grass cut for silage before removal.
34. Do not install any new land drainage system or modify any existing land drainage system so as to bring about improved drainage.

### **TIER 1D UNIMPROVED PASTURE AND ENCLOSED ROUGH LAND**

*Observe prescriptions 1-21 (Tier 1A) plus additional prescriptions set out below:*

35. Maintain unimproved pasture and enclosed rough land. Do not excavate, plough, level, reseed, chain harrow, roll or otherwise cultivate. Do not cut or top the vegetation at any time without the Department's prior written approval or as agreed under a Grassland Management Plan or bracken control programme. You must not undertake any other form of mechanical operation during the period 1 April to 30 June.
36. Within one year of the start of your agreement agree in writing with the Project Officer a plan of grassland management which must be implemented. The plan will include the stocking regime and any necessary, controlled burning, cutting, scrub and bracken management. If, as part of an agreed Grassland Management Plan, you agree to remove stock in winter you may be eligible for a supplementary payment.
37. Do not provide livestock with supplementary feed or mineral or feed blocks unless agreed as part of a Grassland Management Plan.
38. Do not graze so as to cause poaching, overgrazing or undergrazing.
39. Do not apply any organic or inorganic fertiliser.
40. Do not apply lime, slag or any other substance designed to reduce soil acidity.
41. Do not apply fungicides or insecticides.
42. Do not apply herbicides except to control bracken, spear thistle, creeping or field thistle, curled dock, broadleaved dock or ragwort or to carry out stump treatment of cleared scrub. With the exception of bracken control, apply herbicides only by means of a wick applicator or by spot treatment.
43. Do not install any new land drainage system or modify any existing land drainage system so as to bring about improved drainage.
44. Do not erect any temporary fencing without the Department's prior written approval.

45. Do not burn any purple moor-grass, scrub, bracken litter or other vegetation without the Department's prior written approval or as agreed in a Grassland Management Plan.

## WINTER LIVESTOCK REMOVAL SUPPLEMENT

46. The Department will make a supplementary payment if, as part of a written Grassland Management Plan agreed with the Project Officer, you remove all livestock from 1 November to 31 March.

## TIER 1E MOORLAND

*Observe prescriptions 1-21 (Tier 1A) plus additional prescriptions set out below:*

47. Maintain moorland. Do not excavate, plough, level, reseed, chain harrow, roll or otherwise cultivate.

48. Do not graze so as to cause poaching, overgrazing or undergrazing.

49. Do not apply any organic or inorganic fertiliser.

50. Do not apply lime, slag or any other substance designed to reduce soil acidity.

51. Do not apply fungicides or insecticides.

52. Do not apply herbicides except to control bracken, spear thistle, creeping or field thistle, curled dock, broadleaved dock or ragwort or to carry out stump treatment of cleared scrub. With the exception of bracken control, apply herbicides only by means of a wick applicator or by spot treatment.

53. Do not install any new land drainage system or modify any existing land drainage system so as to bring about improved drainage.

54. Within one year of the start of your agreement agree in writing with the Project Officer a plan of moorland management which must be implemented. The plan will include the stocking regime and any necessary controlled burning, cutting, scrub and bracken management. If, as part of an agreed Moorland Management Plan, you agree to adjust your stocking levels and periods you may be eligible for the Winter Cattle Removal, Early Winter Stocking Level and Summer Purple Moor-grass grazing supplementary payments. In any event you must not exceed the following winter stocking level prescriptions.

55. During the period 16 April to 31 October, do not exceed your existing total stocking level or cattle stocking level. In any event, do not exceed a stocking level (excluding ponies) based on 0.36 livestock units per hectare (LU/ha) on dry grass moorland and 0.225 LU/ha on other moorland.

56. During the period 1 November to 15 April do not exceed your existing total stocking level or cattle stocking level. In any event, do not exceed a total stocking level (excluding ponies) based on 0.235 livestock units per hectare (LU/ha) on dry grass moorland, and 0.17 LU/ha on other moorland.

57. Do not increase your existing pony stocking level and, in any event, do not exceed a pony stocking level of 0.04 livestock units per hectare (LU/ha) (above the other maximum stocking levels) except where agreed in writing as part of an agreed

Moorland Management Plan when, if environmentally acceptable, additional ponies of the Dartmoor type may be substituted for other livestock. Any ponies grazed during any part of the winter must be hardy.

58. Do not erect temporary fencing without the Department's prior written approval.

59. Ensure adequate stock management to achieve even grazing over the different moorland types and to avoid other livestock straying onto the land.

60. Do not provide livestock (including ponies) with supplementary feed except in emergency conditions and then feed only hay. Ensure minimal physical damage to moorland.

## EARLY WINTER STOCKING LEVEL SUPPLEMENT

61. The Department will make a supplementary payment if, as part of a written Moorland Management Plan agreed with the Project Officer, you comply with the permitted winter stocking level and conditions from 1 September to 15 April, instead of 1 November to 15 April.

## WINTER CATTLE REMOVAL SUPPLEMENT

62. The Department will make a supplementary payment if, as part of a written Moorland Management Plan agreed with the Project Officer, you remove cattle for the period 1 November to 15 April. During this period you must not exceed your existing sheep stocking level and, in any event, you must not exceed 0.17 LU/ha.

## SUMMER PURPLE MOOR-GRASS GRAZING SUPPLEMENT

63. The Department will make a supplementary payment if, as part of a written Moorland Management Plan agreed with the Project Officer, you implement an agreed stocking programme for the grazing by cattle of areas dominated by purple moor-grass between 15 May and 15 August.

## TIER 2A SPECIES-RICH HAY MEADOWS

*Observe prescriptions 1-21 (Tier 1A) plus additional prescriptions set out below:*

64. Do not plough, level or reseed. Cultivate only with a chain harrow or roller except during the period 1 April to 15 July.

65. Graze with cattle or sheep or both and avoid poaching, overgrazing or undergrazing. Other livestock (including horses and ponies) may be grazed with the Department's prior written approval. Exclude stock from hay meadows by 15 May until the end of cutting. Cut hay meadows annually for hay, but not silage. Do not cut in any year before 15 July. Cut hay meadows after 31 July at least once every five years. Remove the cut crop and graze the aftermath.

66. Do not provide livestock with supplementary feed or mineral or feed blocks without the Department's prior written approval.

67. Do not apply any organic or inorganic fertiliser except for well rotted farmyard manure (FYM). Do not exceed your existing application rates of FYM and, in any event, do not apply more than 20 tonnes of FYM per hectare in any three year period. Apply FYM only in a single dressing. Do not apply slurry, pig or poultry manure or sewage sludge.
68. Do not apply lime, slag or any other substance designed to reduce soil acidity without the Department's prior written approval.
69. Do not apply fungicides or insecticides.
70. Do not apply herbicides except to control bracken, spear thistle, creeping or field thistle, curled dock, broadleaved dock or ragwort or to carry out stump treatment of cleared scrub. With the exception of bracken control, apply herbicides only by means of a wick applicator or by spot treatment.

## **TIER 2B MOORLAND ENHANCEMENT**

*Observe prescriptions 1-21 (Tier 1A) and 47-60 (Tier 1E) plus additional prescriptions set out below:*

71. During the period 16 April to 31 August do not exceed your existing total stocking level or cattle stocking level. In any event do not exceed a total stocking level (excluding ponies) of 0.17 LU/ha (except by prior written approval as part of an agreed Moorland Management Plan with the summer purple moor-grass supplement).
72. During the period 1 September to 15 April, do not graze with cattle and do not exceed your existing sheep level or in any event a maximum of 0.08 LU/ha.

## **WINTER LIVESTOCK REMOVAL SUPPLEMENT**

73. The Department will make a supplementary payment if, as part of a written Moorland Management Plan agreed with the Project Officer, you remove all livestock for the period 1 September to 15 April.

## **SUMMER PURPLE MOOR-GRASS GRAZING SUPPLEMENT**

74. The Department will make a supplementary payment if, as part of a written Moorland Management Plan agreed with the Project Officer, you implement an agreed stocking programme for the grazing by cattle of areas dominated by purple moor-grass between 15 May and 15 August.

## **TIER 2C – MOORLAND RE-CREATION**

75. Cease to use the grassland within 12 months of the start of your agreement and implement a heather restoration programme to be agreed in writing with the Project Officer.

76. Do not graze in the summer so as to inhibit heather regeneration. Graze only with sheep, at a stocking level not exceeding 0.1 LU/ha between 15 May and 15 August. Exclude all livestock between 16 August and 14 May
77. Once established follow all Tier 1A, Tier 1E and Tier 2B prescriptions.

## **WOODLAND TIER**

78. Adopt a programme agreed in writing with the Project Officer to enhance the wildlife and landscape value of non net-income generating woodland. This will involve making and keeping the woodland stockproof and the carrying out of an ongoing programme of woodland management.

## **ACCESS TIER**

79. Maintain a free passage over the access route.
80. Do not erect new fences on or adjacent to the access route without the prior written approval of the Department.
81. Keep the access route and fields crossed by it free of litter and other refuse.
82. 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.
83. Agree with the Department in writing in advance the Public Liability Insurance cover which you will maintain for the duration of the access agreement.
84. Provide and maintain adequate means of entry to the access route.
85. Affix and maintain appropriate signboards and waymarking.
86. 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.
87. Agree with the Department in writing whether the riding of horses or cycles may be permitted on the access route.
88. 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.