

Environmentally Sensitive Areas

SCHEME PRESCRIPTIONS

PENNINE DALES 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 – ARABLE AND IMPROVED GRASSLAND

1. Do not exceed your existing application rate of inorganic or organic fertiliser.
2. Do not graze any land so as to cause poaching, over-grazing or under-grazing.
3. Dispose of sheep dip safely. Do not spread sheep dip where it may affect areas of nature conservation value.
4. Maintain stockproof walls and hedges in a stockproof condition using traditional materials.
5. Any weatherproof field barns which you own or are responsible for must be maintained in a weatherproof condition using traditional materials.
6. Do not damage or destroy any feature of historic interest.
7. Obtain written advice on siting and materials before constructing buildings, roads or any other engineering operations which do not require planning permission or prior notification determination by the Local Planning Authority.
8. Obtain written advice within two years on the management of existing woodland. Consult the Project Officer on proposals to plant any new woodland.
9. You must abide by the Codes of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Water, Soil and Air, published by the Department (references PB 0587, PB 0617 and PB 0618) as amended from time to time.

TIER 1B – MEADOWS, PASTURES AND ALLOTMENTS

You must observe prescriptions 1-9 plus additional prescriptions set out below:

10. Maintain grassland and do not plough, level or re-seed the land. Cultivate meadows only with a chain harrow or roller and as early as possible in the spring as soon as stock are removed. Harrowing or rolling may not be carried out in pastures or allotments between 1 April and 15 July.
11. Land to be managed as meadow must be identified on your contract map and must continue to be managed as such for the length of your agreement.
12. Exclude stock from meadows at least seven weeks before the first cut for hay or silage and by 1 June at the latest.
13. Do not cut grass for hay or silage in any year before 8 July. All meadows must have their first cut after 22 July at least once every five years or at least 20 percent of meadows must be nominated to be cut after 22 July every year for the length of your agreement. The aftermath on all meadows must be grazed.
14. You must indicate your proposed programme for late cutting on your agreement map.

15. If you cut grass for silage, wilt and turn it before removal and graze the aftermath.
16. Do not exceed your existing level of inorganic fertiliser and in any case do not exceed 25kg of nitrogen, 12.5kg of phosphate and 12.5kg of potash per hectare per year or the equivalent in artificial organic fertiliser. This must be applied in one application.
17. Do not apply slurry or poultry manure.
18. Do not disturb or remove material from mineral spoil tips.
19. When disposing of Dirty Water from a specific modern Dirty Water collection system avoid applying to areas identified on your contract map by the Project Officer.
20. Do not exceed your existing level of farm yard manure application on any fields. In any case do not use more than 12.5 tonnes of farm yard manure per hectare (5 tons per acre) per year and apply in a single dressing. Farm yard manure produced off the farm may only be used with the prior written approval of the Project Officer and must be well-rotted.
21. Do not use fungicides and insecticides.
22. Do not apply herbicides except to control bracken, nettles, spear thistle, creeping or field thistle, curled dock, broad-leaved dock or ragwort.
23. When applying herbicides always use a weed wiper or spot treatment. Where bracken cannot be controlled by mechanical means, asulam must be used.
24. Do not cut or spray existing areas of rushes in pastures or allotments.
25. Do not apply lime, slag or any other substance to reduce soil acidity to pastures or allotments. You may apply lime to meadows at a rate of up to 5 tonnes per hectare (2 tons per acre) and at intervals of not less than every 8 years (or subject to a requirement being shown by a soil test).
26. Do not install any new drainage system or substantially modify any existing drainage system.
27. Do not apply inorganic or organic fertilisers to allotment land identified on your contract map.
28. For allotments identified on your contract map agree a written grazing management plan with the Project Officer. In addition you must not exceed your current overall stocking rate.

TIER 2A – HERB-RICH MEADOWS

You must observe prescriptions 1-28 plus additional prescriptions set out below:

29. Stock must be excluded from meadow land by 15 May.
30. Do not apply inorganic or artificial organic fertiliser.

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31. All meadows must be cut and the crop removed. They must not be cut for hay before 15 July. The crop may be cut for silage after 22 July.

TIER 2B – HERB-RICH PASTURES AND ALLOTMENTS

You must observe prescriptions 1-28 plus additional prescriptions set out below:

32. Agree with the Project Officer a written programme of grassland management to enhance the nature conservation value of herb-rich grassland. This will involve an agreement not to apply any organic or inorganic fertiliser.
33. Your programme must include a continuous 8 week period in the period April 1 to July 31 when only light (less than 0.15 livestock units per hectare) or no grazing will be permitted. Do not exceed an average stocking rate of 0.3 livestock units per hectare.

TIER 2C – WOODLAND

In addition to the requirement to obtain woodland advice you may also agree a programme of woodland enhancement for all or some of your woodland.

34. Agree a programme of woodland management in writing with the Project Officer to enhance the nature conservation and landscape value of native woodland. This will involve making and keeping the woodland stockproof and carrying out an ongoing programme of woodland management.

WALL RENOVATION SUPPLEMENT

35. Agree and implement a 5 year programme for the renovation of drystone walls. This will involve the rebuilding of gaps to make non-stockproof walls stockproof or the dismantling and rebuilding of stockproof walling in poor condition. In all cases the material must be cleared down to the foundations before being rebuilt. Payment will be calculated on the basis of the actual length of walling renovated in each year, up to a maximum of 10 metres per hectare of agreement land per year.

PUBLIC ACCESS TIER

36. Make the access route available for public access at no charge.
37. Maintain a free passage over the access route.
38. Do not erect new fences on or adjacent to the access route without the prior written approval of the Department.
39. Keep the access route and fields crossed by it free of litter and other refuse.
40. 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.
41. Agree with the Department in writing in advance the public liability insurance cover which you will maintain for the duration of the access agreement.
42. Provide and maintain adequate means of entry to the access route.
43. Affix and maintain appropriate signboards and waymarking.
44. 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.
45. Agree with the Department in writing whether the riding or horses or cycles may be permitted on the access route.
46. 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.