

Environmentally Sensitive Areas

SCHEME PRESCRIPTIONS

SHROPSHIRE HILLS 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 without the Department's prior written approval.
2. Do not increase your existing application rates of organic or inorganic fertiliser.
3. Do not apply any 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 or non-stockproof hedges in the traditional manner (including laying). Payment will be calculated on the basis of every metre of hedge managed in each year. As part of the management programme, you must agree in writing with the Project Officer and implement a programme for the selection and tagging of saplings or the planting of hedgerow trees to ensure an average of one tree per 50 metres. Do not damage or remove tagged or planted trees, in particular during hedge trimming.
8. Maintain existing watercourses, ditches, ponds and wetland for which you are responsible (including margins and banks) and carry out any necessary management by mechanical means, not pesticides.
9. Do not install any new land drainage system or modify any existing land drainage system so as to bring about improved drainage.
10. Retain and, where necessary, manage all individual and groups of trees for which you are responsible; 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.
11. Within the first 12 months of your agreement agree in writing with the Project Officer and implement a programme of scrub and rush management.
12. 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.
13. Do not infill natural depressions or level mounds.
14. Maintain any weatherproof traditional farm buildings for which you are responsible in a weatherproof condition using traditional styles and materials.
15. Do not damage, destroy or remove any feature of archaeological or historic value or interest.
16. At the start of your agreement 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.
17. Dispose of sheep dip safely. Do not spread sheep dip where it may affect areas of nature conservation value.
18. 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.

19. You must identify on your application any common land within the ESA where you have grazing rights. Where common land is not subject to agreement you must not remove stock from agreement land to the common land to comply with the stocking prescriptions. You may, however, continue to carry out normal stock movements.
20. 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.

WET AREA SUPPLEMENT (available on Tiers 1A, 1B, 1C and 1D)

21. For a supplementary payment, agree in writing and implement a programme of work including any necessary blocking of drains to impede drainage, 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.

TIER 1B PERMANENT GRASSLAND

Observe prescriptions 1-20 (Tier 1A) plus additional prescriptions set out below:

22. Maintain permanent grassland. Do not excavate, cultivate, plough, level or reseed. You may chain harrow or roll only if you currently do so but not during the period 1 April to 15 July. Do not cut or apply pesticides to areas of rushes during the period 1 April to 15 July.
23. Land currently managed as hay meadow must continue to be managed as such. Exclude stock from meadows cut for hay at least 7 weeks before mowing and in any event by 27 May until the end of cutting. Cut hay meadows at least 4 years out of 5 but not before 16 July. Remove cut crop and graze the aftermath. In one year out of 5 grazing may occur at a level agreed with the Project Officer. AN ANNUAL SUPPLEMENTARY PAYMENT FOR HAY MEADOW MANAGEMENT WILL BE PAID.
24. Wilt and turn any grass cut for silage before removal and graze the aftermath.
25. Do not graze so as to cause overgrazing or undergrazing. Poaching must be avoided. Where supplementary feeding cannot take place on Tier 1A and is likely to result in sward damage, sites must be agreed in advance, with the Project Officer.
26. Do not increase your existing application rates of organic or inorganic fertiliser, including farmyard manure (FYM) and slurry on any field and, in any event, do not exceed 175 kg total nitrogen per hectare per year.
27. Do not apply pig or poultry manure or sewage sludge.
28. Do not increase your existing application rate of lime, slag or any other substance designed to reduce soil acidity.
29. Do not apply fungicides or insecticides.

30. Do not apply herbicides except to control bracken, spear thistle, creeping or field thistle, curled dock, broadleaved dock, ragwort and stinging nettles. With the exception of bracken control, apply herbicides only by means of a wick applicator or by spot treatment.

TIER 1C EXTENSIVE PERMANENT GRASSLAND

Observe prescriptions 1-20 (Tier 1A) and 22-30 (Tier 1B) plus additional prescriptions set out below:

31. Maintain extensive permanent grassland.
32. If you cut the grass, cut it only for hay and not silage. Do not cut or top the grass before 16 July or after 31 August. Cut hay meadows at least 4 years out of 5. Remove cut crop and graze the aftermath. In one year out of 5 grazing may occur at a level agreed with the Project Officer. Do not cut or top enclosed rough grazing at any time. AN ANNUAL SUPPLEMENTARY PAYMENT FOR HAY MEADOW MANAGEMENT WILL BE PAID.
33. Do not apply any inorganic fertiliser or slurry.
34. No FYM may be applied to Extensive Permanent Grassland except where this grassland is cut for hay in which case up to 7t/ha may be applied every 2 years.
35. Lime may be applied to neutral hay meadows with the Project Officer's prior written approval. Elsewhere no lime, slag or any other substances designed to reduce soil acidity may be applied.
36. Do not erect any new permanent or temporary fencing without the Department's prior written approval.

EXTENSIVE GRAZING SUPPLEMENT

37. For a supplementary payment you may agree in writing with the Project Officer to reduce stocking levels on Tier 1C Extensive Permanent Grassland to a maximum of 0.375 LU/ha (2.5 ewes/hectare).

TIER 1D MOORLAND

Observe prescriptions 1-20 (Tier 1A) plus additional prescriptions set out below:

38. At 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 any necessary controlled burning, cutting, scrub and bracken management.
39. Maintain moorland. Do not excavate, plough, level, reseed, cut, top, harrow, roll or otherwise cultivate.
40. Do not exceed your existing stocking levels and, in any event, do not exceed 0.225 Livestock Units (LU) per hectare. During the period 1 November to 28 February remove all cattle and 25% of your ewe flock from your moorland.
41. Do not graze so as to cause poaching, overgrazing or undergrazing.
42. Restrict supplementary feeding of livestock to areas agreed in advance with the Project Officer.

43. Do not apply any organic or inorganic fertiliser or lime, slag or any other substance designed to reduce soil acidity.
44. Do not apply fungicides or insecticides.
45. Do not apply herbicides except to control bracken, spear thistle, creeping or field thistle, curled dock, broadleaved dock, ragwort and stinging nettles. With the exception of bracken control, apply herbicides only by means of a wick applicator or by spot treatment.
46. Ensure by adequate stock management that livestock graze only lightly, do not trespass on to neighbouring moorland and do not concentrate on or adjacent to those areas of heather vulnerable to grazing pressure (including heather margins and areas of recently burnt heather).
47. Do not fence across open moorland.

SUPPLEMENTS FOR OFF-WINTERING OF STOCK

48. For a supplementary payment you may agree in writing with the Project officer to reduce your stocking rate to 0.112 LU/ha (0.75 ewes/ha) between 1 November and 28 February. For a further supplement you may agree to the removal of all stock between these dates.

TIER 2 HEATHER MOORLAND

Observe prescriptions 1-20 (Tier 1A) and 38-47 (Tier 1D) plus additional prescriptions set out below:

49. Do not exceed your existing stocking levels and, in any event, do not exceed 0.1 Livestock Units (LU) per hectare. During the period 1 November to 28 February remove all stock from your moorland.
50. Do not provide livestock with supplementary feed.

WOODLAND TIER

51. 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.

PUBLIC ACCESS TIER

52. Make the access route available for public access at no charge.
53. Maintain a free passage over the access route.
54. Do not erect new fences on or adjacent to the access route without the prior written approval of the Department.
55. Keep the access route and fields crossed by it free of litter and other refuse.
56. 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.
57. Agree with the Department in writing in advance the Public Liability Insurance cover which you will maintain for the duration of the access agreement.
58. Provide and maintain adequate means of entry to the access route.
59. Affix and maintain appropriate signboards and waymarking.
60. 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.
61. Agree with the Department in writing whether the riding of horses or cycles may be permitted on the access route.
62. 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.

