

Environmentally Sensitive Areas

SCHEME PRESCRIPTIONS

SOUTH WEST PEAK 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 (INCLUDING WOODLAND, ARABLE AND LEY GRASSLAND)

1. Do not remove all or part of any hedges, walls or banks.
2. Maintain all your stockproof walls and hedges in a stockproof condition using traditional methods and materials.
3. The Department will make a supplementary payment if you agree in writing with the Project Officer a 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 walls that are in poor condition. Payment will be calculated on the basis of every metre of wall restored in each year.
4. 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 all land rate. Seek written consent from the Project Officer before planting any woodland. Retain and manage any hedgerow or streamside trees.
5. 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.
6. Sheep dip must be disposed of safely and not spread where it may affect areas of nature conservation value.
7. Do not damage, destroy or remove any feature of historic value or interest.
8. Any weatherproof traditional farm buildings which you own, or for which you are responsible, must be maintained in a weatherproof condition using traditional materials.
9. 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.
10. Do not deposit builder's rubble, scrap or any other imported material onto the land covered by this agreement.
11. You may maintain existing field drains, including ditches, but should not install any new land drainage systems without written consent from the Project Officer. You may create new farm ponds, but seek the Project Officer's advice before so doing.
12. 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 – (ENCLOSED PERMANENT GRASSLAND)

Observe prescriptions 1-12 (Tier 1A) plus the additional prescriptions set out below:

13. Maintain as permanent grassland. Do not excavate, plough, level or reseed. Do not harrow or roll between 1 April and 15 July inclusive.
14. Do not exceed your existing application rates of organic or inorganic fertiliser. Do not apply lime, slag or any other substance designed to reduce soil acidity.
15. Where possible, graze the aftermath after mowing for hay or silage. You should however ensure that doing so does not cause overgrazing or poaching, or delay winter manure spreading operations.
16. Ensure that livestock graze the land in a way that avoids poaching, overgrazing or undergrazing.
17. Do not use fungicides or insecticides on the land.

18. You may control thistles, docks and ragwort by mechanical means or herbicides. Herbicides may only be applied by weed wiper or by spot treatment. The Project Officer's written consent must be obtained before carrying out any other means of weed control.
19. Do not install any new land drainage systems. You may carry out normal maintenance and repairs but must seek the Project Officer's advice and prior written agreement.

TIER 1C – (ENCLOSED PERMANENT ROUGH GRAZING)

Observe prescriptions 1-12 (Tier 1A) and 13-19 (Tier 1B) plus additional prescriptions set out below:

20. Maintain as permanent rough grazing. Do not excavate, plough, level, reseed, harrow, roll or otherwise cultivate.
21. Do not exceed existing stocking levels.

TIER 1D – MOORLAND

Observe prescriptions 1-12 (Tier 1A), 13-19 (Tier 1B) and 20-21 (Tier 1C) plus the additional prescriptions set out below:

22. Maintain as moorland. Do not excavate, plough, level, reseed, harrow, roll or otherwise cultivate.
23. Do not exceed your existing stocking levels and, in any case, do not exceed 0.225 livestock units (LU) per hectare. You must also remove all flock replacements and 25% of your flock of overwintering ewes during the period 1 November to 28 February.
24. Do not allow grazing by cattle or horses during the period 1 November to 28 February.
25. Do not give supplementary feed to livestock on the moor between 1 March and 31 October without the Project Officer's prior written consent.
26. In the first year of your agreement you must agree with the Project Officer a written plan of integrated moorland management which must be implemented. The plan may include a programme of rotational heather burning and cutting, stock management, scrub and bracken control. The plan will identify agreed areas where supplementary feeding may occur. The aim is to create and maintain a mosaic of mixed age dwarf shrub heath and other vegetation across the moor.
27. Do not fence across open moorland.
28. Ensure by adequate stock management that livestock do not trespass onto neighbouring moorland, that they graze only lightly and do not concentrate on, or adjacent to, those areas of heather or other vegetation vulnerable to grazing pressure, including heather margins and areas of recently burnt heather.

TIER 2A – TRADITIONAL PASTURES

Observe prescriptions 1-12 (Tier 1A) and 13-19 (Tier 1B) in addition to those set out below:

29. Land to be managed as traditional pasture must be identified on your agreement map and must continue to be managed as such for the length of your agreement.
30. Do not harrow, roll or otherwise cultivate pastureland.
31. Do not cut or top rushes between 1 March and 31 July.
32. Do not apply any organic or inorganic fertiliser.
33. Limit stock numbers between 1 April and 30 June inclusive to no more than 0.6 lu/ha, or to a level you have agreed in advance in writing with your Project Officer.

TIER 2B – TRADITIONAL HAY MEADOWS

Observe prescriptions 1-12 (Tier 1A) and 13-19 (Tier 1B) in addition to those set out below:

34. Land to be managed as traditional hay meadows must be identified on your agreement map and must continue to be managed as such for the length of your agreement.
35. Do not harrow or roll meadows between 1 April and 15 July inclusive.
36. Meadows may be lightly grazed up to 31 May at a rate of no more than 0.6 lu/ha or to a rate agreed in advance in writing with your Project Officer.
37. Do not cut grass for hay before 15 July. You should mow after 31 July at least once every five years and notify the Project Officer when this occurs. The crop should be removed and the aftermath grazed whenever possible.
38. You may mow for silage after 1 August, but the crop must be wilted for 24 hours and turned at least once before picking up or baling and removal from the field.
39. Do not apply any inorganic fertiliser or slurry. You may apply well-rotted farmyard manure each year in a single dressing of no more than 6 tonnes to the ha.

TIER 2C – REGENERATION TO TRADITIONAL HAY MEADOWS

Observe prescriptions 1-12 (Tier 1A) and 13-19 (Tier 1B) and 34, 35 and 36 (Tier 2B), in addition to those set out below:

40. Do not apply any inorganic fertiliser or slurry. You may apply well-rotted farmyard manure each year in a single dressing of no more than 8 tonnes to the ha.
41. Do not cut grass for hay before 15 July. You should mow after 7 August at least twice every five years and notify the Project Officer when this occurs. The crop should be removed from the field. A second crop of either late hay or silage may be taken with the Project Officer's consent.
42. The aftermath should be grazed whenever possible, but not after 1 November. All stock should be removed from the field between 1 November and 31 March inclusive.

43. You must, in the first year of your agreement, agree in writing an appropriate meadow management plan, which may include measures to reduce existing nutrient levels.

TIER 2D – REVERSION TO EXTENSIVE TRADITIONAL PASTURES

Observe prescriptions 1-12 (Tier 1A) and 13-19 (Tier 1B) and 29-32 (Tier 2A) in addition to those set out below:

44. Do not supplementary feed, to avoid damage to the sward.
45. Graze the land carefully to avoid over grazing, undergrazing or poaching. Limit stock numbers to no more than 0.6 lu/ha between 1 April and 16 June inclusive or to a level agreed in advance in writing with your Project Officer.
46. You must, in the first year of your agreement, agree in writing an appropriate pasture management plan which may include measures to reduce existing nutrient levels, stock numbers and a rotational rush management plan.

TIER 2E – MOORLAND

Observe prescriptions 1-12 (Tier 1A) and 13-19 (Tier 1B), 20-21 (Tier 1C) and 22-28 (Tier 1D) plus the additional prescriptions set out below:

47. During the period 1 March to 30 September your stocking level must not exceed 0.1 LU per hectare and all livestock must be removed from the moor during the period 1 October to 28 February.

WET AREA SUPPLEMENT

48. The Department will make a supplementary payment normally available on land Tiers 1A, B and C and Tier 1D, on the implementation of an agreed management plan to improve the habitat for upland wading birds.
49. Agree in writing a programme of work including any necessary blocking of drains to impede drainage and fencing to control stock access on areas agreed with the Project Officer. There should be no stock grazing between 1 April and 30 June without agreement in writing from the Project Officer who will also agree with you the level of stocking appropriate to the wetted area.

MOORLAND REGENERATION SUPPLEMENT

(available on Tier 1D and Tier 2E)

50. Agree a plan in writing with the Project Officer to exclude all stock from your moorland for a period of between three and five years to allow vegetation to regenerate.

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT TIER

51. Adopt a programme agreed in writing with the Project Officer to enhance the conservation 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. Individual areas of woodland below 1 ha may be entered into this tier.

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.

