

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Entry Level and Higher Level Stewardship Agreement

PART 1A Annual payments for ELS

Your annual payment for ELS is as follows:

Land Description	Payment per Ha	Area (Ha)	Target Points	Payment
Area of land in agreement, excluding parcels of 15 ha or more above the Moorland Line	£30.00	2.23	67	£66.90
Area of parcels of 15 ha or more above the Moorland Line		0	0	0

Annual Payment		£67.00
Total Target Points	67	
Actual Points	115	

PART 1B
Annual payment schedule for HLS options (excluding capital items)

Options	Period(s) covered	01/01/15 to 31/12/15	01/01/16 to 31/12/16	01/01/17 to 31/12/17	01/01/18 to 31/12/18	01/01/19 to 31/12/19	01/01/20 to 31/12/20	01/01/21 to 31/12/21	01/01/22 to 28/02/22
HB14 Management of ditches of very high environmental value		£162.00	£162.00	£162.00	£162.00	£162.00	£162.00	£162.00	£26.19
HQ7 Restoration of fen		£132.00	£132.00	£132.00	£132.00	£132.00	£132.00	£132.00	£21.34
HQ12 Wetland grazing supplement		£440.00	£440.00	£440.00	£440.00	£440.00	£440.00	£440.00	£71.12
HR4 Supplement for control of invasive plant species		£132.00	£132.00	£132.00	£132.00	£132.00	£132.00	£132.00	£21.34
HR7 Supplement for difficult sites		£110.00	£110.00	£110.00	£110.00	£110.00	£110.00	£110.00	£17.78
Total HLS payment		£976.00	£976.00	£976.00	£976.00	£976.00	£976.00	£976.00	£157.77

PART 1C

Annual payment schedule for all options (excluding capital items)

Period(s) covered	ELS payment	HLS payment	Total payment
01/01/15 to 31/12/15	£67.00	£976.00	£1,043.00
01/01/16 to 31/12/16	£67.00	£976.00	£1,043.00
01/01/17 to 31/12/17	£67.00	£976.00	£1,043.00
01/01/18 to 31/12/18	£67.00	£976.00	£1,043.00
01/01/19 to 31/12/19	£67.00	£976.00	£1,043.00
01/01/20 to 31/12/20	£67.00	£976.00	£1,043.00
01/01/21 to 31/12/21	£67.00	£976.00	£1,043.00
01/01/22 to 28/02/22	£10.83	£157.77	£168.60

PART 2A
Parcel based options summary

RLR field number	Field name	RLR field size (ha)	OPTIONS					
			Code	Description	Quantity (ha/100m/no.)	Start date	End date	Duration (years/months)
SU47288407		2.23	A13	Non payment option - permanent grassland for Article 13	2.20	01/03/12	28/02/22	10 Years
			HB14	Management of ditches of very high environmental value	450	01/03/12	28/02/22	10 Years
			HQ7	Restoration of fen	2.20	01/03/12	28/02/22	10 Years
			HQ12	Wetland grazing supplement	2.20	01/03/12	28/02/22	10 Years
			HR4	Supplement for control of invasive plant species	2.20	01/03/12	28/02/22	10 Years
			HR7	Supplement for difficult sites	2.20	01/03/12	28/02/22	10 Years

PART 2B

**Whole farm, rotational, farm buildings and
access base payment options summary**

Code	Description	Quantity (ha/100m/no.)	Start date	End date	Duration (years/ months)
EA1	Farm Environment Record (FER)	2.23	01/03/12	28/02/22	10 Years
EB6	Ditch management	450	01/03/12	28/02/22	10 Years

PART 3

HLS - Management of environmental features

General conditions on all HLS agreement land

On your HLS agreement land you must follow the general management conditions set out below, unless specifically stated otherwise in a subsequent section of this agreement. HLS agreement land is all land on which Higher Level Stewardship management prescriptions apply, including items within a Capital Works Plan

- Do not apply lime.
- On the conventional land that you manage: do not apply pesticides, except for the control of spear thistle, creeping thistle, curled dock, broad-leaved dock, common ragwort, nettles or other undesirable species named in your agreement. Herbicides may only be applied to these species by weedwiper or by spot treatment.
- Do not allow your agreement land to be levelled, infilled, used for the storage or dumping of materials or used by motor vehicles or machinery (except where necessary for the management of the land), if this is likely to cause long-term damage from rutting or compaction of the soil, or otherwise damage areas being managed under the scheme.
- Do not light fires (including burning brash or cuttings) where they could cause damage to features of archaeological or historic interest, or within ten metres of tree canopies or on any areas managed for their wildlife habitat interest. (This does not restrict your ability to manage heathland vegetation by controlled burning in compliance with the Heather and Grass Burning Regulations 1986 and accompanying Code.)
- Do not allow your agreement land to be used for organised games or sports, rallies, camping or caravanning, shows or sales where this is likely to damage areas being managed for their wildlife habitat interest or features of archaeological or historic interest; where this is likely to cause excessive or unreasonable disturbance to wildlife being encouraged under your agreement; or where this would cause unreasonable restriction to Public Rights of Way or "access land" as designated under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.
- Do not carry out or permit metal detecting or archaeological fieldwork on any of the archaeological sites on your holding identified in your Farm Environment Plan, unless agreed with your Natural England adviser in writing. In some cases a derogation will also be required.

HB14 - Management of ditches of very high environmental value

Land parcels and associated features managed under this option:

RLR Field Number: SU47288407

Features: F09 High environmental value boundary, SI01 Uncommon Invertebrates, W04 Fens - BAP habitat

General description of the management required:

This option is aimed at the management of ditches of very high environmental value. These can occur in grassland, wetland and arable landscapes. The aim is to provide a variety of species-rich stages of natural succession, from open water, to ditches full of emergent species, and to maintain local historic landscape character. Target farmland birds, insects, plants and mammals will benefit from an improvement in the structure of ditches through sympathetic vegetation cutting regimes.

Indicators of Success

- Ditches must permanently contain water, between 0.1m and 1m deep, with a discernable but not fast flow from spring to autumn.
- There should be no more than 5% of the ditch length with heavy shade i.e where vegetation overhangs more than half the width of the channel surface.
- By year 5 at least 5 of the following quality indicator species should be occasional and at least 3 should be frequent: Southern Damselfly (*Coenagrion mercuriale*), Water Vole, Water Parsnip, Water Mint, Watercress, Fool's Watercress, Brooklime, Water Speedwell, Purple Loosestrife, Water Plantain, Branched Bur-reed, Water Forget-me-not, Marsh Marigold, Water Avens, Reedmace, Gypsywort, Lesser Spearwort, Yellow Flag, Reed Sweet-grass.
- Filamentous algae should be less than 5% cover.
- Non-native species (e.g. Water Fern, Australian Swamp Stonecrop, Parrot's Feather, Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam, Giant Hogweed, Floating Pennywort) should be absent (by year ???).]
- The water should be clear enough to allow the ditch bottom to be visible, unless obscured by aquatic vegetation, in at least 90% of the ditch length.
- The historic water meadow features should have suffered no further degradation.

Management Prescriptions; the dos and don'ts of management

The following rules apply across the whole area being managed under this option. For feature specific management requirements, see Annex

- Follow the agreed capital works programme within this agreement.
- Cut the emergent and aquatic vegetation on rotation every 2 years only if necessary to retain a central channel, leaving the roots in the base of the ditch. Place the arisings in the adjacent field and spread thinly to avoid smothering the underlying vegetation, or remove if in significant quantities. Retain a fringe of emergent vegetation on both sides of the ditch.
- Manage ditches and banks between 1 October and 28 February only.
- Do not re-profile the ditch unless agreed with your Natural England adviser.

- De-silt/dredge ditches to the profile agreed with your Natural England adviser no more than twice during your agreement (i.e. no more frequently than 1 year in 5), and where possible alternate sides so that one bank is left untouched on any occasion. Ditches should not be re-profiled deeper than their previous profile. Place the arisings in the adjacent field, spread thinly away from ditch banks, but avoiding in-filling hollows in the field, or where possible use as backfill for river restoration as agreed with your Natural England adviser. Silt should be levelled/harrowed when dry if necessary to encourage a suitable sward. Any subsequent re-growth of invasive weeds should be controlled using methods agreed with your Natural England adviser.
- Following ditch management works, bankside vegetation must be re-established by natural regeneration.
- Re-pollard trees as specified in the capital works programme.
- Remove scrub growing on the ditch banks using methods approved by your Natural England adviser.
- To protect the historic water meadow features do not place anything likely to cause ground disturbance on or near the features such as fences, feeders or water troughs.
- Do not cultivate or apply fertilisers, manures or pesticides to land within 2m of the centre of the ditch or 1m of the top of ditch banks.
- Only use mechanical means (including hand tools) to clean the ditches or trim the bank. Do not use herbicides.

HQ7 - Restoration of fen

Land parcels and associated features managed under this option:

RLR Field Number: SU47288407

Features: SI01 Uncommon Invertebrates, W04 Fens - BAP habitat

General description of the management required:

This item is targeted at restoring areas of fen typically dominated by rushes, sedges and wetland grasses that are in poor condition. Restoration management will restore and enhance the botanical diversity of the site. This option will also help protect archaeological sites, particularly organic remains. In addition it may, in the right situation, provide an area of flood storage and benefits to flood risk management. Where mowing and/or grazing is appropriate supplements HQ11 & HQ12 are available.

Indicators of Success

- All SSSI land should be in favourable or recovering condition.
- The surface should be 'squelchy' underfoot all year round.
- By year 5, at least 2 of the following positive indicator species for fen habitat should be at least occasional across the area of fen: Water mint, Wild Angelica, Gypsywort, Marsh/fen Bedstraw, Yellow Flag Iris, Water Forget-me-not, Purple loosestrife, Meadowsweet, Yellow Loosestrife, Marsh Cinquefoil, Lesser Spearwort, Reed Sweet-grass, Hemp Agrimony and Marsh Valerian.
- By year 3, the vegetation should be, on average, less than knee-high.
- By year 3, cover of scrub should be less than 10% across the area of fen.
- Cover of undesirable species (Creeping Thistle, Spear Thistle, Curled Dock, Broad-leaved Dock, Common Ragwort and Common Nettle) should be less than 5%.
- By year 5, wet ditches should have aquatic vegetation cover (submerged, floating and emergent) of between 25% and 75% of water area. This should include at least 2 of the following plant species Watercress, Fool's watercress, Water crowfoot, Reed sweet-grass, Branched Bur-reed, Water mint, Water forget-me-not, Lesser Water Parsnip, Hornwort, Water Dock, Brooklime, Purple loosestrife and Reedmace. Filamentous Algae should be less than 5% cover, duckweed should be less than 75% cover. Water levels should be between 15cm and 45cm below mean field level from May until September and no lower than 30cm below mean field level between October and April.
- The historic water meadow features should have suffered no further degradation.

Management Prescriptions; the dos and don'ts of management

The following rules apply across the whole area being managed under this option.

For feature specific management requirements, please see Annex

- Follow the agreed capital works programme within this agreement.
- Maintain fen in an open condition, with scattered trees and scrub covering no more than 10% of the fen area.
- Allow movement of water in the system to prevent stagnation in the ditches.
- Maintain culverts, sluices and hatches in good working order.
- Do not use poor quality water with high nutrient, salt or pollution concentrations to top up water levels.

- There must be no application of nutrients such as fertilisers, organic manures or waste materials (including sewage sludge).
- Do not allow any high nutrient load agricultural drains that intercept surface flow or groundwater seepage, to empty into fens.
- Cleaning of existing ditches and foot drains should be done no more than once every 5 years, between 15 September and 31 January, with any spoil to be spread thinly away from the bank. Any work to re-profile ditches should be agreed in writing with your Natural England adviser.
- To protect aquatic and marginal vegetation, cut ditch banks on rotation between 15 September and 28 February, so that each bank is not cut more than once in two years. Do not introduce cutting on previously uncut ditches and natural creeks without prior consultation with your Natural England adviser.
- Manage existing patches of scrub to maximise the length and shelter provided by the scrub margin, and to maintain a diversity of scrub type and shrub age classes. This is particularly important around the margins of the site.
- Cut scrub should be burned or removed off site. If burned, ensure there is no fire risk to surrounding vegetation and that no burning takes place on sites of archaeological interest or peat deposits. Only burn the cut material on degraded former wooded areas of the fen, on metal sheets raised off the ground, with ash removed from the site. Where required, cut stumps should be treated with an appropriate herbicide to prevent regrowth.

HQ12 - Wetland grazing supplement

Land parcels and associated features managed under this option:

RLR Field Number: SU47288407

Features: SI01 Uncommon Invertebrates, W04 Fens - BAP habitat

General description of the management required:

This supplement is used only with the fen, reedbed or lowland raised bog maintenance, restoration or creation options. The aim is to support a grazing regime where this is the most appropriate form of management for the habitat.

Indicators of Success

- Around 30% of the vegetation should be in tussocks or in patches over 50cm high.
- The vegetation should include a mosaic of shorter and / or taller plant species.
- The success of this supplement will also be judged on the achievement of the Indicators of Success for the option which it overlays i.e. restoration of fen (HQ7).

Management Prescriptions; the dos and don'ts of management

The following rules apply across the whole area being managed under this option.

- Graze the fen extensively with suitable, preferably traditional breed, cattle at stocking densities which remove the growth of vegetation and deliver the indicators of success for the HQ7 and HQ12 options. Stocking density should be adjusted to vegetation growth and ground conditions, but unless otherwise agreed with your Natural England advisor, should not normally exceed 1.0 LU/ha between April and October to minimise potential damage or disturbance to riverine habitats, wetland biodiversity and archaeological features. Extensive (rotational) grazing for longer periods is preferable to high stocking densities for short periods. Grazing in winter is unlikely to be appropriate in most years due to wet ground conditions, but in dry years extensive grazing with suitable lightweight cattle at low stocking density (less than 0.5 LU/ha) outside the growing season (e.g. October to late November or December and March to mid-April) can be very effective at reducing dense cover of sedges and other coarse vegetation. Maintain a record of stock numbers and types grazed to aid monitoring and review of the effects of grazing management on wetland/riverine habitats.
- Supplementary feeding is confined to the feeding of mineral and/or protein blocks. Feeding sites should be moved regularly and never placed on archaeological features.

HR4 - Supplement for control of invasive plant species

Land parcels and associated features managed under this option:

RLR Field Number: SU47288407

General description of the management required:

This supplement is aimed at sites on which there are particular problems with invasive species (e.g. rhododendron, Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed) that are damaging the feature of interest, and where a specific management control plan is necessary.

Indicators of Success

- By year 2, the cover of Himalayan Balsam should be less than 20% in the agreed area.
- By year 2, the extent of the infestation should be less than 50% of the field area.
- By year 10, the cover of Himalayan Balsam should be less than 2% in the agreed area.
- By year 10, the extent of the infestation should be less than 5% of the field area.

Management Prescriptions; the dos and don'ts of management

The following rules apply across the whole area being managed under this option.

- Control Himalayan Balsam by pulling / method agreed in writing with your Natural England adviser.
- Control any regrowth by pulling / applying herbicide.

PART 4

Capital works plan and payments

Schedule of works:

Works for each plan must be completed by the end date of the plan.

Plan no.	Code	Description	Location/ boundary reference	Grant rate (£)	Quantity to complete	Eligible grant (£)	Must be completed by:
2	CBT	Coppicing bankside trees	8407 CBT	29.00/item	20	580.00	Feb 2013
2	SW	Management of scrub on wet sites	8407 SWS	15960.00/ite m	1	15,960.00	Feb 2013
2	TS2	Tree Surgery major to include major pollarding	8407 TS2	89.00/item	3	267.00	Feb 2013
3	FSB2010	Sheep Fencing - newly restored boundary	8407 FSB/H	2.50/m	355.00 m	887.50	Feb 2014
3	GF	Wooden field/river gate	8407 GF	149.00/item	3	447.00	Feb 2014
3	SW	Management of scrub on wet sites	8407 SWS	39158.40/ite m	1	39,158.40	Feb 2014
3	DR	Ditch, dyke and rhine restoration	8407DRa	2.90/m	50.00 m	145.00	Feb 2014
3	DR	Ditch, dyke and rhine restoration	8407DRb	2.90/m	110.00 m	319.00	Feb 2014
3	DR	Ditch, dyke and rhine restoration	8407DRc	2.90/m	50.00 m	145.00	Feb 2014
3	DR	Ditch, dyke and rhine restoration	8407DRd	2.90/m	175.00 m	507.50	Feb 2014
3	DR	Ditch, dyke and rhine restoration	8407DRe	2.90/m	175.00 m	507.50	Feb 2014
Total payment:						58,923.90	

Failure to complete and submit a claim for items by the date shown may be considered by Natural England as a breach of your agreement and you may have to repay any grant received, including payments for annual options.

PART 4

Capital works plan and payments

Claim profile:

The work values and the periods in which they are expected to be completed are shown in the following table. You will be expected to complete works at least equal to this amount.

Period(s) during which work needs to be completed	Value of work to be completed
01/03/12 to 28/02/13	0.00
01/03/13 to 28/02/14	0.00
01/03/14 to 28/02/15	0.00
01/03/15 to 29/02/16	0.00
01/03/16 to 28/02/17	0.00
01/03/17 to 28/02/18	0.00
01/03/18 to 28/02/19	0.00
01/03/19 to 29/02/20	0.00
01/03/20 to 28/02/21	0.00
01/03/21 to 28/02/22	0.00
Total payment	0.00

PART 5

Capital works specifications

Introduction

The specifications set out below describe the minimum standard of work for the capital items set out in Part 4 of your Environmental Stewardship Agreement. If you do not follow these specifications we cannot pay you for the work.

All capital works must be completed and maintained to the standard required to perform their intended function for the duration of the agreement.

If this agreement replaces an existing or expired CSS, ESA or ES agreement, you must take all reasonable care to protect, for the duration of this new agreement, any capital works which you have completed and for which you have been paid under that agreement.

Health and Safety

The requirements of health and safety and other current legislation and codes of practice must be observed in all work undertaken, in particular in all cases where pesticides are used.

Permissions

The offer of a Stewardship agreement is a permission from Natural England to undertake the work on SSSI land under Section 28E of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). However, additional permissions from other organisations may be required. The following are examples of permissions that may be necessary:

- On a Scheduled Ancient Monument - Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent, from English Heritage.
- Pond creation, restoration, scrape creation, restoration, and ditch work - may require an Impoundment Licence or Abstraction Licence from the Environment Agency, Planning Permission from the planning authority, and permission from the Internal Drainage Board where these are present.
- Obstructions to water courses or in the floodplain. This includes disposal of spoil from ditches, scrapes and ponds, tree planting, otter holts, car parking, erecting sluices and river gates and fencing - permission from the Environment Agency.
- Works in a Conservation Area - consent from the Planning Authority
- Tree Preservation Order - consent from the local authority
- Tree felling, pollarding, hedgerow works, coppicing bankside trees - may require a felling licence from the Forestry Commission.
- Chemical bracken control - near water course will require permission from the Environment Agency
- Areas for parking cars, hard standing, earthworks - may require planning permission from the Planning Authority

- Proposed changes to the existing type of stile or gate on a right of way - consent from the Highway Authority

COPPICING BANKSIDE TREES

Coppicing

Trees must be cut cleanly between 7.5cm and 15cm above ground level, or as appropriate. Cuts must be angled to allow water to run off.

Where necessary adequate protection must be provided from livestock, deer and rabbits to allow the stool to re-grow.

Disposal of Cut Material

Thin branches and twigs may be burnt on site or used as a protective material to prevent browsing. Bonfire sites must be far enough away from trees to avoid causing damage and at least 10m from the crown of any tree. Burning must not take place on areas of species rich grassland, anthills or other ecological or archaeological features. Burning on a metal sheet reduces damage to the soil and makes it easier to remove ash from the site. The area must be cleaned up as soon as possible after burning. As the site regenerates the growth of nettle, thistle, dock, ragwort and other weed species must be controlled.

Do not burn other cut material on site. Either remove it from the site or tidy it into piles. Do not use any patches of ground where disposal could damage ecological or archaeological features.

You should ensure any relevant consents are gained before carrying out the work e.g. Felling licences from the Forestry Commission or consent relating to Tree Preservation Orders from the Local Authority.

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DITCH, DYKE AND RHINE RESTORATION

General

Ditches restored under this option should not lead to the drainage of waterlogged land or the drying out of archaeological features.

The channel must be surveyed for protected species e.g. water voles, white-clawed crayfish and rare plants before work commences.

The ditch restoration specification (channel and bank profile, timing and phasing of works) must be agreed with your Natural England contact before work commences.

You should ensure any relevant consents are gained before carrying out the work e.g. consent from the Internal Drainage Board or Land Drainage Consent from the Environment Agency.

Timing

Work must be carried out between July and the end of January, preferably between August and October. Timing will depend on whether there are any key species present in the ditch. For instance, if water voles are present then the work must not be undertaken between 1 April and 1 October. It is an offence to disturb water vole habitat under the Wildlife and Countryside Act and advice should be sought from the Environment Agency.

Restoration

If the ditch is of historic interest then it should not be re-profiled or cut deeper than the original profile. Great care must be exercised to avoid damaging the original profile with any dredging or clearance. If you are in doubt as to the importance of the ditch please contact your Natural England contact. Do not disturb iron-rich peat soils as this can cause leaching of iron hydroxide, which is toxic to plants and invertebrates.

Work is to be undertaken from one bank in an upstream direction. Only half of the ditch may be restored in any one year. This may be either one side of the ditch along its full length or ideally, alternate 100m sections along both sides. This will retain a proportion of undisturbed habitat.

Retain any in-channel features such as gravel beds, riffles and natural meanders. Where the ditch is being re-profiled create a variety of depths in the channel (ideally 70-100cm) grading to a shallow, wet, marginal fringe. This will maximise conditions for aquatic plants and animals. The profile of the bank slope should vary along the length of the ditch with most of the slopes between 30-45 degrees. Shallow ditch profiles will also enable efficient flow of water from the field to ditch and provide good cattle drinking sites. However, both water voles and crayfish require steep sections of bank.

Berms, or underwater 'steps', can be created along the sides of the ditch to create a linear habitat of emergent vegetation. This can be particularly valuable for ditches designed to improve water quality.

Straw bales or suitable geotextile material should be secured at the downstream end of the ditch during dredging or re-profiling works. This will help filter out silt caused by the ditch works and prevent it flowing directly into a stream or river and damaging river life. These can be removed when any silt in the water has settled.

The disposal of dredgings must be agreed with your Natural England contact. Spoil can be used to fill in low points in ditches, gateways or embankments and soft soils may be spread thinly over the field using a muck spreader. Do not infill wet hollows or deposit spoil on sites of archaeological importance and do not smother bank side or field habitats. Do not create ditch edge embankments as these impede water flows on and off the fields. Cut vegetation must be far enough away from the top of the ditch bank to prevent decaying material from falling in and polluting the ditch. Pesticides must not be used to control aquatic plants and bank side vegetation.

Fencing

Where protective fencing adjoins or is replaced alongside the ditch, this must be placed at least 1m away from the edge of the bank top. If the ditch is maintained by an IDB then they should be consulted prior to any new fencing works being undertaken.

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SHEEP FENCING

General

All types of fencing should be erected in accordance with British Standard 1722. Before erecting new fencing, all old fencing material must be removed. New fencing should be put up in straight lines, between strainer posts. Strainer posts should be used at each end of the fence and at each corner and turning point. They may also be necessary where there is a significant difference in gradient. All softwood timber must be fully peeled and tanalised or treated with an approved preservative. Durable hardwood, such as oak or sweet chestnut, may be used and does not require treatment with preservatives. Square section timber can be used as an alternative to round sections. Timber sizes quoted are minimum requirements. Barbed wire should not be used where fencing runs alongside access routes, unless this is unavoidable.

New fencing should avoid sites of archaeological or historic importance. You should ensure any relevant consents are gained before carrying out the work e.g. Scheduled Monument consent from English Heritage.

Fences must be maintained to this specification for the life of the agreement.

Sheep Fencing

The fence must be at least 1.05 metres high. If extra height is required, this should be obtained by fixing additional strands of plain or barbed wire.

Wire should be galvanised and comply with BS 4102.

Straining posts should be at least: 125mm top diameter, or 100mm x 100mm cross-section sawn; 2.15 metres long if not set in concrete, or 1.85 metres if in concrete. The spacing between strainer posts should not exceed 150 metres where mild steel line wire is used, or 300 metres for high tensile wire.

Struts should be at least: 80mm top diameter, or 75mm x 75mm if sawn; 1.9 metres long if not set in concrete and at least 1.6 metres where set in concrete. Struts should be notched into the straining post at an angle of no more than 45 degrees.

Intermediate posts should be 65mm top diameter, or 75mm x 75mm if sawn, 1.7 metres long, and spaced no further than 3.5 metres apart.

WOODEN FIELD GATE

The field gate must be erected in accordance with British Standard 3470 and should be made of timber, unless agreed otherwise with your Natural England contact. All timber must be fully peeled and tanalised or treated with an approved preservative.

The gate must be soundly framed and constructed in a traditional and appropriate local style. The height must correspond to the adjoining fence and the gate must be fitted with the appropriate fittings required for its operation.

Where there is no local style a standard style can be used as follows:

Width of gate - up to 3 metres/over 3 metres

Top rail - 100mm x 75mm/125mm x 75mm

tapered to - 75mm x 75mm/75mm x 75mm

Under rails - 75mm x 25mm/75mm x 25mm

Braces - 75mm x 25mm/75mm x 25mm

Hanging stile - 100mm x 75mm/125mm x 75mm

Shutting stile - 75mm x 75mm/75mm x 75mm

The gate must be hung and clapped independently of the adjoining fence line i.e. the hanging post must not be used as an end strainer.

Gate posts should either be set at least 900mm into the ground and surrounded with concrete at least 450x450x600mm deep; or, where ground conditions are suitable, may be erected without concrete surrounds and should be set at least 1.1 metre below the ground surface with the soil well compacted around the posts in 150mm layers. The top of the posts should be weather capped.

New gateposts should avoid sites of archaeological interest. You should ensure any relevant consents are gained before carrying out the work e.g. Schedule Monument consent from English Heritage.

The gate should be maintained in good condition for the life of the agreement.

MANAGEMENT OF SCRUB ON WET SITES

Please refer to your management plan.

Tree Removal

Works should proceed in three phases, to minimise disturbance to land and associated species (especially bats)

Thinning of poplars with stump treatment to prevent regrowth.

Burning of arisings from SSSI/SAC on metal sheets raised off the ground on wooden pallets, with ash removed from the site.

Scrub Management

Timing

Work must be done between 1 September and 31 March, outside the bird-nesting season.

Scrub control

Techniques for removing scrub include flailing, using a chain saw and clearing some species (e.g. birch or pine) by hand. Controlling scrub by burning is not acceptable unless it is specifically agreed with your Natural England contact.

Cut scrub down to ground level without disturbing the roots and leaving no protruding stems, except for Alder, Gorse and Aspen, which may be coppiced. Care must be taken to avoid uprooting adjacent grassland or heathland plants. Stumps must not be removed unless specifically agreed with your Natural England contact. In exceptional circumstances and where agreed with your Natural England contact, it may be necessary to remove large stumps using mechanical equipment. Under no circumstances is scrub burning or stump removal to be undertaken on sites of archaeological interest.

Controlling scrub regrowth

Regrowth should be controlled for the duration of the agreement only where the aim of the work is scrub reduction or eradication. Management work to diversify the age range and structural diversity of scrub stands may be seeking to encourage growth from cut stumps. This detail should be included within the management plan.

Where regrowth is to be controlled it may be achieved by mechanical methods such as flailing or livestock grazing, or by chemical treatment. In cases where herbicides are applied to control regrowth you must observe the requirements of current legislation. You must also refer to the manufacturer's guidance on application rates and safety requirements. Herbicides must be applied with extreme care to ensure the grassland or heath vegetation is not affected.

Disposal of cut material

Dispose of cut material by removing it from the site, tidying it into piles or burning. Bonfire sites must be far enough away from trees to avoid causing damage and at least 10m from the crown of any tree. Burning sites and piles of wood must not be on patches of ground where they could damage species rich grassland, anthills or other ecological or archaeological features. The area used for burning must be agreed in advance with your Natural England contact and cleaned up as soon as possible after burning. Burning on a metal sheet reduces damage to the soil and makes it easier to remove ash from the site. As the site regenerates the growth of nettle, thistle, dock, ragwort and other weed species must be controlled.

TREE SURGERY MAJOR TO INCLUDE MAJOR POLLARDING

General

Major tree surgery, including pollarding, must only be carried out in accordance with advice from an arboricultural expert. You must ensure an appropriately qualified expert is consulted and their advice is followed when the work is carried out.

You should ensure any relevant consents are gained before carrying out the work e.g. consent relating to Tree Preservation Orders from the Local Authority.

The surgery must be done between October and March. The tree must be cut cleanly close to a stem. The cuts must be angled so that they slope away from the centre of the crown and allow water to run off.

Tree surgery

Tree surgery applies to mature, fully grown trees. Major tree surgery may apply to work where cutting of limbs over 20cms diameter is required.

Pollarding

You may reintroduce restoration cutting where the practice of pollarding trees has lapsed. Pollarding to an ancient tree can kill it if not done carefully.

Disposal of Cut Material

All material should be retained on site as close to the tree as possible. Alternatively it may be relocated to an alternative similar situation. Where the material is from veteran or ancient trees then all material should be retained on site as close to the tree as possible, especially large diameter cut wood.

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PART 6

Grassland management

Where this Agreement includes grassland management, you must maintain the areas of permanent grassland, and at least 80% of the area of temporary grassland, on your farm* as set out below for the duration of your agreement.

In addition, you must not over-graze or under-utilise any of these areas and you must not exceed the maximum stocking density as also set out below.

Permanent grassland (RLR field number)	Total area of field (ha)
SU47288407	2.20
Total permanent grassland	2.20
Total temporary grassland	0.00
Total area of grassland (permanent + temporary)	2.20

Maximum stocking density for your farm permitted under this Agreement Lu/Ha	2
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* "Farm" means the coherent area of land which is managed under the charge of the Agreement Holder for the period of this Agreement. Land occupied under short term tenancies and temporary grass keeps should not be included.