

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Entry Level and Higher Level Stewardship Agreement

Agreement number AG00355346

This Agreement is between Mere Parish Council
of

Duchy Manor
Springfield Road
Mere
Warminster
Wiltshire
BA12 6EW

and Natural England
of

South West
Natural England
First Floor, Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6EB

This Agreement covers all of the land parcels listed on the table entitled 'Parcel based options summary' at Part 2A.

This Agreement will run from 01/09/2011 to 31/08/2021.

Natural England agrees to pay you according to the schedules in Part 1 and 4.

This Agreement is made up of the following parts:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Part 1A | ELS annual payments |
| Part 1B | Annual payment schedule for HLS options (excluding capital works) |
| Part 1C | Annual payment schedule for all options (excluding capital items) |
| Part 2A | Parcel based options summary |
| Part 2B | Whole farm, rotational, farm buildings and access base payment options |
| Part 3 | HLS Management of Environmental Features - Specific options, prescriptions and Indicators of Success |
| Part 4 | HLS Capital Works Plan and payments (if applicable) |
| Part 5 | Capital works specifications (if applicable) |
| Part 6 | Grassland Management |
| Part 7 | Maps, including Historic Environment Features map |

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		0	0	0
Area of parcels of 15 ha or more above the Moorland Line		0	0	0

Annual Payment £0.00

Total Target Points

Actual Points

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:
1	SA	Scrub management < 25% cover	AREA 1	228.00/ha	1.20 ha	273.60	Sep 2012
1	SC	Scrub management > 75% cover	AREA 2,3,4	583.00/ha	0.60 ha	349.80	Sep 2012
1	FDS	Fencing supplement - difficult sites	FSB/FDS	2.50/m	1245.00 m	3,112.50	Sep 2012
1	FSB2010	Sheep Fencing - newly restored boundary	FSB/FDS	2.50/m	1245.00 m	3,112.50	Sep 2012
1	GK2010	Kissing gate	GK1	245.00/item	1	245.00	Sep 2012
1	GK2010	Kissing gate	GK2	245.00/item	1	245.00	Sep 2012
1	GK2010	Kissing gate	GK3	245.00/item	1	245.00	Sep 2012
1	PAH	Professional help with an implementation plan	PAH 5560	400.00/item	1	400.00	Sep 2012
1	SBB	Bat / Bird box	SBB 5560	28.00/item	18	504.00	Sep 2012
1	SS	Scrub Control - Base Payment	SS 5560	76.00/item	1	76.00	Sep 2012
1	WS	Water supply	WS 5560	2.00/m	205.00 m	410.00	Sep 2012
1	OES	Special Projects		897.00/item	1	897.00	Sep 2012
2	SC	Scrub management > 75% cover	AREA 3	583.00/ha	0.50 ha	291.50	Sep 2013
2	SC	Scrub management > 75% cover	AREA 4	583.00/ha	0.70 ha	408.10	Sep 2013
2	SS	Scrub Control - Base Payment	SS 5560	76.00/item	1	76.00	Sep 2013
3	SC	Scrub management > 75% cover	AREA 2	583.00/ha	0.70 ha	408.10	Sep 2014
3	SBB	Bat / Bird box	SBB 5560	28.00/item	2	56.00	Sep 2014
3	SS	Scrub Control - Base Payment	SS 5560	76.00/item	1	76.00	Sep 2014
4	SA	Scrub management < 25% cover	AREA 5	228.00/ha	0.30 ha	68.40	Sep 2016
4	TRE	Tree removal	AREA 5	25.00/m ³	12.00 m ³	300.00	Sep 2016

4	SB	Scrub management 25% - 75% cover	AREA 6	376.00/ha	0.40 ha	150.40	Sep 2016
4	TRE	Tree removal	AREA 6	25.00/m3	9.00 m3	225.00	Sep 2016
4	SS	Scrub Control - Base Payment	SS 5560	76.00/item	1	76.00	Sep 2016
Total payment:						12,005.90	

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.

Claim profile:

The following is the value of the work expected to be completed in each year of your agreement. You will be expected to complete works at least equal to this amount.

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
9,870.40	775.60	540.10	409.90	409.90

Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Total payment:	12,005.90
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PART 1C

Annual payment schedule for all options (excluding capital items)

	ELS payment	HLS payment	Total payment
Year 1	£0.00	£1,479.50	£1,479.50
Year 2	£0.00	£1,573.50	£1,573.50
Year 3	£0.00	£1,667.50	£1,667.50
Year 4	£0.00	£1,761.50	£1,761.50
Year 5	£0.00	£1,761.50	£1,761.50
Year 6	£0.00	£1,761.50	£1,761.50
Year 7	£0.00	£1,761.50	£1,761.50
Year 8	£0.00	£1,761.50	£1,761.50
Year 9	£0.00	£1,761.50	£1,761.50
Year 10	£0.00	£1,761.50	£1,761.50

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.

HK7 - Restoration of species-rich, semi-natural grassland

Land parcels and associated features managed under this option:

RLR Field Number: ST80325560

Features: G04 Lowland calcareous grassland - BAP habitat, G11 Habitat for invertebrates, H01 Above ground historic feature, SI01 Uncommon Invertebrates

RLR Field Number: ST80329854

Features: G04 Lowland calcareous grassland - BAP habitat, G11 Habitat for invertebrates, H01 Above ground historic feature, SI01 Uncommon Invertebrates

General description of the management required:

This option is targeted at grasslands that are potentially rich in plant and associated animal life. They are often on difficult ground and may have suffered from management neglect or they may have been selected for agricultural improvement. The botanical diversity of such grassland may be enhanced by simply amending existing management practices. However, on many sites pro-active restoration management will be required involving introduction of seeds and creation of gaps for their establishment. Substantial changes of livestock type, timing of grazing or control of dominant species may also be required. The option can also contribute to protecting valued landscapes and archaeology, and the promotion of good soil conditions.

Indicators of Success

- The extent of the habitats and features of interest within the grassland / scrub mosaic should be maintained or increased in 9854, and progressively increased in 5560 as set out in the scrub management plan and shown in the detailed habitat maps provided with the agreement. The options map (part 7 of the agreement) shows the planned extent of G04 habitat in 5560 by year 5 of the agreement.
- The Soil Phosphate Index should be 0 or 1.
- By year 5, at least 2 high-value indicator species for BAP grassland habitat G04 (see list below) should be frequent and 2 occasional in the sward.
- By year 5, cover of wildflowers in the sward (excluding undesirable species but including rushes and sedges), should be between 20% and 90%. At least 40% of wild flowers should be flowering during May-July.
- By year 5, cover of invasive trees and shrubs (including Sycamore / Blackthorn / Bramble / Ash / Elder) should be less than 5% on 9854 and 10% on HK7 areas in 5560.
- By year 2 on 9854 and year 5 on 5560, cover of bare ground should be between 1% and 5%, distributed throughout the field in hoof prints or other small patches.
- Archaeological features have suffered no further degradation. The depth of soil covering the features has been maintained. Detrimental indicators (e.g. burrows, bare patches, scrub growth, poaching and erosion) cover less than 5% of the area. By year 3, cover of scrub on the features is reduced by 100%.

Management Prescriptions; the dos and don'ts of management

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

- Follow the agreed management plan to be produced in Year 1 and the capital works programme which forms part of this agreement.
- In 5660 the area in HK7 management will be progressively increased during the first four years of the agreement, as set out in the scrub management plan and shown in the detailed habitat maps provided with the agreement. Part 2a of the agreement shows the year-on-year increase in the area in HK7.
- From year 1 on 5560, manage the sward by grazing to achieve a sward height of between 2cm and 10cm in October.
- On 9854 manage the grassland to achieve the indicators by cutting after 31 August and removing all arisings. If spring grass growth is extensive it may also be necessary to cut in late April. Scrub regrowth must be controlled by hand cutting between 1 October and 28 February and treating stumps with herbicide. Dispose of cut material by removing it from the site. Controlling scrub by burning is not acceptable unless specifically agreed with your Natural England contact.
- There must be no application of nutrients such as fertilisers, organic manures or waste materials including sewage sludge.
- Supplementary feeding is not permitted.
- Control undesirable species such as Creeping Thistle / Spear Thistle / Curled Dock / Broad-leaved Dock / Common Ragwort / Common Nettle so that by year 3, their cover is less than 5% of the area. Agree all methods of control with your Natural England adviser.
- Do not install new drainage or modify existing drainage systems unless agreed in writing with your Natural England adviser.
- Ploughing, sub-surface cultivation and reseeded are not permitted. Chain harrowing or rolling are not permitted.
- Field operations and stocking must not damage the soil structure or cause heavy poaching. Small areas of bare ground on up to 5% of the field are acceptable. Take particular care when the land is waterlogged.
- Retain all standing and fallen dead wood unless it presents a genuine safety hazard.
- To protect the archaeological features do not place anything likely to cause ground disturbance on or near the features such as fences, feeders, water troughs. Do not locate access routes on or near the features. Maintain under permanent grassland cover. Do not allow the development of burrows. Remove scrub / trees as set out in the management plan, but leave stumps in situ to rot.

Indicator species for BAP habitat G04 – lowland calcareous grassland

Betony	Greater knapweed	Purple milk-vetch
Beautiful St John's wort	Hairy violet	Restharrow
Bird's foot trefoil	Harebell	Rough/lesser hawkbit
Carline thistle	Hoary plantain	Salad burnet
Clustered bellflower	Hoary rockrose	Saw-wort
Common rockrose	Horseshoe vetch	Small scabious
Cowslip	Kidney vetch	Squinancywort
Dropwort	Lady's bedstraw	Stemless thistle
Devil's bit scabious	Marjoram	Thyme leaved sandwort
Eyebright	Milkworts	Wild basil
Fairy flax	Mouse-ear hawkweed	Wild thyme
Field scabious	Orchids	Yellow-wort
Gentians	Ox-eye daisy	

HR1 - Supplement for cattle grazing

Land parcels and associated features managed under this option:

RLR Field Number: ST80325560

Features: G04 Lowland calcareous grassland - BAP habitat, G11 Habitat for invertebrates, H01 Above ground historic feature, SI01 Uncommon Invertebrates

General description of the management required:

This supplement is aimed at promoting grazing by cattle where this is likely to be beneficial in meeting environmental objectives. Cattle grazing produces a more varied sward structure than sheep grazing and is often better for diversity of plants, invertebrates and birds. Cattle treading also creates patches of bare soil where new plants can establish.

Indicators of Success

- The success of this supplement will be judged on achievement of Indicators of Success for the option which it overlays.

Management Prescriptions; the dos and don'ts of management

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

- Cattle will be the only or main grazing species from 1 April to 31 October. They will comprise at least 70% of the livestock unit grazing days on the parcel.

PART 4

Capital works plan and payments

Schedule of works:

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1	FSB2010	Sheep Fencing - newly restored boundary	FSB/FDS	2.50/m	1245.00 m	3,112.50	Sep 2012
1	GK2010	Kissing gate	GK1	245.00/item	1	245.00	Sep 2012
1	GK2010	Kissing gate	GK2	245.00/item	1	245.00	Sep 2012
1	GK2010	Kissing gate	GK3	245.00/item	1	245.00	Sep 2012
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Claim profile:

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Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Total payment:	12,005.90
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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

FENCING SUPPLEMENT - DIFFICULT SITES

The fencing associated with this supplement must be carried out to the relevant specification. The supplement is towards the extra work involved on particularly difficult sites e.g. where steep slopes prevent machine access, or underlying rock or topography requires additional posts.

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.

KISSING GATE

A kissing gate provides less restrictive access than a stile. The gate must be adequately stockproof while providing good access for all legitimate users. Work should be carried out to the standard required to safely perform its intended function for the duration of the agreement. The design must be appropriate to the area and sympathetic to the landscape setting.

You should ensure any relevant consents are gained before carrying out the work e.g. Scheduled Monument consent from English Heritage. The location and construction of the kissing gate must not damage any sites of archaeological, historic or ecological interest.

The kissing gate must be constructed to BS 5709. Timber must be sound and tanalised or treated with an appropriate preservative. Untreated larch is acceptable. No barbed wire, nails or rough sawn edges should be left exposed.

The minimum dimensions must be:

Height 1.0m - 1.2m

Keep width: 1.3m

Length of fence: 2.3m

Gate width: 1.0m

The guardrails must be at least 700mm apart and there must be at least 400mm gap for people to use when the gate is in mid-position.

The hanging and shutting posts must be adequately embedded in the ground and the gate must be hung so that it swings shut with a self-closing action.

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

SPECIAL PROJECT

Work carried out as a Special Project must follow the specifications or brief given below:

This item is to support the cost of connection to the mains water supply. (Installation

of a water supply pipeline will be funded separately through the agreement as capital item WS.)

Natural England will pay 80% of the agreed cost of the mains water connection.

An amount of £897, being 80% of the works price of £1122 quoted by Wessex Water, has been included in the Capital Works Plan. The final payment made by Natural England will be no higher than this, but may be less if the actual cost of the work is less than anticipated.

A receipted invoice must be supplied to Natural England as evidence of the final cost of the work.

The water supply connection work must be completed during year 1 of the agreement.

MANAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION

A management plan must be prepared following the brief given below. The plan should be submitted to your Natural England contact by 31 October 2011. Any work identified in the management plan must not be started until it has been agreed with your Natural England contact.

Scrub management plan

1. In Year 1 produce a Scrub Management Plan to support the capital works options SA, SB, SC and TRE in 5560.

2. The Plan should clarify the scrub management strategy under HLS, its relevance to the HLS priorities and relationship to the HLS options, indicators of success and prescriptions within which the Management Plan is set.

3. The Plan should set out the scrub management strategy for the RLR parcel covered by the above options, to include the following:

- Identification of environmental features
- Any management or other constraints applying to the environmental features
- Current condition and target condition
- Overall aim and management priorities
- Specific management work to be undertaken during the period of the agreement
- Indicators of success
- Maps to identify current condition and extent of relevant habitats, management actions, and target condition and extent of habitats

4. The Plan should draw on existing sources of information, including the Farm Environment Plan and relevant supporting material.

5. Locations for scrub management and tree removal options (Areas 1-6) are shown on the 'current habitats and work areas' map included with the agreement.

6. All scrub management and tree removal work should be in accordance with the relevant prescriptions in the capital works specifications (part 5 of the agreement).

7. The draft Scrub Management Plan will be submitted for approval by Natural England by 31 October 2011.

SCRUB MANAGEMENT SA: <25% COVER

General

For the purposes of this grant, scrub means any woody shrubs including European gorse, bramble and young trees. Dwarf and Western gorse are integral components of heathland and should not be included in this item.

A management plan is usually required before carrying out work on significant areas of scrub. The plan must be agreed in advance with your Natural England contact and the work carried out accordingly.

You must ensure any relevant consents are obtained before carrying out the work e.g. consent from English Heritage for work on a Scheduled Monument and the Natural England SSSI specialist for work in a SSSI.

Timing

Work must be done between 1 October and 28 February, 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. 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.

Locations for individual scrub management options are shown on the 'current habitats and work areas' map included with the agreement (Areas 1-6).

SCRUB MANAGEMENT: SB (25% - 75% COVER)

General

For the purposes of this grant, scrub means any woody shrubs including European gorse, bramble and young trees. Dwarf and Western gorse are integral components of heathland and should not be included in this item.

A management plan is usually required before carrying out work on significant areas of scrub. The plan must be agreed in advance with your Natural England contact and the work carried out accordingly.

You must ensure any relevant consents are obtained before carrying out the work e.g. consent from English Heritage for work on a Scheduled Monument and the Natural England SSSI specialist for work in a SSSI.

Timing

Work must be done between 1 October and 28 February, 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. 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.

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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.

Locations for individual scrub management options are shown on the 'current habitats and work areas' map included with the agreement (Areas 1-6).

BAT BOX

General

Bat boxes provide artificial sites where bats can roost during the day and perhaps rear young. They can be beneficial in sites with few natural tree holes. Bat boxes are mainly used between spring and autumn, but there are also occasional records of winter use of larger boxes.

Design and Construction of boxes

Bat boxes should be large enough to allow a maternity colony to cluster to conserve heat and keep warm.

The box must be well built, dry, rainproof and draught free. There should be no gaps where the sides and top join.

A bat box that cannot be opened from the top is best, as it will have fewer gaps for draughts, and will lessen the chances of the bats being disturbed. Bats may unintentionally be injured if the box is opened, for example by damaging their feet and legs.

The entrance slit must be at the base of the box (at the front or back) and should be no more than 15-20mm wide.

If the box is made of wood do not use any wood preservatives as these may be harmful to bats. An untreated box will last for approximately 10 years and weathered boxes are likely to be more attractive to bats. The wood should be rough sawn on all surfaces so that bats can easily land and crawl into the box. The wood should be about 25mm thick. Fit the parts together using waterproof glue, screws or nails. The lid can be snapped into a groove on the back plate and should be screwed down. Boxes made of woodcrete (a mixture of wood and concrete) can be used. These have been very successful in attracting bats; they have good thermal insulation properties and provide more stable temperatures than wooden boxes. They also have a longer life than wooden boxes and are more resistant to attack by woodpeckers or squirrels.

Location of boxes

Locate the box at a site where bats are known to feed and which is sheltered from strong winds and exposed to the sun for at least part of the day. The site should also be close to a linear vegetation feature such as a tree line or hedgerow. Some bat species use these features for navigation between their roosting site and feeding ground and to avoid flying in open and exposed areas.

Ideally, put up two or three boxes close together facing in different directions to provide a range of temperature conditions. For example, boxes facing from southeast to south-west allow the sun to fall on each

box for part of the day. During very

hot

days a south-facing box may overheat, but

the other boxes should have some

shade

during the day.

Bat boxes can be located on trees or buildings. Place boxes as high as possible, some species e.g. Noctules, prefer roosts at least 5.0m above ground. Placing boxes high up will reduce the likelihood of interference from cats or humans. The box should be sited in a position that is free from overhanging branches or other obstructions so that there is a clear flight path.

Fixing

Wherever possible strap the box to the tree using wire with hose or rubber to prevent damage to the tree. Try to avoid nailing boxes to trees but if this is necessary, use headless nails not fully hammered home to allow the tree to push the box off without splitting. Aluminium nails will not harm the tree or damage chainsaws that might be used should the tree require surgery later on. As trees are continually growing,

fixings should be checked each year and boxes made secure.

The bat box must be maintained in good condition (or replaced if damaged or lost) for the duration of the agreement.

Wildlife and Countryside Act

Bats and their roosts are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, making it an offence to disturb, handle or kill bats. You must have a licence from Natural England to inspect bat boxes that have been or are being used by bats.

Quantity/position

Ten bat boxes will be installed in the areas which are to remain as closed canopy woodland.

BIRD BOX

Nest boxes are excellent substitutes for holes in old trees.

Location

Site the box away from bird feeders or places where cats and squirrels have easy access. Choose a location where it will also be out of the sun during the middle of the day.

Construction

The nest box must be designed for the type of bird you are trying to encourage, which must be agreed with your Natural England contact. The box must be weatherproof and ideally should have small drainage holes in the floor.

A wooden box should be made of wood that is at least 15mm thick.

Make sure the lid cannot be removed by a cat or squirrel. A metal plate around the entrance hole may stop squirrels and woodpeckers from enlarging the hole and eating the nestlings.

Wherever possible strap the box to the tree using wire with hose or rubber to prevent damage to the tree. Aluminium nails will not harm the tree or damage chainsaws that might be used should the tree require surgery later on. As trees are continually growing fixings should be checked each year.

Clean the nest box out in the autumn (October and November), unless hibernating or roosting bats are using the box as they must not be disturbed.

It is illegal to disturb some birds whilst they are breeding and you may need a licence to inspect the box.

The nest box must be maintained in good condition (or replaced if damaged or lost) for the duration of the agreement.

Quantity/position

Ten bird boxes suitable for small woodland birds will be installed in the areas which are to remain as closed canopy woodland.

SCRUB MANAGEMENT: SC (> 75% COVER)

General

For the purposes of this grant, scrub means any woody shrubs including European gorse, bramble and young trees. Dwarf and Western gorse are integral components of heathland and should not be included in this item.

A management plan is usually required before carrying out work on significant areas of scrub. The plan must be agreed in advance with your Natural England contact and the work carried out accordingly.

You must ensure any relevant consents are obtained before carrying out the work e.g. consent from English Heritage for work on a Scheduled Monument and the Natural England SSSI specialist for work in a SSSI.

Timing

Work must be done between 1 October and 28 February, 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. 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

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remove ash from the site. As the site regenerates the growth of nettle, thistle, dock, ragwort and other weed species must be controlled.

Locations for individual scrub management options are shown on the 'current habitats and work areas' map included with the agreement (Areas 1-6).

SCRUB MANAGEMENT: SS – BASE PAYMENT

General

For the purposes of this grant, scrub means any woody shrubs including European gorse, bramble and young trees. Dwarf and Western gorse are integral components of heathland and should not be included in this item.

A management plan is usually required before carrying out work on significant areas of scrub. The plan must be agreed in advance with your Natural England contact and the work carried out accordingly.

You must ensure any relevant consents are obtained before carrying out the work e.g. consent from English Heritage for work on a Scheduled Monument and the Natural England SSSI specialist for work in a SSSI.

Timing

Work must be done between 1 October and 28 February, 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. 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 REMOVAL

Trees should be felled and cleared as agreed with your Natural England contact. 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.

Disposal of Felled Material

Felled trees are to be removed from site. In certain circumstances and where agreed with your Natural England contact, some wood may be left stacked on site for wildlife habitat.

Thin branches and twigs may be burnt or scattered on site. Bonfire sites must be far enough away from any remaining 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.

Follow the agreed management plan to be produced in Year 1 of this agreement. Locations for tree removal options (Areas 5 and 6) are shown on the 'current habitats and work areas' map included with the agreement.

WATER SUPPLY

General

The water supply must be capable of supplying sufficient cold drinkable water throughout the year and be able to continuously refill all the water troughs along its entire length. Work must be carried out by competent persons and must comply with the appropriate British Standards, provisions of water bylaws and the requirements of any relevant Statutory Authorities. The agreement holder is responsible for obtaining any statutory approvals, including inspections, related to the work. You should ensure any relevant consents are gained before carrying out the work.

Pipework

All pipework, connections and delivery systems must conform to British Standard 6572. Pipes laid underground must be buried to a minimum depth of 750mm. Pipe laying may be done by trenching, mole plough or sub-soiler, depending on soil type and machinery available. The ground must be reinstated to original levels with the top soil returned to the surface. Where open ditches are crossed, the pipe must be covered by a tubular steel guard or sleeve pipe and laid 600 mm below the ditch bottom to allow for ditch cleaning. Where farm tracks are crossed, the water pipe must lay on a 75mm bed of sand and be covered by sand to a depth of 100mm before being overlain by backfill.

The water supply must be controlled by isolating valves/stop cocks at the point of supply and at each trough. The isolating valves/stop cocks must be protected against frost, they must be easily accessible and protected from damage by livestock. Where they are buried, this must be at a minimum of 600mm and must be easily accessible through a covered inspection chamber.

Underground pipework must not damage sites of archaeological or historic interest. Any spoil must not be used to fill and level adjacent wet areas or be put on any sites of archaeological or ecological importance.

The water supply must be maintained in good condition for the duration of the agreement.

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)
ST80325560	5.50
ST80329854	3.25
Total permanent grassland	8.75
Total temporary grassland	0.00
Total area of grassland (permanent + temporary)	8.75

Maximum stocking density for your farm permitted under this Agreement Lu/Ha	0.68
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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.

HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT MAP

Options

- HB Maintenance of hedges/ditches of very high environmental value
- HC/OHC Management of woodland edges/hedgerow buffer strips
- HC/OHC Protection of trees
*Number within circle represents number of trees in parcel
- HC/HC/UOHC Woodland and orchards
- UHD/UOHD Visibility of archaeological features on moorland
- HO/OHD Historic and landscape
- HE/OHE Buffer strips and grass margins
- HFO/HF Arable land
- HGO/HG Encourage a range of crop type
- HMO/HJ Maintenance of watercourse fencing
- HJOH/JUOJUOJU Resource protection
- HK/OHK Grassland
- HL/OHL/UOHL Upland grassland and moorland
- HN Linear access
- HN Permissive open access
- HO Lowland heathland
- HP Inter-tidal and coastal
- HQ Wetland

Option codes are annotated on the map. Please see scheme handbooks for detailed explanation of each option code.

Supplement options are annotated where present e.g. HL13, HR4

- CA/PC Capital item
- CL/PL/CF/CL/WS Positions of capital items are indicative and for identification purposes only
- 1234 RLR field number
- Remaining land comprising agreement area



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