

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.

HL10 - Restoration of moorland

Land parcels and associated features managed under this option:

RLR Field Number:

Features: M01 Grass moorland and rough grazing, T08 Native semi-natural woodland

RLR Field Number:

Features: M08 Upland flushes, fens and swamps - BAP habitat

RLR Field Number:

Features: M02 Fragmented heath

RLR Field Number:

Features: M02 Fragmented heath

RLR Field Number:

Features: M02 Fragmented heath

RLR Field Number:

Features: M01 Grass moorland and rough grazing, M07 Upland cliffs and screes, M08 Upland flushes, fens and swamps - BAP habitat

RLR Field Number:

Features: H01 Above ground historic feature, H03 Historic Routeway, H09 Building - industrial, H11 Structure - other (of historic or landscape interest), H12 Built water feature, M01 Grass moorland and rough grazing, M02 Fragmented heath, M04 Upland heath - BAP habitat, M07 Upland cliffs and screes, M08 Upland flushes, fens and swamps - BAP habitat, SB06 Kestrel, SB10 Reed Bunting, SB11 Skylark, SB12 Snipe, SB14 Starling, T08 Native semi-natural woodland

General description of the management required:

This option is aimed at restoring moorland where not all habitat is in good condition, to benefit upland wildlife, retain historic features and strengthen the landscape character. This option can also promote good soil management, which will reduce diffuse pollution. In addition it may, in the right situation, provide an area of flood storage and some benefits to flood risk management.

Indicators of Success

- On areas of upland dry heath between February and April, no more than 33% of Heather shoots should show evidence of grazing. The cover of scattered scrub should be less than 20%. The cover of Bracken should be less than 10%. By year 10 at least 2 dwarf shrub species should be frequent
- > On areas of upland wet heath, at least 10% of the area of dwarf shrub heath

(including sensitive areas) should show no evidence of burning. Between February and April no more than 33% of Heather shoots should show evidence of grazing. Dwarf shrubs should be at least frequent. The cover of scattered scrub should be less than 20%. The cover of Bracken should be less than 10%.

- Archaeological and historic features identified in the HER 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.

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- Follow the requirements set out in the agreed stocking calendar, which gives the minimum and maximum numbers and types of livestock that can be grazed each month. This calendar will be subject to regular review and numbers of livestock may be changed if indicators of success are not being met.
- Supplementary feeding is not permitted except for feeding sheep and hardy ponies (not cattle) following the conditions agreed in writing with your Natural England adviser. Hay may be fed during severe conditions. Ring feeders and feeding racks must not be used. Mineral blocks may be fed to help prevent mineral and trace element deficiencies. Feed 'blocks' may be fed to aid grazing management in order to help achieve the indicators of success and to support late pregnancy nutrition as agreed in writing with your Natural England adviser. All feeding and mineral block sites should be moved regularly to minimise damage to soils and vegetation and care must be taken to avoid damage by vehicles. Feeding silage is not permitted and any discarded wrapping and unused food must be removed.
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- There must be no new drainage or modification/improvement to existing drainage systems. Existing drains can be maintained.
- Do not plough, level, roll, re-seed or chain harrow.
- [Follow a programme (agreed in writing with your Natural England adviser) of rotational heather, grass or gorse management. You may be eligible for a supplementary payment if this programme differs significantly from your present practice. There must be no signs of burning into the moss, liverwort and lichen layer, or exposure or breaking of the peat surface due to burning.
- Do not apply fertilisers, organic manures or waste materials (including sewage sludge) [unless specifically agreed in writing with your Natural England adviser and / or stated in a management plan / capital works programme]
- To protect the Archaeological and historic features identified in the HER do not place anything likely to cause ground disturbance on or near the features such as fences, feeders, water troughs.
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HL12 - Management of heather, gorse and grass

Land parcels and associated features managed under this option:

RLR Field Number:

Features: M08 Upland flushes, fens and swamps - BAP habitat

RLR Field Number:

Features: M02 Fragmented heath

RLR Field Number:

Features: M02 Fragmented heath

RLR Field Number:

Features: M01 Grass moorland and rough grazing, M07 Upland cliffs and screes, M08 Upland flushes, fens and swamps - BAP habitat

RLR Field Number:

Features: H01 Above ground historic feature, H03 Historic Routeway, H09 Building - industrial, H11 Structure - other (of historic or landscape interest), H12 Built water feature, M01 Grass moorland and rough grazing, M02 Fragmented heath, M04 Upland heath - BAP habitat, M07 Upland cliffs and screes, M08 Upland flushes, fens and swamps - BAP habitat, SB06 Kestrel, SB10 Reed Bunting, SB11 Skylark, SB12 Snipe, SB14 Starling, T08 Native semi-natural woodland

General description of the management required:

This option maintains or enhances the biodiversity value of moorland habitats by establishing an appropriate programme of rotational vegetation management. This may involve either an increase or decrease in management activity. This option may also protect and enhance historic features and conserve the vegetation mosaics and landscape features characteristic of upland landscapes.

Indicators of Success

No burns larger than 5ha. No burns in sensitive areas (see second bullet point in Management Prescriptions >

Management Prescriptions; the dos and don'ts of management

The following rules apply across the whole area being managed under this option.
<Insert Text Here>

- Agree in writing with your Natural England adviser, a programme of rotational vegetation management. All burning must follow The Heather and Grass Burning Code

(PB1029 or subsequent revisions).

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- Vegetation control, including burning, should not take place within 10 metres of watercourses, on steep slopes, on gully sides, on stands of very old heather or on ground with continuous cover of bog moss (Sphagnum) and lichens.
- Individual areas burnt, cut or swiped should be widely distributed and normally should not exceed [5] ha. []. Diesel & kerosene should not be used to ignite the vegetation. Gas burners are recommended.

HL16 - Shepherding supplement

Land parcels and associated features managed under this option:

RLR Field Number:

Features: M01 Grass moorland and rough grazing, T08 Native semi-natural woodland

RLR Field Number:

Features: M08 Upland flushes, fens and swamps - BAP habitat

RLR Field Number:

Features: M02 Fragmented heath

RLR Field Number:

RLR Field Number:

Features: M02 Fragmented heath

RLR Field Number:

Features: M01 Grass moorland and rough grazing, M07 Upland cliffs and screes, M08 Upland flushes, fens and swamps - BAP habitat

RLR Field Number:

Features: H01 Above ground historic feature, H03 Historic Routeway, H09 Building - industrial, H11 Structure - other (of historic or landscape interest), H12 Built water feature, M01 Grass moorland and rough grazing, M02 Fragmented heath, M04 Upland heath - BAP habitat, M07 Upland cliffs and screes, M08 Upland flushes, fens and swamps - BAP habitat, SB06 Kestrel, SB10 Reed Bunting, SB11 Skylark, SB12 Snipe, SB14 Starling, T08 Native semi-natural woodland

General description of the management required:

This supplement aims to support a grazing regime that will prevent damage to archaeological sites, vulnerable soils or vegetation by over- or under-grazing and poaching. The supplement requires the shepherd to identify the most vulnerable areas within the grazing unit and manage livestock to ensure that different habitats are grazed appropriately. This option can also help to maintain or restore the vegetation mosaics characteristic of upland landscapes.

Indicators of Success

- [By year 2] livestock should no longer be congregating around old feeding sites, moor gates and inbye access points.
- [By year 3] there should be evidence that stock are [grazing the full extent of the grazing unit/].

< Straying stock from adjoining commons should be returned to the common from which they came. The agreement holders stock should be held on the agreement land and not

allowed to stray onto adjoining commons.>

Management Prescriptions; the dos and don'ts of management

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

<Insert Text Here>

- Manage livestock grazing [in accordance with the agreed stocking calendar, to achieve the indicators of success].
- Shepherding/herding must be done in accordance with good husbandry practice and particular care should be taken when moving/gathering animals in late pregnancy or with young at foot.
- A monthly record must be kept of shepherding/herding activities on agreement land. This should be available for inspection and include records of time spent and how grazing has been managed.

HR1 - Grazing supplement for cattle

Land parcels and associated features managed under this option:

RLR Field Number:

Features: M01 Grass moorland and rough grazing, T08 Native semi-natural woodland

RLR Field Number:

Features: M02 Fragmented heath

RLR Field Number:

Features: M01 Grass moorland and rough grazing, M07 Upland cliffs and screes, M08 Upland flushes, fens and swamps - BAP habitat

RLR Field Number:

Features: H01 Above ground historic feature, H03 Historic Routeway, H09 Building - industrial, H11 Structure - other (of historic or landscape interest), H12 Built water feature, M01 Grass moorland and rough grazing, M02 Fragmented heath, M04 Upland heath - BAP habitat, M07 Upland cliffs and screes, M08 Upland flushes, fens and swamps - BAP habitat, SB06 Kestrel, SB10 Reed Bunting, SB11 Skylark, SB12 Snipe, SB14 Starling, T08 Native semi-natural woodland

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.

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Management Prescriptions; the dos and don'ts of management

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

<Insert Text Here>

- Cattle will be the [only or main] grazing species [from 1 April to 31 October]. They will comprise [at least 60%] of the livestock unit grazing days on the parcel.

HR2 - Supplement for native breeds at risk

Land parcels and associated features managed under this option:

RLR Field Number:

Features: H01 Above ground historic feature, H03 Historic Routeway, H09 Building - industrial, H11 Structure - other (of historic or landscape interest), H12 Built water feature, M01 Grass moorland and rough grazing, M02 Fragmented heath, M04 Upland heath - BAP habitat, M07 Upland cliffs and scree, M08 Upland flushes, fens and swamps - BAP habitat, SB06 Kestrel, SB10 Reed Bunting, SB11 Skylark, SB12 Snipe, SB14 Starling, T08 Native semi-natural woodland

General description of the management required:

This supplement aims to encourage the use of appropriate native breeds of livestock (from the approved list and with reference to the guidance) for conservation grazing. Evidence suggests that native livestock breeds may have attributes that are better suited to harsh climatic conditions, to difficult terrain, to grazing semi-natural vegetation and to achieving conservation objectives. This supplement is also aimed at contributing towards the genetic conservation of native breeds at risk, when linked with ES scheme primary objectives.

Indicators of Success

- Size of pedigree-registered or Heritage Trust registered herd or flock, including their genetically-traceable purebred offspring, on the holding of Dartmoor ponies must be maintained at 60 or increased to 100 (no. of animals) by year 10.

Management Prescriptions; the dos and don'ts of management

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

HR8 - Supplement for group applications

Land parcels and associated features managed under this option:

RLR Field Number:

Features: M01 Grass moorland and rough grazing, T08 Native semi-natural woodland

RLR Field Number:

Features: M08 Upland flushes, fens and swamps - BAP habitat

RLR Field Number:

Features: M02 Fragmented heath

RLR Field Number: Features:

M02 Fragmented heath RLR

Field Number:

Features: M02 Fragmented heath

RLR Field Number:

Features: M01 Grass moorland and rough grazing, M07 Upland cliffs and screes, M08 Upland flushes, fens and swamps - BAP habitat

RLR Field Number:

Features: H01 Above ground historic feature, H03 Historic Routeway, H09 Building - industrial, H11 Structure - other (of historic or landscape interest), H12 Built water feature, M01 Grass moorland and rough grazing, M02 Fragmented heath, M04 Upland heath - BAP habitat, M07 Upland cliffs and screes, M08 Upland flushes, fens and swamps - BAP habitat, SB06 Kestrel, SB10 Reed Bunting, SB11 Skylark, SB12 Snipe, SB14 Starling, T08 Native semi-natural woodland

General description of the management required:

This supplement contributes towards the costs of facilitating communal agreements and their communal management. It is particularly targeted at common land and areas of shared grazing that have two or more active graziers. It may also be applied to agreement areas under more than one ownership that are managed for resource protection, flood management and/or wetland management. It may also be used to facilitate applications where there is an extensive archaeological or historic landscape.

Indicators of Success

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Management Prescriptions; the dos and don'ts of management

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

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- All land managers with a material interest in the land should be party to the agreement. They should continue to manage the land together for the length of the agreement to achieve the indicators of success set out for the relevant management options.