

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: SK27809965

Features: G05 Lowland dry acid grassland - BAP habitat, H03 Historic Routeway, H12 Built water feature, M01 Grass moorland and rough grazing, M04 Upland heath - BAP habitat

RLR Field Number: SK28800374

Features: G05 Lowland dry acid grassland - BAP habitat, H03 Historic Routeway, M04 Upland heath - BAP habitat

RLR Field Number: SK28802378

Features: G05 Lowland dry acid grassland - BAP habitat, H03 Historic Routeway, H11 Structure - other (of historic or landscape interest)

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 / features of interest within the grassland as identified in the Farm Environment Plan should be maintained or increased.
- The Soil Phosphate Index should be 0 or 1.
- By year 5, at least 3 high-value indicator species for Lowland Acid Grassland BAP habitat should be occasional in the sward.
- By year 10, at least 1 high value indicator species should be frequent and 3 occasional in the sward.
- All SSSI land should be in favourable or recovering condition.
- Waxcap fungi should be present.
- By year 2, cover of bare ground should be between 1% and 5%, distributed throughout the field in hoof prints or other small patches.
- Archaeological /historic features should have suffered no further degradation. The depth of soil covering the features has been maintained.
- Flushes in field parcel 0374 should retain wet heath vegetation in favourable condition. Wet heath Indicators of Success can be found under the HL10 prescription.

Management Prescriptions; the dos and don'ts of management

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

- Manage the grassland to achieve the indicators by grazing lightly with cattle for at least 6 weeks between May and September OR by cutting and removing field-dried hay after 15 July. In years when hay is taken graze the aftermath in autumn. Where spring grazing takes place exclude livestock at least 7 weeks before cutting for hay.
- Well-rotted farmyard manure may be applied at a maximum rate of 12 tonnes/ha every other year to grassland managed as hay meadow, but not within 10 metres of a watercourse. There must be no other application of nutrients such as fertilisers, other organic manures or waste materials including sewage sludge. On neutral grassland you may apply lime, subject to a soil test, to raise pH to 6.0
- 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. This includes subsoiling and mole ploughing. Maintain existing drains in working order.
- Ploughing, sub-surface cultivation and reseedling are not permitted except as part of a grassland management plan agreed with your Natural England adviser. Chain harrowing or rolling are not permitted between 15 March and 15 July.
- Do not top, roll or harrow more than 30% of the total grassland area in any one year and always leave a minimum of 5% tussocks / longer grass.
- Rabbits should be controlled if required to achieve the indicators. Where this is impractical due to the nature of the land, the numbers of grazing livestock must be adjusted to take account of this change to grazing pressure.
- 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.
- Do not remove or disturb rock and scree.
- To protect the archaeological /historic 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. If the feature is being damaged by the use of a PROW consult the Highway Authority. Maintain vegetative cover over feature. If renewal/reseedling is required this must be done in a non-destructive manner after consultation and agreement with Natural England. Do not allow the development of burrows.
- Graze lightly with cattle or sheep and cattle. Avoid heavy poaching by managing stock carefully when ground conditions are wet.

HK16 - Restoration of grassland for target features

Land parcels and associated features managed under this option:

RLR Field Number: SK26808058

Features: G14 Habitat for breeding waders - upland, H01 Above ground historic feature, H03 Historic Routeway, M01 Grass moorland and rough grazing, M04 Upland heath - BAP habitat

RLR Field Number: SK27801882

Features: G14 Habitat for breeding waders - upland, H01 Above ground historic feature, M01 Grass moorland and rough grazing, SB11 Skylark

RLR Field Number: SK27803375

Features: G14 Habitat for breeding waders - upland, H03 Historic Routeway, H11 Structure - other (of historic or landscape interest), M01 Grass moorland and rough grazing, M02 Fragmented heath

General description of the management required:

This option is aimed at adjusting the management of existing semi-improved or rough grassland which is known to provide good conditions for target species and to protect other features, such as historic sites. The restoration of semi-improved and rough grassland will strengthen the mosaic of pastoral landscapes. This option may be applied to grassland Priority Habitat types, but which occur in land parcels that are extensively managed due to topography and location, for example species-rich upland calcareous grassland in large allotments. It may also be used to restore grassland which has limited biodiversity value, but which has been created under a classic scheme for other objectives, such as protection of the historic environment.

Indicators of Success

- At least 2 of the positive indicator species listed should be occasional: bell heather, betony, bilberry, birds-foot trefoil, biting stonecrop, bitter-vetch, blue fleabane, buck's-horn plantain, common centaury, common rockrose, common stork's bill, devil's-bit scabious, harebell, heath bedstraw, heath speedwell, heather, lady's bedstraw, lichens, lousewort, maiden pink, milkworts, mouse-ear hawkweed, parsley pierts, pignut, purple milk-vetch, rough/lesser hawkbit, saw-wort, sheep's-bit, sheeps sorrel, shepherd's-cress, thymes, tormentil, violets, wild strawberry, wood anemone, wood sage.
- By year 2, the cover of rushes should be less than 40% and on the remainder the cover of tussocks of grass or sedge (year-round) should be between 5 and 60%. (A tussock is a single plant or a clump of plants at least 15cm wide, that is more than 5cm taller than the surrounding vegetation.)
- Archaeological /historic features should 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. There should be no evidence of damage caused by inappropriate heather burning.
- All SSSI land should be in favourable or recovering condition.
- Target bird species: Lapwing, Curlew, Snipe and Skylark should be regularly seen or heard on site.

Management Prescriptions; the dos and don'ts of management

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

- Retain the existing sward.
- Manage the sward by grazing and/or cutting to achieve a sward height of between 5cm and 15cm during the main bird breeding season (March- 20 June)
- 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.
- Do not exceed a stocking density of 0.4 LU/ha between 1 March and 20 June.
- Do not apply fertilisers, organic manures or waste materials (including sewage sludge) unless specifically agreed in writing with your Natural England adviser.
- Supplementary feeding is not permitted.
- Ploughing, sub-surface cultivation and modifications to the existing drainage system are not permitted, except as part of a sward enhancement plan agreed with your Adviser. This includes subsoiling and mole ploughing. Routine maintenance of functioning drainage systems is allowed.
- Do not top, roll or harrow between 1 March and 30 June]. Do not treat more than 30% of the total grassland area in any one year, and always leave a minimum of 5% tussocks / longer grass.
- Do not allow birds to be disturbed between 1 March and 30 June by walkers (except on public rights of way or open access land) or by other recreational or non-essential activities unless you have agreed a strategy with your Natural England adviser.
- 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.
- To protect the archaeological /historic 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. If the feature is being damaged by the use of a PROW consult the Highway Authority. Maintain vegetative cover over feature. If renewal/reseeding is required this must be done in a non-destructive manner after consultation and agreement with Natural England. Do not allow the development of burrows.
- Do not remove or disturb rock and scree.
- Graze lightly with cattle and sheep. Avoid heavy poaching by managing stock carefully when ground conditions are wet.

HL10 - Restoration of moorland

Land parcels and associated features managed under this option:

RLR Field Number: SK26809102

Features: M04 Upland heath - BAP habitat, M06 Blanket bog - BAP habitat, M08 Upland flushes, fens and swamps - BAP habitat

RLR Field Number: SK26825808

Features: H01 Above ground historic feature, H03 Historic Routeway, H10 Building - other roofed building of historical importance, 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, M06 Blanket bog - BAP habitat, M08 Upland flushes, fens and swamps - BAP habitat, T08 Native semi-natural woodland

RLR Field Number: SK27815153

Features: M04 Upland heath - BAP habitat

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

- All SSSI land should be in favourable or recovering condition.
- On areas of **blanket bog**, at least 6 positive indicators should be frequent on moderately diverse M19a (*Calluna vulgaris* – *Eriophorum mire*), at least 4 should be frequent on areas of species poor blanket bog, cotton grass moorland and dry blanket bog with bilberry and crowberry and at least 3 should be frequent on areas of *Molinia* dominated blanket and dry bog with heather. Indicator species include: *Andromeda polyfolia*, *Arctostaphylos spp.*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Erica spp.*, *Empetrum nigrum*, *Eriophorum angustifolium*, *Eriophorum vaginatum*, *Narthecium ossifragum*, non-crustose lichens, pleurocarpus mosses, *Racomitrium lanuginosum*, *Rubus chamaemorus*, *Sphagnum spp.*, *Tricophorum cespitosum*, *Vaccinium spp.* Between February and April no more than 33% of Heather shoots should show evidence of grazing. By year 5 flowering Cotton-grass should be frequent in spring. Flowering Heather should be frequent between July and September. Dwarf shrubs should be at least frequent. Less than 10% of bog-mosses (*Sphagnum*) should be damaged or dead. Disturbed bare ground should be less than 10% of the area. Scattered scrub should cover less than 10%. Bracken should cover less than 10%. Invasive weeds *Rhododendron*, *Creeping or Spear Thistle*, and docks should cover less than 1%. By year 10 cover of bog-mosses (*Sphagnum*) should have increased. At least 2 dwarf shrub species should be frequent. Cover of dwarf shrubs should be between 33% and 75%. Cover of grasses, sedges, rushes should be less than 75%.
- By year 5, on areas of **upland cliff and scree**, the cover of invasive weeds *Rhododendron*, *Creeping and Spear Thistle* and docks should be less than 1%. Less than 50% of broad-leaved plant leaves, fronds (ferns) or shoots (dwarf shrubs) should show signs of grazing or browsing. The area of disturbed bare ground should be less than 10%. The cover of Bracken, scrub and trees together should be less than 25%.

- On areas of **upland dry 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. By year 5 flowering Heather plants should be frequent between July and September. 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%. The cover of invasive weeds Rhododendron, Creeping and Spear Thistle, and docks, should be less than 1%. The area of disturbed bare ground should be less than 10%. By year 10 at least 2 dwarf shrub species should be frequent. The cover of dwarf shrubs should be at least 75%. Heather should have a diverse age range, with pioneer stage plants covering between 25% and 50% of the area and mature/degenerate plants covering at least 10%.
- On areas of **upland wet heath**, at least 50% of the vegetation should consist of indicator species: *Andromeda polyfolia*, *Arctostaphylos soo.*, *Betula nana*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Carex spp.*, *Drosera spp.*, *Empetrum nigrum*, *Erica spp.*, *Eriophorum angustifolium*, *Myrica gale*, *Narthecium ossifragum*, non-crustose lichens, Pleurocarpus mosses, *Racomitrium lanuginosum*, *Rhynchospora alba*, *Rubus chamaemorus*, *Salix repens*, *Sphagnum spp.*, *Trichophorum cespitosum*, *Vaccinium spp.* At least 20% of cover should consist of Ericoid species. There should be no observable signs of burning into the moss, liverwort or lichen layer. There should be no evidence of burning and other disturbance inside the boundary of sensitive areas (defined in Moorland Management Plan). Between February and April no more than 33% of Heather shoots should show evidence of grazing. By year 5 less than 10% of bog-mosses (*Sphagnum*) should be damaged or dead. Flowering Heather plants should be frequent between July and September. 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%. The cover of invasive weeds Rhododendron, Creeping and Spear Thistle, and docks etc should be less than 1%. The area of disturbed bare ground should be less than 10%. By year 10 at least 2 dwarf shrub species should be frequent. The cover of dwarf shrubs should be at least 75%. Heather should have a diverse age range, with pioneer stage plants covering between 25% and 50% of the area and mature/degenerate plants covering at least 10%.
- On areas of **upland valley mires, springs and flushes** at least 2 positive indicator species should be frequent in M4 and M6 flushes and at least 3 in M5 flushes. At least 50% of the vegetation cover should be made up of positive indicator species. Indicator species include: *Carex spp.* (small to medium spp.), *Hydrocotyl vulgaris*, *Potentilla palustris*, *Sphagnum spp.*, *Epilobium palustre*, *Eriophorum angustifolium*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Menyanthes trifoliata*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Viola palustris*. Between February and April no more than 33% of Heather shoots should show evidence of grazing. By year 5 flowering Cotton-grass should be frequent in spring. Flowering Heather should be frequent between July and September. Cover of scattered scrub should be less than 10%. Less than 10% of bog-mosses (*Sphagnum*) should be damaged or dead. Cover of Bracken should be less than 10%. Cover of invasive weeds Rhododendron, Creeping and Spear Thistle, docks etc should be less than 1%. The area of disturbed bare ground should be less than 10%. By year 10 cover of bog-mosses should be at least 33%. Cover of dwarf shrubs should be between 25% and 75%. Cover of grasses, sedges, rushes should be less than 75%.
- Archaeological /historic features should have suffered no further degradation. The depth of soil covering the features should have been maintained. Detrimental indicators (e.g. burrows, bare patches, scrub growth, poaching and erosion) cover less than 5% of the area. There should be no evidence of damage caused by inappropriate heather burning.

Management Prescriptions; the dos and don'ts of management

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

- 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. Hay and haylage may be fed during storm conditions and in late pregnancy (to be agreed in writing with NE adviser). 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/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.
- 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.
- No burns or cuts should exceed 2 ha in size.
- 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.
- Do not disturb or remove rock, scree and other minerals.
- To protect the archaeological /historic 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. If the feature is being damaged by the use of a PROW consult the Highway Authority. Maintain vegetative cover over feature. Maintain under permanent grassland/moorland vegetation cover. If renewal/reseeding is required this must be done in a non-destructive manner after consultation and agreement with Natural England. Do not allow the development of burrows. Follow HAP projects laid out in capital works plan.
- Follow the agreed management plan / capital works programme.
- Follow a programme (agreed in writing with your NE adviser) of rotational Bracken management through cutting / bruising / spraying / burning. Never manage more than 20% of the site in any one year.

HL13 - Moorland re-wetting supplement

Land parcels and associated features managed under this option:

RLR Field Number: SK26825808

Features: M02 Fragmented heath, M04 Upland heath - BAP habitat, M06 Blanket bog - BAP habitat, M08 Upland flushes, fens and swamps - BAP habitat

General description of the management required:

This supplement supports the re-wetting of moorland to maintain wetland habitats and their associated wildlife. Grip blocking and re-wetting may also help to reduce diffuse pollution by reducing surface run-off from a re-wetted area. This may in certain locations help to reduce flooding downstream. This option can also help protect archaeological sites and peat exposures and conserve the vegetation mosaics and landscape features characteristic of upland landscapes.

Indicators of Success

- The grip blocks should always hold back water.
- There should be no erosion occurring from any grip overflow.
- By year 4, the grip should be actively silting behind the blocks.
- By year 4, standing water should be evident behind grip blocks after periods of rain.
- By year 5, vegetation should be colonising the grip both upstream and downstream of the blocks.

Management Prescriptions; the dos and don'ts of management

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

- Block grips specified in writing by your Natural England adviser to reduce run-off, raise water tables and create areas of standing water.
- Grips should be blocked with local materials such as peat, bales of Heather, Bracken, Rush, logs or brash, unless agreed otherwise in writing with your Natural England adviser. Hay and straw bales and concrete should not be used.
- The blocks should be designed so that excess water spills over the side of the grip rather than over the top of the block (see guidance on block construction).
- Blocks and grips should be inspected regularly and maintained.

HR1 - Grazing supplement for cattle

Land parcels and associated features managed under this option:

RLR Field Number: SK26808058

Features: G14 Habitat for breeding waders - upland, M01 Grass moorland and rough grazing, M04 Upland heath - BAP habitat

RLR Field Number: SK26809102

Features: M04 Upland heath - BAP habitat, M06 Blanket bog - BAP habitat, M08 Upland flushes, fens and swamps - BAP habitat

RLR Field Number: SK26825808

Features: M01 Grass moorland and rough grazing, M02 Fragmented heath, M04 Upland heath - BAP habitat, M06 Blanket bog - BAP habitat, M08 Upland flushes, fens and swamps - BAP habitat

RLR Field Number: SK27801882

Features: G14 Habitat for breeding waders - upland, H01 Above ground historic feature, M01 Grass moorland and rough grazing, SB11 Skylark

RLR Field Number: SK27803375

Features: G14 Habitat for breeding waders - upland, M01 Grass moorland and rough grazing, M02 Fragmented heath

RLR Field Number: SK27809965

Features: G05 Lowland dry acid grassland - BAP habitat, M01 Grass moorland and rough grazing, M04 Upland heath - BAP habitat

RLR Field Number: SK27815153

Features: M04 Upland heath - BAP habitat

RLR Field Number: SK28800374

Features: G05 Lowland dry acid grassland - BAP habitat, M04 Upland heath - BAP habitat

RLR Field Number: SK28802378

Features: G05 Lowland dry acid grassland - BAP habitat

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 grazing species on parcel 9102 (Nell Croft).
- Elsewhere, cattle will be the main grazing species. They will technically make up at least 70% of the livestock grazing on the area to which HR1 has been applied (420ha). Parcels on the moor remain open (not stock proof) however and so this equates to a minimum of 50% of the grazing across the whole of the main moorland block (parcel 5808), taking account of the 30% requirement for UL18 which has been applied to the part of the block to which HR1 has not been applied.

- Records of grazing must be kept.