

Environmentally Sensitive Areas

SCHEME PRESCRIPTIONS

BROADS ESA

NB. If you carry out any work contrary to the scheme's objectives, such as the destruction of features such as walls, buildings or hedges, or the ploughing of valuable grassland, shortly before applying to join or rejoin, the Ministry is likely to reject your application.

TIER 1 – PERMANENT GRASSLAND

1. Maintain grassland and do not plough, level or re-seed the land. You may use a chain harrow or roller but no other form of cultivation is allowed.
2. Graze with livestock other than pigs or poultry, but avoid poaching, under-grazing or over-grazing.
3. Take no more than one cut of hay or silage each year.
4. If you cut the grass for hay or silage, graze the aftermath.
5. Do not exceed your existing level of inorganic fertiliser and in any case do not exceed 125kg of nitrogen, 75kg of phosphate and 75kg of potash per hectare (100 units of nitrogen, 60 units of phosphate and 60 units of potash per acre) per year.
6. Use no more than 94kg of nitrogen per hectare (75 units of nitrogen per acre) in any one application.
7. Do not apply pig slurry or poultry manure and do not in any case exceed your existing level of organic manure. Do not apply more than 30 tonnes per hectare (12 tons per acre) of home-produced manure in any year. Do not apply more than 30 cubic metres per hectare (2,600 gallons per acre) of home-produced cattle slurry at 10% dry matter in any year or the equivalent if dry matter is less than 10%.
8. Do not use fungicides or insecticides.
9. Do not apply herbicides except to control nettles, spear thistle, creeping or field thistle, curled dock, broadleaved dock or ragwort. Infestations of these weeds must be controlled by cutting or by herbicides. Herbicides used for these purposes shall be applied by weed wiper or spot treatment. Weed control should be carried out as soon as any problem starts to develop.
10. Do not install under-drainage or mole drain and do not subsoil or slit drain. Do not substantially modify your existing drainage system.
11. Maintain existing dykes in rotation over the period of your agreement and by mechanical means, not sprays. Spoil must be levelled following slubbing out, after allowing to dry. Slub out ditches and dykes once every 5 - 8 years.
12. You must maintain water at a suitable level for livestock to graze on your grazing marshes;
ensure that there is at least 30cm (12") of water in the bottom of dykes between 31 October and 1 March;
begin to increase dyke water levels to summer levels no later than 1 March to ensure adequate dyke water during the summer.
13. Maintain hedges, ponds and reedbeds.
14. Do not damage or destroy any feature of historic interest.
15. Obtain written advice on siting and materials before constructing buildings, roads or any other engineering operations which do not require planning permission or prior notification determination by the Local Planning Authority.
16. Obtain written advice on the management of woodland or scrub or proposals to plant any new woodland.

17. You must abide by the Codes of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Water, Soil and Air, published by the Ministry (references PB 0617, PB 0587 and PB 0618) as amended from time to time.

TIER 2 – EXTENSIVE GRASSLAND

Observe prescriptions 1-17 plus additional prescriptions set out below:

18. Water levels on your grazing marshes must:
be maintained at not more than 45cm (18") below marsh level between 31 March and 1 November;
provide at least 60cm (24") of water in the bottom of the dyke between 30 November and 1 March;
begin to be raised no later than 1 March in order to achieve the maximum summer freeboard as early as possible.
19. Do not carry out any mechanical operations between 31 March and 16 July.
20. Do not graze with livestock between 31 December and 1 April.
21. Do not cut for silage. Do not cut for hay before 16 July.
22. Do not exceed your existing level of nitrogen and in any case do not exceed 44kg of nitrogen per hectare (35 units of nitrogen per acre) per year. Do not apply phosphate or potash.
23. Do not apply any organic manure.
24. Do not apply lime, slag or any other substance to reduce soil acidity.
25. The following shall apply when carrying out dyke maintenance on a 5 - 8 year rotation:
dyke management shall be carried out between 31 August and 1 April;
to protect aquatic and marginal vegetation, either leave one bank or other sections untouched as a refuge for wildlife and a resource for re-colonisation;
when re-profiling dykes, leave sides no steeper than 45° or create a stepped profile;
on SSSIs, agreement holders must contact the Project Officer or English Nature before commencing any maintenance work.
26. Maintain existing foot drains and grips and only dig new foot drains and grips with the prior agreement of the Project Officer.

TIER 3 – WET GRASSLAND

Observe prescriptions 1-26 plus additional prescriptions set out below:

27. You must maintain the water table at marsh level so as to create field wetness or occasional shallow pools from 1 January until 30 April, and;
maintain dyke levels at no more than 45 cm (18") below marsh level from 1 June until 31 October;
begin to raise your water level to winter level no later than 1 November.

28. Do not apply any organic or inorganic fertiliser.
29. Do not graze with livestock between 1 November and 15 May.
30. Graze between 16 May and 31 October. Before 30 June do not exceed a grazing density of one bovine animal per 0.75 hectares (one animal per 1.8 acres) and do not cause poaching, overgrazing or undergrazing.

WATER LEVEL SUPPLEMENT (available on Tiers 2 and 3)

31. Agree an in-field water management plan with the Project Officer to include the creation, reinstatement and management of foot drains and grips.
32. Maintain dyke water levels at not more than 30cm (12") below marsh level from 15 March until 31 August.
33. Begin to raise dyke water levels to the maximum summer freeboard no later than 15 February.
34. Do not apply any inorganic or organic fertiliser or manure.
35. From 1 April until 31 May, do not exceed a grazing density of one bovine animal per 0.75 ha and do not cause poaching, over-grazing or under-grazing.
36. Do not graze with sheep until 1 June.

FEN TIER

37. Agree a Fen Management Plan with the Project Officer. (This may need to be discussed with the Broads Authority and on SSSIs it will need to be agreed with English Nature.)
38. Do not apply any organic or inorganic fertiliser.
39. Do not apply any lime, slag or any other substance to reduce soil acidity.
40. Do not use any pesticides, fungicides, insecticides or herbicides.
41. Do not damage or destroy any feature of historic interest.
42. You must abide by the Codes of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Water, Soil and Air, published by the Ministry as amended from time to time.

TIER 4A – ARABLE REVERSION TO PERMANENT GRASSLAND

Once under permanent grass this land must be managed in accordance with prescriptions 1-17. If you wish you may also offer it for inclusion under Tier 2 or Tier 3 in which case you should seek further guidance on its management from the Project Officer.

43. Cease arable production and establish a new grass sward within 12 months of the start of the agreement.
44. During the first 12 months of the agreement do not apply any of the following without obtaining prior approval:
 - organic or inorganic fertiliser;
 - lime, slag or any other substance to reduce the acidity of the soil;
 - pesticides.
45. From the start of your agreement you must follow all the Tier 1 guidelines from prescription 10 onwards.
46. On grassland reverted from arable do not exceed an annual average stocking level of 1.4 Livestock Units (LU) per hectare.

TIER 4B – GRASSLAND MARGINS

47. Cease production on a strip of land at least 6m wide at the edge of a field used for arable cropping. This margin must be taken from the existing arable land and must adjoin an open drainage channel e.g. a ditch or watercourse.
48. Cultivate the margin so as to create a seed bed and establish a grass sward within twelve months of ceasing arable cropping.
49. Maintain the grass sward on the field margin by cutting at least once a year. Do not cut before 30 June and do not allow any cut material to enter the dykes.
50. Do not apply to the margin without obtaining prior approval:
 - organic or inorganic fertiliser;
 - lime, slag or any substance to reduce the acidity of the soil;
 - fungicides and insecticides;
 - herbicides (except to control nettles, spear thistle, creeping or field thistle, curled dock, broad-leaved dock or ragwort). Apply herbicides by weed wiper or spot treatment.
51. You may regularly cultivate and apply herbicides to a one metre edge of the margin adjacent to the cropped area.
52. You must abide by the Codes of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Water, Soil and Air, published by the Ministry as amended from time to time.

PUBLIC ACCESS TIER

53. Make the access route available for public access at no charge.
54. Maintain a free passage over the access route.
55. Do not erect new fences on or adjacent to the access route without the prior written approval of the Ministry.
56. Keep the access route and fields crossed by it free of litter and other refuse.
57. Exclude bulls from the access route and fields crossed by it, except for bulls which do not exceed the age of 10 months or are not of a recognised dairy breed and are at large in any field or enclosure in which cows and heifers are also at large.
58. Agree with the Ministry in writing in advance the public liability insurance cover which you will maintain for the duration of the access agreement.
59. Provide and maintain adequate means of entry to the access route.
60. Affix and maintain appropriate signboards and waymarking.
61. Do not permit any of the following activities on the access route or on fields crossed by it: camping, caravanning, lighting of fires, organised games or sports, riding of motor vehicles (except those used for agricultural operations on the land) without the Ministry's prior written approval.
62. Agree with the Ministry in writing whether the riding of horses or cycles may be permitted on the access route.
63. If you wish to apply for temporary closure of the access route you must agree this with the Ministry in writing in advance. Where temporary closure is permitted you must post signs giving notice of the intended closure and the reasons for it at each entry point to the access route at least two weeks in advance of the date of closure.

MAFF Work Code	Eligible Item	Standard Payment Rates	Percentage Grant
6	Restoration of Ponds	–	50
7	Management of Scrub – 25% density – 25% to 75% density – over 75% density	£100/ha £250/ha £500/ha	50
	A single payment is available for management of scrub on small free-standing features of archaeological interest	£50	
10	Renovation of Traditional Farm Buildings	–	40
11	Hedge Coppicing – protective fencing: sheep fencing post and wire fencing	£1.50/m £1.20/m £0.80/m	40
12	Creation of Scrapes	–	50
13	Creation or Reinstatement of Gutters, Dykes and Ditches	–	80
14	Construction of Water Penning Structures (Bunds, Sluices and other works)	–	80
15	Re-creation of Herb-Rich Meadows	–	50
19	The Provision of Wooden Gates and Associated Wing Fencing	–	50
25	Initial introduction and re-introduction of Willow Pollarding	£40/tree	80
26	Conversion of Arable to Grassland	–	80
27	Re-creation of Shelter Belts	£0.65 per plant	50
28	Removal of Fencing	£0.50/m	50
29	Construction of Culverts	–	50
30	Improvement of Drovers	–	40
37	Restoration and replanting of traditional orchards – tree surgery – frameworking – maiden fruit trees – standard fruit trees – orchard tree guards	£40 per tree £30 per tree £3 each £7 each £1.50 each	80
40	Provision and restoration of gates for public access – bridle gate – kissing gate – kissing gate for the disabled	£100 each £130 each £200 each	80
41	Provision and restoration of stiles for public access – timber stiles – ladder stiles – step-over stile in stone wall – step-through stile in stone wall	£30 each £40 each £20 each £30 each	80
42	Provision and restoration of footbridges for public access	–	80
50	Other works for the restoration or enhancement of wildlife habitats	–	At Ministry's discretion

Environmentally Sensitive Areas

SCHEME PRESCRIPTIONS

SOMERSET LEVELS AND MOORS ESA

NB. If you carry out any work contrary to the scheme's objectives, such as the destruction of features such as walls, buildings or hedges, or the ploughing of valuable grassland, shortly before applying to join or rejoin, the Ministry is likely to reject your application.

TIER 1 – PERMANENT GRASSLAND

1. Maintain grassland and do not plough, level or re-seed the land. You may use a chain harrow or roller but no other form of cultivation is allowed.
2. Graze with cattle or sheep but avoid poaching, under-grazing or over-grazing.
3. If you cut the grass for hay or silage, graze the aftermath.
4. Do not exceed your existing level of inorganic fertiliser and in any case do not exceed 75kg of nitrogen, 37.5kg of phosphate and 37.5kg of potash per hectare (60 units of nitrogen, 30 units of phosphate and 30 units of potash per acre) each year. Do not exceed your existing level of home produced organic fertiliser and do not apply any other organic fertiliser.
5. Do not use fungicides or insecticides.
6. Do not apply herbicides except to control creeping buttercup, soft rush, nettles, spear thistle, creeping or field thistle, curled dock, broad-leaved dock or ragwort. Apply herbicides by weed wiper or spot treatment.
7. Do not apply lime, slag or any other substance to reduce soil acidity.
8. Do not install under-drainage, do not mole drain, and do not subsoil or tunnel plough. Do not substantially modify your existing drainage system.
9. Maintain existing field gutters, surface piping, rig and furrow, ditches or rhyes by mechanical means not sprays. Do not install additional surface piping.
10. Do not spray irrigate your land.
11. Maintain hedges, trees and pollarded willows in accordance with local custom.
12. Do not plant any additional trees nor allow natural establishment of additional trees/bushes without prior agreement.
13. Do not damage or destroy any feature of historic interest.
14. Obtain written advice on siting and materials before constructing buildings, roads or any other engineering operations which do not require planning permission or prior notification determination by the Local Planning Authority.
15. Maintain existing gates with wing fencing but do not erect any additional permanent fencing without prior consent.
16. Water levels in ditches and rhyes must either be:

From 1 April to 31 October maintained at or above the penning level, provided since 1987, by the relevant IDB or the Environment Agency (as appropriate) and from 1 November to 31 March maintained at or above the winter level provided since 1987 by the relevant IDB or the Environment Agency (as appropriate) with at least 15cm (6") of water in the bottom of the ditches/rhyes at all times.

Or, to obtain a supplementary payment:

From 1 May to 30 November maintained at not more than 30cm (12") below mean field level and from 1 December to 30 April maintained at not less than mean field level so as to cause conditions of surface splashing.

17. Agreement holders must not pump below these levels which will be fixed by reference to gauge boards set to Ordnance Datum Newlyn.
18. You must abide by the Codes of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Water, Soil and Air, published by the Ministry (references PB 0587, PB 0617 and PB 0618) as amended from time to time.

TIER 1A – EXTENSIVE PERMANENT GRASSLAND

Observe prescriptions 1-18 plus additional prescriptions set out below:

19. Do not use a chain harrow or roller between 31 March and 1 July.
20. Do not exceed your existing level of inorganic fertiliser and in any case do not exceed 25 kg of nitrogen, 12.5 kg of phosphate and 12.5 kg of potash per hectare (20 units of nitrogen, 10 units of phosphate and 10 units of potash per acre) each year.
21. Unless traditionally the land has been used just for grazing each year mow at least one third (or one year in three) of the land but not before 1 July and do not graze the land prior to laying it up.
22. Do not cut or top the grass after 31 August.
23. Do not graze with sheep from 1 September to 1 March.
24. Do not use herbicides to control creeping buttercup.
25. Water levels in ditches and rhyes must be:
From 1 April to 31 October maintained at or above the penning level, provided since 1987, by the relevant IDB or the Environment Agency (as appropriate) and from 1 November to 31 March maintained at or above the winter level provided since 1987 by the relevant IDB or the Environment Agency (as appropriate) with at least 15 cm (6") of water in the bottom of the ditches/rhyes at all times.
26. Agreement holders must not pump below these levels which will be fixed by reference to gauge boards set to Ordnance Datum Newlyn.

TIER 2 – WET PERMANENT GRASSLAND

Observe prescriptions 1-18 plus additional prescriptions set out below:

27. Do not use a chain harrow or roller between 31 March and 1 July.

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28. Do not exceed your existing level of inorganic fertiliser and in any case do not exceed 25kg of nitrogen, 12.5kg of phosphate and 12.5kg of potash per hectare (20 units of nitrogen, 10 units of phosphate and 10 units of potash per acre) each year.
29. Unless traditionally the land has been used just for grazing each year mow at least one third (or one year in three) of the land but not before 1 July and do not graze the land prior to laying it up.
30. Do not cut or top the grass after 31 August.
31. Do not graze with sheep from 1 September to 1 March.
32. Do not use herbicides to control creeping buttercup.
33. Water levels in ditches and rhynes must either be:

From 1 April to 31 October maintained at or above the penning level, provided since 1987, by the relevant IDB or the Environment Agency (as appropriate) and in any case not more than 45cm (18") below mean field level and from 1 November to 31 March, maintained at or above the winter level provided since 1987 by the relevant IDB or the Environment Agency (as appropriate) with at least 30cm (12") of water in the bottom of the ditches/rhynes at all times.

Or, to obtain a supplementary payment:

From 1 May to 30 November maintained at not more than 30cm (12") below mean field level and from 1 December to 30 April, maintained at not less than mean field level so as to cause conditions of surface splashing.

34. Agreement holders must not pump below these levels which will be fixed by reference to gauge boards set to Ordnance Datum Newlyn.

BUFFER STRIP SUPPLEMENT (available on Tiers 1, 1A and 2)

35. Cease application of inorganic fertiliser to a 6 metre strip adjacent to all the field boundaries under agreement.

ALL-YEAR PENNING SUPPLEMENT (available on Tiers 1, 1A and 2)

36. On peat soils to obtain a supplementary payment :
From 1 November to 31 March maintain water levels in ditches and rhynes at or above the summer penning level, provided since 1987, by the relevant IDB or the Environment Agency (as appropriate).

TIER 3 – PERMANENT GRASSLAND RAISED WATER LEVEL AREAS

Observe prescriptions 1-18 plus additional prescriptions set out below:

37. Do not carry out mechanical operations between 31 March and 1 July.
38. Apply no inorganic fertiliser and do not exceed your existing level of organic manure provided it is only home produced cattle farmyard manure and does not exceed 25 tonnes per hectare (10 tons per acre) per annum. No slurry should be applied.
39. Graze only with cattle but do not graze before 20 May in any year.
40. Do not exceed a grazing density of one animal per 0.75 hectare (one animal per 1.8 acres) from 20 May to 8 July. Do not cause poaching, over-grazing or under-grazing.

41. Do not make silage. Unless traditionally the land has been used just for grazing each year mow at least one third (or one year in three) of the land but not before 8 July and do not graze the land prior to laying it up.
42. Do not cut or top the grass after 31 August.
43. Do not use herbicides to control creeping buttercup.
44. Water levels in ditches and rhynes must:
From 1 May to 30 November be maintained at not more than 30cm (12") below mean field level and from 1 December to 30 April, maintained at not less than mean field level so as to cause conditions of surface splashing.
45. To further the objective of conserving, enhancing or protecting landscape, wildlife and historical features the Minister may specify different water level requirements.
46. Agreement-holders must not pump below these levels which will be fixed by reference to gauge boards set to Ordnance Datum Newlyn.

PUBLIC ACCESS TIER

47. Make the access route available for public access at no charge.
48. Maintain a free passage over the access route.
49. Do not erect new fences on or adjacent to the access route without the prior written approval of the Ministry.
50. Keep the access route and fields crossed by it free of litter and other refuse.
51. Exclude bulls from the access route and fields crossed by it, except for bulls which do not exceed the age of 10 months or are not of a recognised dairy breed and are at large in any field or enclosure in which cows and heifers are also at large.
52. Agree with the Ministry in writing in advance the public liability insurance cover which you will maintain for the duration of the access agreement.
53. Provide and maintain adequate means of entry to the access route.
54. Affix and maintain appropriate signboards and waymarking.
55. Do not permit any of the following activities on the access route or on fields crossed by it: camping, caravanning, lighting of fires, organised games or sports, riding of motor vehicles (except those used for agricultural operations on the land) without the Ministry's prior written approval.
56. Agree with the Ministry in writing whether the riding of horses or cycles may be permitted on the access route.
57. If you wish to apply for temporary closure of the access route you must agree this with the Ministry in writing in advance. Where temporary closure is permitted you must post signs giving notice of the intended closure and the reasons for it at each entry point to the access route at least two weeks in advance of the date of closure.

Environmentally Sensitive Areas

INFORMATION SHEET

SUFFOLK RIVER VALLEYS ESA

This sheet contains essential information for farmers about the Suffolk River Valleys ESA. It should be read in conjunction with the booklet *Guidelines for Farmers* (PB 3361/SRV).

You will need to refer to this information when making an application for a Management Agreement (form ESA 3) or Conservation Plan (form ESA 4) in the Suffolk River Valleys ESA.

MAFF Regional Service Centre: Block B, Government Buildings, Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge CB2 2DR
Tel. No. 01223 462727

Project Officer: Tim Sloane
Tel. No. 01284 753449 or 01284 750102

TIERS AND PAYMENT RATES

Tier 1 – Permanent Grassland	£75 per ha	Water Level Supplement	£50 per ha
Permanent grassland reverted under a previous ESA management agreement	£270 per ha	Tier 3 – Arable reversion to grassland	£270 per ha
Tier 2 – Low Input Permanent grassland	£190 per ha	Buffer Strip Supplement	£55 per ha
Low Input Grassland reverted under a previous ESA agreement	£290 per ha	Fen Tier	£130 per ha
Tier 2A – Marshland Supplement	£50 per ha	Woodland Tier	£17 per ha
		Hedgerow Supplement	£4 per m
		Public Access Tier	£170 per ha

CONSERVATION PLAN

For those items with a Standard Payment Rate given, payment at the corresponding percentage of actual costs may be given at the Ministry's discretion where the necessary costs of the work are exceptionally high.

MAFF Work Code	Eligible Item	Standard Payment Rates	Percentage Grant
1	Works to protect Historical and Archaeological Features	–	80
2	Tree planting	£0.65 each	60
	– spiral rabbit guard	£0.20 each	
	– tree tube	£0.50 each	
	– protective fencing for individual trees	£30/tree	
3	Planting of hedges not included in your Tier 1 hedge restoration programme	£1.75/m	40
	– protective fencing: sheep fencing	£1.20/m	
	post and wire fencing	£0.80/m	
4	Laying or coppicing of hedges not included in your Tier 1 hedge restoration programme	£3/m	40
	– protective fencing: sheep fencing	£1.20/m	
	post and wire fencing	£0.80/m	
5	Creation of ponds	–	50
6	Restoration of ponds	–	50

MAFF Work Code	Eligible Item	Standard Payment Rates	Percentage Grant
7	Management of scrub – 25% density – 25%-75% density – over 75% density	£100/ha £250/ha £500/ha	50
13	Creation, Reinstatement or Re-profiling of dykes, ditches and foot drains	–	80
14	Provision of water penning structures or other works designed to control water levels	–	80
15	Creation or improvement of herb rich meadows	–	50
16	Restoration and creation of reedbeds and sedgebeds	–	50
22	Provision of water supplies and fencing associated with the reintroduction of grazing – supply – trough – post and wire fencing – sheep fencing	£0.40/m £25 each £0.80/m £1.20/m	40
23	Control of bracken – mechanical – chemical	£50/ha £100/ha	50
25	Pollarding of trees	£40 each	80
34	Provision of rabbit fencing	£0.40/m	40
40	Provision and restoration of gates for public access – bridle gate – kissing gate – kissing gate for the disabled	£100 each £130 each £200 each	80
41	Provision and restoration of stiles for public access – timber stile – ladder stile – step-over stile in stone wall – step-through stile in stone wall	£30 each £40 each £20 each £30 each	80
42	Provision and restoration of footbridges for public access	£125 each	80
43	Wind pumps for water level management	–	80
50	Other works for the restoration or enhancement of wildlife habitats	–	80

Environmentally Sensitive Areas

SCHEME PRESCRIPTIONS

SUFFOLK RIVER VALLEYS ESA

NB. If you carry out any work contrary to the scheme's objectives, for example the destruction of features such as walls, buildings or hedges, or the ploughing of valuable grassland, shortly before applying to join or rejoin the scheme, the Ministry is likely to reject your application.

The Ministry may modify the prescriptions set out below, to introduce additional requirements or amend existing ones, where this will help to protect and/or enhance habitats and species which are of importance within the designated area. Such modifications may be made for the lifespan of the agreement or from time to time, by means of a written agreement with you which will form part of your ESA agreement for the term specified.

TIER 1 – GRASSLAND

1. Maintain as grassland and do not plough, level or re-seed. Selective seeding is allowed to repair damaged swards, but use appropriate long-term seed mixtures which must be previously agreed with the Project Officer.
2. Graze with livestock other than pigs or poultry but avoid poaching, undergrazing or overgrazing.
3. If you cut the grass for hay or silage, graze the aftermath.
4. Do not increase your existing application rates of inorganic or organic fertiliser and, in any case, do not exceed 250 kg of total nitrogen per hectare per year. Do not apply organic fertiliser within 50 metres of a spring, well or borehole that supplies water for human consumption, or within 10 metres of a watercourse.
5. Do not use fungicides or insecticides.
6. Do not apply herbicides except to control nettles, spear thistle, creeping or field thistle, curled dock, broad-leaved dock, ragwort or bracken. Infestations of these weeds must be controlled either by cutting or by herbicides. Apply herbicides by wick applicator or by spot treatment. Where bracken cannot be controlled by mechanical means then asulam must be used.
7. Do not install underdrainage or mole drainage or use a sub-soiler. Do not improve or substantially modify your existing drainage system so as to bring about improved drainage.
8. Maintain existing ditches and dykes (including banks and margins) in rotation over the period of your agreement by mechanical means, not sprays. Spoil must be levelled, after allowing to dry out, but must not be used to fill low areas.
9. Maintain trees, pollarded willows, ponds and reedbeds using traditional methods.
10. Do not remove any hedges, banks or parts thereof. Maintain all hedges using traditional methods and materials. All stockproof hedges must be kept in a stockproof condition. The Ministry will make a supplementary payment if you agree in writing with the Project Officer a programme to restore your non-stockproof hedges. This may involve replanting, laying, coppicing, gapping and back-fencing. Payment will be calculated on the basis of the length of hedge restored in each year.
11. Do not damage, destroy or remove any feature of archaeological or historical value or interest. Obtain written advice on the management of known and important archaeological sites and historical features on land covered by your agreement.
12. Obtain written advice on siting, design and materials before constructing buildings or roads or carrying out any other engineering or construction works which do not require planning permission or prior notification determination by the local planning authority.
13. Obtain written advice on the management of scrub or reedbeds.
14. Dispose of sheep dip safely. Do not spread sheep dip where it may affect areas of nature conservation value.
15. You must abide by the Codes of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Soil, Air and Water, published by the Ministry (references PB 0617, PB 0618 and PB 0587) as amended from time to time.

TIER 2 – LOW-INPUT GRASSLAND

Observe prescriptions 2 - 15 (Tier 1) plus additional prescriptions set out below:

16. Maintain grassland and do not plough, level or re-seed the land. You may use a chain harrow or roller but no other form of cultivation is allowed.

17. Where the land lies on the flood plain or is inherently wet you must ensure that water levels:
 - (i) are maintained at not more than 45 cm (18") below marsh level between 31 March and 31 October
 - (ii) provide at least 30 cm (12") of water in the bottom of the ditches between 31 October and 1 March;
 - (iii) begin to be raised no later than 1 March in order to achieve the required summer freeboard as early as possible.
18. Do not carry out any form of mechanical operations between 1 April and 16 July.
19. Where the land lies on the flood plain or is inherently wet, do not graze between 1 April and 1 May. From 1 May until 15 May, do not exceed a grazing density of 1 Livestock Unit (LU) per hectare.
20. Do not top the sward or cut for hay or silage before 16 July.
21. Do not apply any organic or inorganic fertilisers or manure.
22. Do not apply lime, slag or any substance to reduce soil acidity.
23. Restrict supplementary feeding of livestock to areas agreed in advance.
24. Within two years of the start of your agreement you must agree in writing a plan of ditch/dyke management and implement it thereafter.

TIER 2A – MARSHLAND

Observe prescriptions 16-24 (Tier 2) plus additional prescriptions set out below:

25. Begin to raise your water level to winter level no later than 1 November and maintain at marsh level so as to create field wetness or occasional shallow pools between 1 January and 30 April.
26. Do not graze with livestock between 1 November and 15 May.

WATER LEVEL SUPPLEMENT

(available on Tiers 2 & 2A)

27. Agree in writing with the Project Officer and implement an In-field Water Management Plan including the creation, re-instatement and management of ditches and foot drains.
28. Maintain ditch water levels within 15cm (6 inches) of marsh level from 15 March until 30 June.
29. Begin to raise ditch water levels to the maximum summer level no later than 1 March.
30. From 1 May until 30 June do not exceed a grazing density of 1 LU per hectare.
31. Do not graze with sheep until 1 June.

TIER 3 – ARABLE REVERSION TO GRASSLAND

32. Cease arable production and establish a grass sward within 12 months of the start of the agreement. Agree in writing with the Project Officer before purchase the seed mix to be used. Seed of native origin and local provenance should be used wherever the Ministry considers it appropriate.
33. During the first 12 months of the agreement do not apply any of the following without obtaining prior approval:
 - (i) organic or inorganic fertilisers;
 - (ii) lime, slag or any substance designed to reduce soil acidity;
 - (iii) pesticides.
34. From the start of your agreement you must follow all the Tier 1 prescriptions from 7 onwards. After the 12 month period you must also follow the remaining guidelines in Tier 1 except you must not apply more than 125 kg/ha of nitrogen per year and must use no more than 90 kg/ha of nitrogen in any one application.
35. On grassland reverted from arable, do not exceed an annual average stocking level of 1.4 LU per hectare.

BUFFER STRIP SUPPLEMENT

(available on Tiers 1 & 3):

36. Do not apply inorganic fertiliser or other agricultural chemicals to a 6 metre strip adjacent to all boundaries alongside hedgerows of watercourses of land under agreement.

FEN TIER

37. Agree in writing with the Project Officer and implement a Fen Management Plan.
38. Do not apply any inorganic or organic fertiliser.
39. Do not apply lime, slag or any substance to reduce acidity.
40. Do not use any pesticides, fungicides, insecticides or herbicides.
41. Do not damage or destroy any feature of historic interest.
42. You must abide by the Codes of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Soil, Air and Water, published by the Ministry (references PB 0617, PB 0618 and PB 0587) as amended from time to time.

WOODLAND TIER

43. Retain any woodland, copses or groups of trees. Agree in writing with the Project Officer and implement a programme to maintain and enhance the conservation and landscape value of non net-income generating woodland. All farm woodland on or adjacent to your agreement land must be entered into this woodland tier. Other woodland not on or adjacent to your agreement land may be entered at the discretion of the Ministry. Seek written consent from the Project Officer before planting any woodland.

PUBLIC ACCESS TIER

44. Make the access route available for public access at no charge.
45. Maintain a free passage over the access route.
46. Do not erect new fences on or adjacent to the access route without the prior written approval of the Ministry.
47. Keep the access route and fields crossed by it free of litter and other refuse.
48. Exclude bulls from the access route and fields crossed by it, except for bulls which do not exceed the age of 10 months or are not of a recognised dairy breed and are at large in any field or enclosure in which cows and heifers are also at large.
49. Agree with the Ministry in writing in advance the public liability insurance cover which you will maintain for the duration of the access agreement.
50. Provide and maintain adequate means of entry to the access route.
51. Affix and maintain appropriate signboards and waymarking.
52. Do not permit any of the following activities on the access route or on fields crossed by it: camping, caravanning, lighting of fires, organised games or sports, riding of motor vehicles (except those used for agricultural operations on the land) without the Ministry's prior written approval.
53. Agree with the Ministry in writing whether the riding of horses or cycles may be permitted on the access route.
54. If you wish to apply for temporary closure of the access route you must agree this with the Ministry in writing in advance. Where temporary closure is permitted you must post signs giving notice of the intended closure and the reasons for it at each entry point to the access route at least two weeks in advance of the date of closure.

MAFF Work Code	Eligible Item	Standard Payment Rates	Percentage Grant
6	Restoration of Ponds	–	50
7	Control of Scrub – 25% density – 25% to 75% density – over 75% density	– £100/ha £250/ha £500/ha	50
	A single payment is available for management of scrub on small free-standing features of archaeological interest	£50	
9	The rebuilding of dry stone walls – £4/m supplement payable where significant quantities of stone need to be brought in	£12/m	40
10	Renovation of farm buildings using traditional materials	–	40
11	Hedge coppicing – protective fencing: sheep fencing post and wire fencing	£1.50/m £1.20/m £0.80/m	40
12	Creation of Scrapes	–	80
13	Creation, reinstatement or re-profiling of dykes, ditches and foot-drains	–	80
14	Provision of water penning structures and Other Works to Control Water Levels	–	80
16	Restoration of fen habitats and reedbeds	–	50
22	Provision of water supplies and fencing associated with the reintroduction of grazing – supply – trough – post and wire fencing – sheep fencing	£0.40/m £25 each £0.80/m £1.20/m	40
25	Re-introduction of Willow Pollarding	£40/tree	80
40	Provision and restoration of gates for public access – bridle gate – kissing gate – kissing gate for the disabled	£100 each £130 each £200 each	80
41	Provision and restoration of stiles for public access – timber stile – ladder stile – step-over stile in stone wall – step-through stile in stone wall	£30 each £40 each £20 each £30 each	80
42	Provision and restoration of footbridges for public access	£125 each	80
44	Provision of silt traps in water courses	–	80
45	Fencing to protect habitats – post and wire fencing – sheep fencing	£0.80/m £1.20/m	80
48	Purchase of a diverse seed mix for arable reversion to chalk grassland	–	75
50	Other works for the restoration or enhancement of wildlife habitats	–	80



Environmentally Sensitive Areas

SCHEME PRESCRIPTIONS

UPPER THAMES TRIBUTARIES ESA

NB. If you carry out any work contrary to the scheme's objectives, for example the destruction of features such as walls, buildings or hedges, or the ploughing of valuable grassland, shortly before applying to join or rejoin the scheme, the Ministry is likely to reject your application.

The Ministry may modify the prescriptions set out below, to introduce additional requirements or amend existing ones, where this will help to protect and/or enhance habitats and species which are of importance within the designated area. Such modifications may be made for the lifespan of the agreement or from time to time, by means of a written agreement with you which will form part of your ESA agreement for the term specified.

TIER 1A PERMANENT GRASSLAND

1. Maintain permanent grassland. Do not plough, level or reseed. Cultivate only with a chain harrow or a roller.
2. Graze with livestock other than pigs or poultry and avoid poaching, overgrazing or undergrazing. Horses may be grazed but only in association with cattle, sheep or both.
3. If you cut the grass for hay, continue to do so and graze the aftermath. Wilt and turn any grass cut for silage before removal and graze the aftermath.
4. Do not increase your existing application rates of organic or inorganic fertiliser. Do not apply any organic fertiliser within 50 metres of a spring, well or borehole that supplies water for human consumption or within 10 metres of any watercourse.
5. For a supplementary payment you may agree not to apply fertiliser on land within 6 metres of any field boundary.
6. Do not apply fungicides or insecticides.
7. Do not apply herbicides except to control stinging nettles, spear thistle, creeping or field thistle, curled dock, broadleaved dock or ragwort. Apply herbicides only by means of a wick applicator or by spot treatment.
8. Dispose of any sheep dip safely. Do not spread sheep dip where it may affect areas of nature conservation value.
9. Do not install any new land drainage system or modify any existing land drainage system so as to bring about improved drainage. Maintenance of mole drainage systems may be allowed with the Project Officer's prior written approval.
10. Maintain existing water levels. Maintain watercourses for which you are responsible (including margins and banks) in rotation and carry out any necessary management by mechanical means, not herbicides. After allowing spoil to dry out, spread it but do not use it to infill depressions.
11. Retain and, where necessary, manage ponds, lakes, fen habitats, reeds and wetland.
12. Retain hedges and stone walls and do not remove any part thereof.
13. Maintain stockproof hedges and walls in stockproof condition using traditional materials.
14. Do not apply pesticides on land within 1 metre of any hedge or wall.
15. For a supplementary payment you MAY agree a programme to restore and manage non-stockproof hedges. Payment will be calculated on the basis of every metre of hedge restored in each year.
16. Retain and, where necessary, manage all individual trees, including any pollarded willows, and small groups of trees for which you are responsible.
17. Retain any broadleaved woodland.
18. Do not plant any additional trees or woodland without the Ministry's prior written approval.
19. Within two years of the start of your agreement obtain written advice on the management of woodland and scrub.
20. Do not damage, destroy or remove any feature of archaeological or historic value or interest.
21. At the start of your agreement obtain written advice on the management of known archaeological and historic features on your land. Where standard advice on agricultural management is provided this should be implemented within 12 months. Where more specific advice is required this should be obtained within the first 12 months of your agreement and appropriate advice implemented within two years.
22. Maintain any weatherproof traditional farm buildings for which you are responsible in a weatherproof condition using traditional styles and materials.

23. Obtain written advice on siting, design and materials before constructing buildings or roads or carrying out any other engineering or construction works that do not require planning permission or prior notification determination by the local planning authority.
24. You must abide by the Codes of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Soil, Air and Water, published by the Ministry (references PB 0617, PB 0618 and PB 0585) as amended from time to time.

TIER 1B EXTENSIVE PERMANENT GRASSLAND

Observe prescriptions 1-24 (Tier 1A) plus additional prescriptions set out below:

25. During the period 1 April to 30 June do not use a chain harrow or roller.
26. Do not top the grass or cut it for hay or silage until after 30 June.
27. For a supplementary payment you MAY agree in writing with the Ministry to exclude stock from specified areas where breeding waders are known to occur or where other ecological interest will benefit, between 15 March and 31 May.
28. For a supplementary payment you MAY agree in writing with the Ministry to carry out hay making. Do not graze after 1 March and do not cut the grass until after 10 July. The grass must be made into hay and not taken for silage. Graze the aftermath.
29. Restrict supplementary feeding of livestock to areas agreed in advance with the Project Officer.
30. Do not apply any organic or inorganic fertiliser except farmyard manure (FYM).
31. Do not exceed your existing application rates of FYM and, in any event, do not apply more than 20 tonnes of FYM per hectare in any three year period.
32. Do not apply FYM during the period 1 April to 31 May and, outside this period, apply it only in a single dressing.
33. Do not apply slurry, pig or poultry manure or sewage sludge.
34. Do not apply lime, slag or any other substance designed to reduce soil acidity.

TIER 2 – WET GRASSLAND

Observe prescriptions 1-24 (Tier 1A) and 25-34 (Tier 1B) plus additional prescriptions set out below:

35. Agree in writing with the Project Officer and implement a grassland management plan which will cover grazing and mowing rotations and water level management.
36. Agree in writing with the Project Officer and implement a programme for ditch management.
37. Ditches should be maintained so as to allow the control of field water levels by the operation of appropriately sited water control structures. Manage field water levels so that approximately 10% of the site is covered by shallow surface splashing from 15 March to 31 May. In order to achieve surface

splashing it must be possible to bring ditch water levels up to and over bank top for short periods of time. At all times of year a minimum of 30 cm depth of water must be maintained in the ditches.

38. Exclude stock from 15 March to 31 May. During June the stocking density must be restricted to 0.75 LU/ha.
39. Do not apply any organic or inorganic fertiliser (including farmyard manure).

TIER 3A – REVERSION OF ARABLE LAND TO EXTENSIVE PERMANENT GRASSLAND

40. Cease arable production (including ley grassland production). Within 7 months of the start of your agreement establish a permanent grass sward using suitable species chosen from an approved list. Agree in writing with the Project Officer before purchase the seed mix to be used. Seed of native origin and local provenance should be used wherever the Ministry considers it appropriate.
41. During the first 7 months of the agreement observe all Tier 1A Permanent Grassland prescriptions 9-24 inclusive and do not apply any of the following without the Ministry's prior written approval:
 - i) organic or inorganic fertiliser, (except farmyard manure);
 - ii) lime, slag or any substance designed to reduce soil acidity;
 - iii) fungicides, insecticides or herbicides.
42. After the first 7 months observe all the remaining Tier 1A prescriptions and all the Tier 1B Extensive Permanent Grassland prescriptions.
43. During each of the 3 years following establishment of the grass sward cut the grass, remove the cut crop and graze the aftermath.
44. On grassland reverted from arable do not exceed an average stocking level of 1.4 Livestock Units LU per hectare.

TIER 3B – REVERSION OF ARABLE LAND TO WET GRASSLAND

Observe prescriptions 40-42 (Tier 3A) plus additional prescriptions set out below:

45. Agree in writing with the Project Officer and implement a grassland management plan which will cover grazing and mowing rotations and water level management.
46. Agree in writing with the Project Officer and implement a programme for ditch management.
47. After the first 7 months observe all the remaining Tier 1A permanent grassland prescriptions and all the Tier 1B Extensive Permanent Grassland and Tier 2 wet grassland prescriptions.
48. On grassland reverted from arable do not exceed an average stocking level of 1.4 Livestock Units LU per hectare.

TIER 3C – ARABLE MARGIN BUFFER STRIPS

Observe prescriptions 40-44 (Tier 3A) plus additional prescriptions set out below:

49. Establish a permanent grass sward over a width of 5-30 metres using a seed mixture agreed in writing with the Project Officer.
50. Do not apply any inorganic or organic fertiliser or pesticides on the buffer strip.
51. Agree in writing with the Project Officer and implement the appropriate management of the buffer strip which may include topping, mowing or extensive grazing.

ACCESS TIER

52. Make the access route available for public access at no charge.
53. Maintain a free passage over the access route.
54. Do not erect new fences on or adjacent to the access route without the prior written approval of the Ministry.
55. Keep the access route and fields crossed by it free of litter and other refuse.

56. Exclude bulls from the access route and fields crossed by it, except for bulls which:
 - do not exceed the age of 10 months; or
 - are not of a recognised dairy breed and are at large in any field or enclosure in which cows and heifers are also at large.
57. Agree with the Ministry in writing in advance the Public Liability Insurance cover which you will maintain for the duration of the access agreement.
58. Provide and maintain adequate means of entry to the access route.
59. Affix and maintain appropriate signboards and waymarking.
60. Agree with the Ministry in writing whether the riding of horses or cycles may be permitted on the access route.
61. If you wish to apply for temporary closure of the access route you must agree this with the Ministry in writing in advance. Where temporary closure is permitted you must post signs giving notice of the intended closure and the reasons for it at each entry point to the access route at least two weeks in advance of the date of closure.