



# Organic Entry Level Stewardship

Environmental Stewardship Handbook

Fourth Edition – January 2013

[www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)



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	Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) including Uplands ELS	Organic Entry Level Stewardship (OELS) including Uplands OELS	Higher Level Stewardship (HLS)
Level	The simplest level in Environmental Stewardship (ES)	The organic version of ELS	A more demanding level that asks a farmer to achieve more
Eligibility	Open to all farmers	Open to farmers with organic land, land entering conversion or farms that combine conventional and organic enterprises	Negotiated with farmers in target areas or, outside of those areas, using target themes
Duration	5 years	5 years	10 years, though some options can run for a longer period
Payment	Standard payment of £30 per ha per year (£8 per ha per year on land parcels of 15 ha or more above the Moorland Line). Uplands ELS has a standard payment rate of £62 per ha per year, and £23 per ha per year on land parcels of 15 ha or more above the Moorland Line.	Standard payment of £60 per ha per year Organic conversion aid payments are £175 per ha (improved land for the first two years) and £600 per ha (top fruit orchards for the first three years). Uplands OELS has a standard payment rate of £92 per ha per year.	Requires a greater input in management terms, and so attracts higher payments. The actual payment varies according to the management required under the specific agreement.
What's new in 2013	Section 2 - Environmental objectives highlighting ELS options of greatest environmental value. Section 3 – Option directory for ELS and Uplands ELS. Changes to options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Five new options added to address specific environmental needs.</li> <li>■ Points value of 10 options adjusted to improve environmental benefit.</li> <li>■ Detailed option prescriptions of 11 options changed to clarify eligibility and encourage uptake.</li> <li>■ Titles of five options changed to spell out the environmental purpose of the options.</li> </ul> Section 4 – How to apply and Section 5 – Terms and conditions now cover both ELS and Uplands ELS.	Section 2 – Environmental objectives highlighting OELS options of greatest environmental value. Section 3 – Option directory for OELS and Uplands OELS. Changes to options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Five new options added to address specific environmental needs.</li> <li>■ Points value of 10 options adjusted to improve environmental benefit.</li> <li>■ Detailed option prescriptions of 11 options changed to clarify eligibility and encourage uptake.</li> <li>■ Titles of five options changed to spell out the environmental purpose of the options.</li> </ul> Section 4 – How to apply and Section 5 – Terms and conditions now cover both OELS and Uplands OELS.	Section 3 – Option directory for HLS New option HF24 – Supplementary feeding in winter for farmland birds

Before you read about ES in more detail, you can see what farmers themselves have to say about the scheme in the *Look After Your Land with Environmental Stewardship* booklet available from Natural England. You will also find a summary of each element of the scheme and how it works.

# The OELS Handbook – A Quick Guide

This quick guide will help you find the answers to questions you may have about the scheme, the application process and the rules.

1

## Section 1 – Introduction to Organic Entry Level Stewardship

Covers the basics: what you can achieve with OELS; how long agreements last; how the application process works; what and when you will be paid; and an overview of the rules.

2

## Section 2 – Environmental objectives

Information to help you select the best options for your farm and provide the most benefits for the environment, including for uplands farms.

3

## Section 3 – Option directory for OELS and Uplands OELS

Contains the detailed management requirements for each OELS (and ELS) option, including options specifically for farms in the uplands, and new options for 2013. **You should make sure you have read and understood all the management requirements that apply to the OELS or ELS options you select** – when you sign your application form, you are confirming that you will comply fully with the management requirements for the duration of your agreement.

4

## Section 4 – How to apply for OELS and Uplands OELS

Explains what you need to do before you apply, and provides a step-by-step guide to completing your application form, including for farmers applying for Uplands OELS.

5

## Section 5 – Terms and conditions

The rules that you will need to comply with when you enter into an OELS agreement. **You should read them before you apply.**

6

## Section 6 – Appendices

Includes a glossary of some of the main terms used in the handbook, our contact details, and a list of other useful sources of information.

### Information and advice to help you with your OELS application

**Before you apply:** You can receive a free advice visit from a Natural England representative to help you make the most of your OELS agreement. This help is available to all farmers and land managers. Call 0300 060 1695 or visit the Farm Events and Visits page on the Natural England website at [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk).

**Completing your application form:** Call 0300 060 0011 if you need help completing your form.

**How long will it take?** It will take up to three months to process your application from receipt of a valid application. Call 0300 060 0011 if you wish to check the progress of your application.

**Scheme aftercare once your agreement is in place:** you can receive a free advice visit or join a 'best practice' event to help you manage your OELS options as well as possible. If you need to amend your agreement, or have any other concerns, call 0300 060 0011.

### Which edition of the OELS Handbook should you use?

This handbook will apply to all OELS agreements starting on or after 1 January 2013. If this applies to you, this handbook – including all the rules and requirements that it contains – will form a part of your legal agreement with Natural England and it must be retained for reference.

OELS agreements starting before 1 January 2013 will continue to be governed by previous handbook editions, until they are either replaced by a new agreement or reach the end of their term, as follows:

- 1st edition handbooks: Agreements starting August 2005 - September 2008.
- 2nd edition handbooks: Agreements starting October 2008 - January 2010.
- 3rd edition handbooks: Agreements starting February 2010 - December 2012.

# Contents

## Section 1

### Introduction to Organic Entry Level Stewardship

<b>1.1</b>	<b>Introduction and general overview</b> .....	<b>9</b>
1.1.1	What is Organic Entry Level Stewardship?.....	9
1.1.2	Benefits of OELS and Uplands OELS for farmers and land managers.....	9
1.1.3	OELS and OELS aims and objectives.....	9
1.1.4	Priority options and priority areas .....	9
1.1.5	What the scheme has delivered to date.....	10
1.1.6	Further help: free farm visits and events .....	10
<b>1.2</b>	<b>Key information</b> .....	<b>10</b>
1.2.1	Who can apply?.....	10
1.2.2	How do you apply?.....	10
1.2.3	What land is eligible? .....	10
1.2.4	What are you agreeing to do?.....	10
1.2.5	What environmental management must you undertake and how much will you be paid?.....	11
1.2.6	Conversion aid payments .....	11
1.2.7	When will your agreement start and how long will it last? .....	12
1.2.8	When will you be paid? .....	12
1.2.9	Can an agent act on your behalf?.....	12
1.2.10	How will your information be stored and used?.....	12
1.2.11	Can you make changes to your agreement? .....	12

## Section 2

### Environmental objectives

<b>2.1</b>	<b>Managing arable habitats for farmland birds</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Managing habitats for water voles, dragonflies, newts and toads</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>2.3</b>	<b>Managing habitats for arable plants</b> .....	<b>17</b>
<b>2.4</b>	<b>Managing habitats for bats and dormice</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>2.5</b>	<b>Managing habitats for butterflies, bees and vulnerable grassland</b> .....	<b>20</b>
<b>2.6</b>	<b>Managing habitats for brown hare</b> .....	<b>21</b>
<b>2.7</b>	<b>Managing habitats for uplands wildlife</b> .....	<b>22</b>
<b>2.8</b>	<b>Managing your land to protect and enhance the landscape</b> .....	<b>24</b>
<b>2.9</b>	<b>Managing your land for the historic environment</b> .....	<b>26</b>
<b>2.10</b>	<b>Managing your land for cleaner water and healthier soil</b> .....	<b>28</b>
<b>2.11</b>	<b>Managing your land to focus on climate change</b> .....	<b>31</b>

## Section 3

### Option directory for OELS and Uplands OELS

<b>3.1</b>	<b>Introduction to compulsory requirements and options</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Conversion aid payments</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>3.3</b>	<b>Compulsory requirements for OELS and upland management</b>	<b>42</b>
	OU1 Organic management	42
	OA1/EA1 Farm Environment Record	43
	UOX Compulsory requirements for SDA land in Uplands OELS	43
<b>3.4</b>	<b>Detailed management prescriptions</b>	<b>45</b>
	B Options for boundary features	45
	Combined hedge and ditch management options	51
	C Options for trees and woodland	56
	D Options for historic and landscape features	61
	E Options for buffer strips	67
	F Options for arable land	73
	G Options to encourage a range of crop types	86
	J Options to protect soil and water	87
	K Options for grassland outside the Severely Disadvantaged Areas (SDAs)	92
	K Option for mixed stocking on grassland	98
	L Options for grassland and moorland inside the Severely Disadvantaged Areas (SDAs)	99
	<b>Options for Uplands OELS</b>	<b>106</b>
	UOB Options for boundary features in the uplands	106
	UOC Options for trees and woodland in the uplands	111
	UOD Options for historic and landscape features in the uplands	113
	UOJ Options to protect soils and water in the uplands	116
	UOL Options for upland grassland and moorland	117
<b>3.5</b>	<b>Combinations of OELS options, including Uplands OELS options, that can occupy the same land</b>	<b>123</b>

## Section 4

### How to apply for OELS and Uplands OELS

<b>4.1</b>	<b>Before you apply</b>	<b>132</b>
4.1.1	Things to do before you apply	132
4.1.2	Register conventionally managed land and organically managed land separately	132
4.1.3	Obtain an application form and maps	132
4.1.4	Check your application pack is complete	133
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Choosing your options</b>	<b>133</b>
4.2.1	Selecting the right options for your farm	133
4.2.2	Advice on conversion to organic farming	134
4.2.3	Further help: free farm visits and events	134
4.2.4	Meet your points target	134
4.2.5	Can you have more than one option on the same area of land?	135
4.2.6	What should you do if you have already sown your crops?	135
<b>4.3</b>	<b>How to complete your application</b>	<b>135</b>
4.3.1	Before you begin	135
4.3.2	Step-by-step summary of how to apply	135
4.3.3	How to fill in your application form and mark your maps	137
<b>4.4</b>	<b>What happens next?</b>	<b>143</b>
4.4.1	What happens once you have submitted your application?	143
4.4.2	What will you receive if your application has been successful?	144
4.4.3	What if your application is unsuccessful?	144

## Section 5

### Terms and conditions

<b>5.1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>153</b>
<b>5.2</b>	<b>About your agreement</b>	<b>153</b>
5.2.1	What are you agreeing to do?	153
5.2.2	What documentation is included in your agreement?	153
5.2.3	Duration of your agreement	154
5.2.4	What payments will you receive?	154
5.2.5	How will you be paid?	154
5.2.6	Will your details be made public?	154
<b>5.3</b>	<b>Who can apply?</b>	<b>155</b>
5.3.1	Who can join the scheme?	155
5.3.2	What if you are a tenant?	155
5.3.3	What if you are a licensee?	156
5.3.4	What if you are a landlord?	156
5.3.5	What if you are a licensor?	157
5.3.6	What about using contractors to manage the land?	157
5.3.7	Are business partnerships and trusts eligible?	157
5.3.8	Are public bodies and their tenants eligible?	157
5.3.9	Is common land and shared grazing eligible?	158
5.3.10	What if others hold rights over your land?	158
<b>5.4</b>	<b>Is your land eligible?</b>	<b>158</b>
5.4.1	What land can you enter into the scheme?	158
5.4.2	What land must be excluded from your application?	159
5.4.3	Is land that is subject to another scheme or obligation eligible?	159
5.4.4	Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) and Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs)	159
5.4.5	Energy Crops Scheme (ECS)	161
5.4.6	The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) (England) (No. 2) Regulations 2006	161
5.4.7	Felling Licences/Tree Preservation Orders	161
5.4.8	Habitat Scheme	161
5.4.9	Inheritance Tax/Capital Gains Tax exemption	161
5.4.10	Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs)	162
5.4.11	Producer Organisation Aid Scheme	162
5.4.12	Protected species	162
5.4.13	Scheduled Monuments	162
5.4.14	Single Payment Scheme (SPS)	163
5.4.15	Can you use land to apply for ELS that someone else is using to apply for SPS?	163
5.4.16	Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	164
5.4.17	Tenancy conditions	164
5.4.18	Uplands Transitional Payment (UTP)	164
5.4.19	Woodland schemes	165
<b>5.5</b>	<b>What additional requirements will apply to your agreement?</b>	<b>165</b>
5.5.1	Cross compliance	165
5.5.2	Avoidance of under-utilisation and overgrazing	166
5.5.3	Public Rights of Way	166
5.5.4	Protection of historic features	166
5.5.5	Archaeological fieldwork and metal detecting on your land	167
5.5.6	Other activities on your land	167
5.5.7	Inspecting and monitoring your agreement	168
5.5.8	Agricultural Waste Regulations	168
5.5.9	Plaques	168
5.5.10	Keep necessary records	168

5.5.11	State Aid payments.....	168
5.5.12	Other funding .....	169
5.5.13	Publicity.....	169
5.5.14	Photographs .....	169
5.5.15	(OELS only) Organic standards .....	169
<b>5.6</b>	<b>Making changes to your agreement.....</b>	<b>169</b>
5.6.1	Can you make changes to your agreement? .....	169
5.6.2	What if you let, sell or transfer your land to another party? .....	171
5.6.3	What if you acquire land? .....	171
5.6.4	When will agreement transfers take effect? .....	172
5.6.5	What if you want to upgrade your agreement? .....	173
5.6.6	Derogations .....	173
5.6.7	Variation of your agreement by us.....	174
5.6.8	Certainty of payment.....	174
5.6.9	Exceptional circumstances (force majeure) .....	174
5.6.10	(OELS only) Can you change your Organic Inspection Body? .....	175
5.6.11	(OELS only) Are phased conversions possible under OELS? .....	175
<b>5.7</b>	<b>What happens if you fail to keep to the terms of your agreement, have a dispute or wish to make a complaint?.....</b>	<b>176</b>
5.7.1	What is a breach of agreement? .....	176
5.7.2	What penalties could be applied?.....	176
5.7.3	What do you do if you receive an overpayment? .....	178
5.7.4	What if you disagree with any of our decisions or proposed actions regarding your application or agreement? .....	178
5.7.5	(OELS only) What do you do if you have a dispute with an Organic Inspection Body over certification issues? .....	178
5.7.6	How do you make a complaint? .....	178

## Section 6

### Appendices

#### Appendix 1

Contact details.....	180
----------------------	-----

#### Appendix 2

Useful web addresses .....	182
----------------------------	-----

#### Appendix 3

Guidance for calculating nitrogen content of fertilisers and manures .....	184
--	-----

#### Appendix 4

Animal numbers converted into Livestock Units (LUs).....	185
--	-----

#### Appendix 5

List of recognised hardy native breeds of sheep .....	186
---	-----

#### Appendix 6

Glossary and list of abbreviations and acronyms.....	188
--	-----

**Throughout this handbook, text in black is applicable to both ELS and Uplands ELS.**

Text specific to OELS is highlighted green.

Text specific to Uplands ELS is highlighted purple.

**Throughout this handbook, all references to 'our', 'us' or 'we' refer to 'Natural England' and all references to 'you' or 'your' refer to 'the agreement holder'.**

# Appendix 1

## Contact details

### Natural England offices

Natural England offices are open from 8.30 am to 5.00 pm Monday to Friday, excluding bank holidays. Please have your application or agreement details to hand when contacting us.

Please note that all requests for OELS and combined OELS/HLS application packs should be directed to the Crewe office (North West region).

#### East of England

Bedfordshire  
Cambridgeshire  
Essex  
Hertfordshire  
Norfolk  
Suffolk

Natural England  
Customer Services  
PO Box 247, Cambridge CB2 2WW  
Tel: 0300 060 0011\*  
Fax: 0300 060 1124  
Email: [enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk)

#### East Midlands

Derbyshire  
Leicestershire  
Lincolnshire  
Northamptonshire  
Nottinghamshire  
Rutland

Natural England  
Customer Services  
PO Box 10276, Nottingham NG2 9PD  
Tel: 0300 060 0011\*  
Fax: 0300 060 1121  
Email: [enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk)

#### North East

Durham  
Northumberland  
Tyne and Wear  
Former county of Cleveland

Natural England  
Customer Services  
PO Box 578, Newcastle upon Tyne NE15 8WW  
Tel: 0300 060 0011\*  
Fax: 0300 060 1127  
Email: [enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk)

#### North West

Cheshire  
Cumbria  
Greater Manchester  
Lancashire  
Merseyside

Natural England  
Customer Services  
PO Box 380, Crewe CW1 6YH  
Tel: 0300 060 0011\*  
Fax: 0300 060 1123  
Email: [enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk)

#### South East

Berkshire  
Buckinghamshire  
East Sussex  
West Sussex  
Greater London  
Hampshire  
Isle of Wight  
Kent  
Oxfordshire  
Surrey

Natural England  
Customer Services  
PO Box 2423, Reading RG1 6WY  
Tel: 0300 060 0011\*  
Fax: 0300 060 1122  
Email: [enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk)

<b>South West</b> Cornwall Devon Dorset Gloucestershire Somerset Wiltshire Former county of Avon	Natural England Customer Services PO Box 277, Bristol BS10 6WW Tel: 0300 060 0011* Fax: 0300 060 1128 Email: enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk
<b>West Midlands</b> Herefordshire Shropshire Staffordshire Warwickshire West Midlands Worcestershire	Natural England Customer Services PO Box 530, Worcester WR5 2WZ Tel: 0300 060 0011* Fax: 0300 060 1125 Email: enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk
<b>Yorkshire and the Humber</b> East Riding of Yorkshire North Yorkshire South Yorkshire West Yorkshire North Lincolnshire	Natural England Customer Services PO Box 798, Leeds LS1 9NA Tel: 0300 060 0011* Fax: 0300 060 1126 Email: enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk

**Please note:**

Calls to phone numbers marked \* above will be answered initially by an external switchboard service working on Natural England's behalf. They will then connect callers to Natural England staff who can deal with your enquiry.

In order to help the switchboard operator to direct your call accurately:

- please give the name of the specific person or team you wish to speak to, if you know this;
- otherwise, please give as much detail of the nature of your enquiry and the geographical area that it relates to, as possible.

# Appendix 2

## Useful web addresses

### Natural England application information:

Supplementary forms for Environmental Stewardship (agent authorisation, common land and shared grazing, derogation) can be found at:

[www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/funding/es/forms/default.aspx](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/funding/es/forms/default.aspx)

For details of ELS online go to:

[www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/funding/es/els/online/default.aspx](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/funding/es/els/online/default.aspx)

Mapping software that may be helpful in measuring areas and lengths is available at:

[www.magic.gov.uk](http://www.magic.gov.uk)

### Other Natural England sources of information:

Details of OELS advice events can be obtained from:

[www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/landmanagementadvice/events/default.aspx](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/landmanagementadvice/events/default.aspx)

Advice about wildlife management and licensing is available at:

[www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/regulation/wildlife/default.aspx](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/regulation/wildlife/default.aspx)

A guidance note on Environmental Stewardship for heritage properties designated under the Inheritance Tax Act 1984 (Natural England 2011) is available at:

[publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35042](http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35042)

Details of the Natural England complaints procedure can be found at:

[www.naturalengland.org.uk/about\\_us/contact\\_us/complaints.aspx](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/about_us/contact_us/complaints.aspx)

Further information on Public Rights of Way, including the duties of landowners and occupiers of land, can be found at:

[www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/enjoying/places/rightsofway/default.aspx](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/enjoying/places/rightsofway/default.aspx)

Advice on the management of hedgerows and hedgerow trees (including *The Hedgerow Management Cycle and Scale*) is available through the Natural England publications catalogue:

[publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/39004?category=9006](http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/39004?category=9006)

A wide range of information, including bird distribution maps can be found at:

[www.natureonthemap.org.uk](http://www.natureonthemap.org.uk)

The Heather and Grass Burning Code can be downloaded from:

[www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/regulation/burning/default.aspx](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/regulation/burning/default.aspx)

Details about the Catchment Sensitive Farming programme can be found at:

[www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/csf/default.aspx](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/csf/default.aspx)

### External sources of information:

Information about NDPBs and other public bodies can be found at:

[www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/resources/information-on-public-bodies](http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/resources/information-on-public-bodies)

Information on Felling licences including the booklet *Tree Felling – getting permission* is available at:

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-6DFK86](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-6DFK86)

Code of Good Agricultural Practice can be found at:

[www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/06/16/pb13558-cogap](http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/06/16/pb13558-cogap)

Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales can be found at:  
[finds.org.uk/getinvolved/guides/codeofpractice](https://finds.org.uk/getinvolved/guides/codeofpractice)

Information about archaeological features on your farm can be obtained from your local Historic Environment Record (HER) at:  
[www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/CHR](https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/CHR)

A leaflet entitled *Farming the Historic Landscape: Entry Level Stewardship* is available at:  
[www.helm.org.uk](https://www.helm.org.uk)

### **Rural Payment Agency's (RPA's) Customer Service Centre**

Customer Service Centre

Rural Payments Agency

PO Box 1058

Newcastle upon Tyne

NE99 4YQ

Tel: 0845 603 7777

Email: [csc@rpa.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:csc@rpa.gsi.gov.uk)

Full details about cross compliance can be found on the RPA website at:

[www.rpa.gov.uk/crosscompliance](https://www.rpa.gov.uk/crosscompliance)

In addition, the Farming Advice Service provides advice on cross compliance and other subjects to help you improve the economic and environmental performance of your farm:

[www.defra.gov.uk/farming-advice](https://www.defra.gov.uk/farming-advice)

*Single Payment Scheme Handbook* and supplements:

[rpa.defra.gov.uk/rpa/index.nsf/home](https://rpa.defra.gov.uk/rpa/index.nsf/home)

# Appendix 3

## Guidance for calculating nitrogen content of fertilisers and manures

This section may help you to establish the appropriate application rates of fertilisers or manures applied under the low-input grassland and rush pasture options OK2, OK3, OK4, OL2, OL3, OL4 and EK2, EK3, EK4, EL2, EL3, EL4.

### Fertilisers

The content of each nutrient in a fertiliser is given as a percentage. Therefore, 100 kg of a 20:10:10 NPK compound fertiliser will contain 20 kg of nitrogen, 10 kg of phosphate and 10 kg of potash.

The amount of fertiliser product to apply per ha is calculated as follows:

Rate of fertiliser product (kg/ha) = nutrient application rate (kg/ha) x 100 per cent nutrient in fertiliser

### Examples

- A 20:10:10 fertiliser is to be used to apply 50 kg/ha nitrogen, 25 kg/ha phosphate and 25 kg/ha potash. The required application rate of the fertiliser product is 250 kg/ha.
- A 34.5 per cent nitrogen fertiliser is to be used to apply 50 kg/ha nitrogen. The required application rate of the fertiliser product is 145 kg/ha.

### Manures

**Table 13 Typical total nitrogen content of livestock manures**

Manure type	Total nitrogen content	Application rate to supply 100 kg/ha total nitrogen
Cattle farmyard manure	6.0 kg/tonne	16 tonnes/ha
Pig farmyard manure	7.0 kg/tonne	14 tonnes/ha
Dairy cattle slurry (6% dry matter)	3.0 kg/m <sup>3</sup>	33 m <sup>3</sup> /ha
Beef cattle slurry (6% dry matter)	2.3 kg/m <sup>3</sup>	43 m <sup>3</sup> /ha
Pig slurry (4% dry matter)	4.0 kg/m <sup>3</sup>	25 m <sup>3</sup> /ha

These typical nitrogen contents are based on analyses of a large number of samples and are useful for general planning purposes. The nitrogen content of manures can be variable and analysis of individual samples will provide more reliable information. Dry matter content will affect the nitrogen content of slurries.

For full details on the nutrient content of manures, see *Fertiliser Recommendations for Agricultural and Horticultural Crops* (RB209, MAFF, seventh edition, 2000), available from the Defra website at [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk) under 'Fertilisers' in the A-Z index.

### Conversion table for frequently-used units of measurement

50 kg/ha = 40 units/acre

1 kg = 2 units (a 'unit' is 1 per cent of 1 hundredweight, or 1.12 lb)

## Appendix 4

**Table 14 Animal numbers converted into Livestock Units (LUs)**

Animal numbers are converted into Livestock Units as follows:	LUs
Dairy cow	1.0
Beef cow	1.0
Cattle over two years old	0.7
Cattle six months to two years old	0.6
Lowland ewe and lamb	0.12
Hill ewe and lamb	0.08
Ram and teg over six months old	0.15
Ewe follower and/or store lamb	0.08
Horse	1.0
Pony	0.8

These values are for medium-sized breeds. Large breeds will have approximately 20 per cent higher LU values and small breeds will be approximately 20 per cent lower, for each category.

Other grazing ruminants, such as deer or camelids, should be allocated an LU value in proportion to their liveweight, ie 60 kg animal approximately = 0.1 LU.

# Appendix 5

## List of recognised hardy native breeds of sheep

**Badger Face Welsh**

**Balwen**

**Beulah Speckled Face**

**Black Welsh Mountain**

**Border Leicester**

**Boreray**

**Castlemilk Moorit**

**Clun Forest**

**Cotswold**

**Derbyshire Gritstone**

**Devon and Cornwall**

**Longwool**

**Devon Closewool**

**Dorset Down**

**Dorset Horn**

**Exmoor Horn**

**Greyface Dartmoor**

**Hampshire Down**

**Hebridean**

**Herdwick**

**Hill Radnor**

**Jacob**

**Kerry Hill**

**Leicester Longwool**

**Lincoln Longwool**

**Llandovery Whiteface Hill**

**Llanwenog**

**Lonk**

**Manx Loaghtan**

**Norfolk Horn**

**North Ronaldsay**

**Oxford Down**

**Portland**

**Romney**

**Ryeland (including Coloured)**

**Shetland**  
**Shetland (Island<sup>1</sup>)**  
**Shropshire**  
**Soay**  
**South Wales Mountain (Nelson type)**  
**Southdown**  
**Teeswater**  
**Welsh Hill Speckled Face**  
**Wensleydale**  
**Whiteface Dartmoor**  
**Whitefaced Woodland**  
**Wiltshire Horn**

<sup>1</sup> 'Island' means pedigree-registered animals listed as being part of the 'Island' population of that breed, usually in a separate 'closed' sub-register within the relevant breed society's herdbook.

# Appendix 6

## Glossary and list of abbreviations and acronyms

### Glossary

#### **Agreement land**

All land entered into a single Organic Entry Level Stewardship agreement.

#### **Agri-environment schemes**

Schemes under EC Regulation 1698/2005 and Commission Regulations 1974/2006 and 65/2011 (as amended or as may be amended) that offer grants for measures to conserve and enhance the countryside.

#### **Arable land**

Land that has been in arable production, including temporary grassland and long-term set-aside, during the five years prior to the start of your agreement.

#### **Common land**

Land where management rights are vested in a number of individuals.

#### **Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW) 2000**

Strengthens the legislation on the protection of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) (see below) and introduces new rights of access on foot to open countryside (mountain, moor, heath, downland) and commons.

#### **Derogation**

Agreed temporary relaxation from the specified prescriptions in an agreement.

#### **Easement**

A right enjoyed by one landowner over the land of another, for example, a right of way.

#### **Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations**

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) (England) (No.2) Regulations 2006.

#### **Environmental Information Map**

The map that Natural England will send to you, with your personalised application form, showing designations on your land such as SSSIs and Scheduled Monuments.

#### **Environmental Stewardship (ES)**

Replaced Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Countryside Stewardship Schemes from 2005. It has three elements – Entry Level Stewardship, Organic Entry Level Stewardship and Higher Level Stewardship. Uplands Entry Level Stewardship and Uplands Organic Entry Level Stewardship options offer a higher level of payment in return for environmental management of land within the Severely Disadvantaged Areas (SDAs).

#### **Farm Environment Record (FER)**

A simple record of the environmental features on your land, required as part of your agreement. As a condition of your agreement, you agree to retain the features identified.

#### **Field Data Sheet**

Annex 2 of the OELS application, on which you entered your OELS or ELS non-rotational in-field options.

#### **Force majeure**

A breach of your agreement caused by unforeseeable circumstances or events beyond your control which, in spite of the exercise of all due care, could not have been avoided except at the cost of excessive sacrifice.

## **Grassland**

For the purposes of ELS, grassland is defined as land that is used to grow grasses or other herbaceous forage naturally or through cultivation and which has not been subject to cultivation for at least five years.

## **Haylage**

Haylage is defined as preserved grass with a dry matter content of at least 60 per cent.

## **Leaching**

The process by which percolating water removes nutrients from the soil.

## **Less Favoured Area (LFA)**

An area where the natural characteristics (geology, altitude, climate etc) make farming difficult. LFAs are subdivided into Severely Disadvantaged Areas and Disadvantaged Areas.

## **Livestock unit (LU)**

A measure of grazing pressure, allowing stocking rate comparison between livestock types. Grazing livestock units are calculated according to conversion factors, which vary according to the type of animal.

## **Moorland Line**

The Moorland Line encloses land within England that has been defined as predominantly semi-natural upland vegetation, or predominantly of rock outcrops and semi-natural vegetation, used primarily for rough grazing. The Moorland Line encloses nearly 800,000 hectares (42 per cent) of Less Favoured Area land.

## **Non-rotational options**

Management options that remain in the same place on your land for the duration of your agreement (for example, hedgerow management).

## **Options Map**

The map on which you mark the management options you wish to enter into Organic Entry Level Stewardship.

## **Overgrazing**

Grazing of land which significantly reduces the growth, quality or species composition of vegetation (other than vegetation normally grazed to destruction) on that land.

## **Poaching**

Damage to the sward caused by concentrations of livestock.

## **Points target**

This is the number of points required for an Organic Entry Level Stewardship application to be accepted and is based on the total area of agreement land (for example, outside of the Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDA) the points target = 60 x hectares of agreement land).

## **Profit à prendre**

This gives the holder the right to take natural resources from the land of another.

## **Rotational options**

Options which can be moved around your land during the course of your agreement, for example skylark plots, wild bird seed mix plots, conservation headlands.

## **Rural Land Register (RLR)**

A database of land parcels and areas within England, managed by the Rural Payments Agency. For land to be eligible for Organic Entry Level Stewardship, it must be registered on the Rural Land Register.

## **Rural Payments Agency (RPA)**

An executive agency of Defra responsible for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) payment functions, formerly delivered by Defra and the Intervention Board.

## **Scheduled Monument**

Nationally important sites and monuments of historic interest that have been given legal protection by being placed on a list or 'schedule'. English Heritage takes the lead in identifying sites in England that should be placed on the schedule by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

## **Scrub**

Any distinct area within a parcel (which may even amount to the entire parcel area) which is clearly capable of being grazed (ie is not too dense) is eligible for SPS, while any distinct area which is clearly incapable of being grazed (ie is too dense) should be excluded, even if such areas are adjoined. This will mean that, for example, within a grass parcel containing scrub (not thistle), those grass parts which do not have scrub growing on them are eligible for SPS, as are those parts where the scrub is short and animals can walk over them and graze on the scrub. Any area where the inspector is satisfied that animals cannot penetrate for grazing, should be deducted.

## **Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDA)**

These are areas which are, in the opinion of the appropriate minister, inherently suitable for extensive livestock production but not for the production of crops in a quantity materially greater than that necessary to feed such livestock as are capable of being maintained on such land, and whose agricultural production is, in the opinion of the appropriate minister, severely restricted in its range by, or by a combination of soil, relief, aspect or climate, or situated in the Isles of Scilly. Severely Disadvantaged Areas form part of the Less Favoured Areas.

## **Shared Grazing**

Shared grazing(s) are communal pasture where graziers have a legal entitlement to graze (for example, a pasture used jointly by tenants) but where the land is not registered as common land.

## **Single Business Identifier (SBI)**

A unique reference number for beneficiaries of rural development schemes, including SPS, to identify the owners/occupiers of land and to aid the co-ordination of inspections, implementation of cross compliance, and declaration of total EU funding received by each beneficiary.

## **Single Payment Scheme (SPS)**

A decoupled subsidy payment replacing the 10 major Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) payment schemes, one of the major reforms of the CAP came into effect in 2005.

## **Undergrazing**

Where annual growth is not being fully utilised, or where scrub or coarse vegetation is becoming evident, and this is detrimental to the environmental interests of the site.

## **Uplands Transitional Payment (UTP)**

A payment designed for farms that have Environmentally Sensitive Area or Countryside Stewardship Scheme agreements within the Severely Disadvantaged Areas. It is a payment based on the total area of your farm. The Rural Payments Agency administers the Uplands Transitional Payment.

## **Vendor number**

A vendor is the name and correspondence address of a business that is entitled to receive grants and subsidies and each vendor is allocated a vendor number.

## **Watercourse**

A watercourse is defined as a surface water body, whether a lake, pond, river, stream, canal, leat or ditch, which regularly contains standing or running water.

## List of abbreviations and acronyms

<b>AONB</b>	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
<b>BASIS</b>	British Agrochemical Standards Inspection Scheme
<b>CAP</b>	Common Agricultural Policy
<b>CPH</b>	County Parish Holding
<b>CSS</b>	Countryside Stewardship Scheme
<b>Defra</b>	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
<b>ECS</b>	Energy Crops Scheme
<b>ELS</b>	Entry Level Stewardship
<b>ERDP</b>	England Rural Development Programme
<b>ES</b>	Environmental Stewardship
<b>ESA</b>	Environmentally Sensitive Area
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FER</b>	Farm Environment Record
<b>FYM</b>	Farm Yard Manure
<b>GAEC</b>	Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition
<b>HER</b>	Historic Environment Record
<b>HLS</b>	Higher Level Stewardship
<b>LCA</b>	Landscape Character Assessment
<b>LU</b>	Livestock Unit
<b>MESME</b>	Making Environmental Stewardship More Effective
<b>NDPB</b>	Non-Departmental Public Body
<b>NVZ</b>	Nitrate Vulnerable Zone
<b>OELS</b>	Organic Entry Level Stewardship
<b>RDPE</b>	Rural Development Programme for England
<b>RLR</b>	Rural Land Register
<b>RPA</b>	Rural Payments Agency
<b>SBI</b>	Single Business Identifier
<b>SDA</b>	Severely Disadvantaged Area
<b>SHINE</b>	Selected Heritage Inventory for Natural England

<b>SMRs</b>	Statutory Management Requirements
<b>SPA</b>	Special Protection Area
<b>SPS</b>	Single Payment Scheme
<b>SSSI</b>	Site of Special Scientific Interest
<b>TFB</b>	Traditional Farm Building
<b>UTP</b>	Uplands Transitional Payment

## Our promise to you

As the Government's adviser on the natural environment, Natural England are committed to provide practical advice, grounded in science, on how best to safeguard England's natural wealth for the benefit of everyone.

Our remit is to ensure sustainable stewardship of the land and sea so that people and nature can thrive. It is our responsibility to see that England's rich natural environment can adapt and survive intact for future generations to enjoy.

We work with farmers and land managers, business and industry, planners and developers, national and local government, interest groups and local communities to help them improve their local environment.

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For a printed copy, please call our Enquiries Team on 0845 600 3078.

Many of the ES options will reduce the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions associated with your farming activities, for instance, by reducing the use of inorganic fertilisers and increasing carbon stores in soils. You can estimate the carbon footprint of your farm by logging on to the Country Land & Business Association's (CLA) Carbon Accounting for Land Managers (CALM) tool at [www.cla.org.uk/calm](http://www.cla.org.uk/calm). Natural England and the CLA have been working together to build in a specific ES element to CALM enabling you to estimate the impact of your ES option choices on your farm's carbon footprint.

**Front cover photograph:**  
Clustered Bellflower on South Downs chalk grassland  
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