Section 2
Option directory for HLS

Section 2.1

The HLS management options and supplements are summarised in this Section. The table in Section 2.2.1 below provides a complete list, including payment rates, of the available HLS management options. This is followed by detailed descriptions in Section 2.2.2 of the overall aims and the management required for each of these options. In Section 2.2.3, there is a list of the Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) or Organic Entry Level Stewardship (OELS) options that can, under certain circumstances, be included in an HLS agreement. At the end of the Section, in 2.2.4, there is a table that shows the combinations of options that can occupy the same land.

2.1.1 What is an 'indicator of success'?

Experience has shown that it is not always possible to achieve the aims of the management options simply by following a set of prescriptions.

Environmental and agricultural conditions change over time and we need you to adapt your management accordingly. The 'indicators of success' are intended to 'paint a picture' of what we are looking to achieve, so that you and your Natural England adviser can judge whether the management is working, and to see whether adjustments are needed. You will need to refer to these indicators, and use your own knowledge of your land and your farming system, to fine tune your management to allow for variations in conditions between years and between different areas of your land. Please note, you must still continue to comply with the management prescriptions, but you should find these provide sufficient flexibility to allow the kind of individual tailoring indicated above.

2.1.2 What is the difference between the maintenance, restoration and creation options?

Many of the broad suites of options have individual components, which at first glance look very similar. In particular, you will see that there are maintenance, restoration and creation options for many features. It is important to understand the difference between them before submitting your application.

Natural England's highest priority is the maintenance of existing high-quality sites, followed by restoration, then creation.

Maintenance

These features will already be in good condition and the Farm Environment Plan (FEP) will have identified this. The management requirements will almost certainly be very similar to the ones you followed before you joined the scheme. Management will therefore maintain the status quo and there may be limited scope for enhancing the environmental interest.

Restoration

For restoration options, the FEP will have identified that the feature is present but that it is not in a good condition. More positive management will be necessary and certain activities will need to stop, in order that, over time, the feature is restored. You will have the opportunity to discuss the restoration potential of individual land parcels, and their management, with your Natural England adviser. The potential will depend on factors such as:

- soil type
- pH and nutrient status
- soil wetness
- management history
- location of the parcel in relation to existing features.

Creation

The FEP might have identified the opportunity for creating a new feature. Creation options will be limited to the circumstances where a need for habitat creation has been identified, and then only on the most suitable sites.

Suitability will depend on similar factors to those given for restoration (see above). Creation will not normally be accepted if the site already has significant features. If the site is suitable, the creation options will require the conversion to a very specific type of grassland or other habitat, and will be quite demanding.

2.1.3 How should you take landscape considerations into account?

There are no management options aimed specifically at 'the landscape', but it is nevertheless very important that all of the chosen options respect the character of the area. The selection of appropriate land management options and capital works should reflect and enhance the distinctive historic and landscape character of the local area. Options for the maintenance of existing features and habitats will generally maintain and strengthen the landscape character of the area. Features and habitats to be restored by more pro-active management options will generally conserve, restore and strengthen the typical landscape character.

For example, in a predominantly pastoral, enclosed landscape, options chosen to maintain field boundaries, permanent pasture and tree and woodland features will help to maintain and strengthen the pattern and scale of the landscape. If an option is also chosen to restore an arable field back to grassland, and is combined with capital works to restore the field boundaries to a stockproof condition, this will make a significant contribution to restoring the local landscape character.

Some options, such as buffer strips and wild bird mixes, which are used to enhance wildlife habitat, need to be very carefully located to ensure that they do not have a negative visual impact on the landscape or obscure the characteristic field pattern and scale of the landscape.

How should you take the protection of nearby rivers and waterbodies into account?

Even though there are no specific options for the protection of rivers and sensitive waterbodies, there are many HLS options that can contribute to the protection and buffering of these sites from some intensive operations. For instance, the placement of resource protection or buffering options alongside, or connected to, sensitive habitats may be important or necessary where the protection of that river or stream is specified in the targeting documents. Capital works may also be available to help further that protection. The FEP will help you identify which fields pose the greatest risk in terms of generating diffuse pollution and your Natural England adviser will help you deploy measures to reduce impacts on off-farm habitats.

Section 2.2

2.2.1 Summary table of HLS options and payment rates

All new text, including new options and changes to existing options, is highlighted in blue.

Code	Option	Payment	Unit	Page
Options for boundary features				
HB11	Management of hedgerows of very high environmental value (both sides)	£54	100 m	17
HB12	Management of hedgerows of very high environmental value (one side)	£27	100 m	17
HB14	Management of ditches of very high environmental value	£36	100 m	17
Options for trees, woodland and scrub				
HC5	Ancient trees in arable fields	£25	tree	18
HC6	Ancient trees in intensively managed grass fields	£25	tree	18
HC12	Maintenance of wood pasture and parkland	£180	ha	18
HC13	Restoration of wood pasture and parkland	£180	ha	18
HC14	Creation of wood pasture	£180	ha	19
HC7	Maintenance of woodland	£100	ha	20
HC8	Restoration of woodland	£100	ha	20
HC9	Creation of woodland in Severely Disadvantaged Areas	£200	ha	21

Code	Option	Payment	Unit	Page
HC10	Creation of woodland outside Severely Disadvantaged Areas	£315	ha	21
HC15	Maintenance of successional areas and scrub	£100	ha	21
HC16	Restoration of successional areas and scrub	£100	ha	21
HC17	Creation of successional areas and scrub	£100	ha	21
Supplements				
HC11	Woodland livestock exclusion supplement	£100	ha	22
Options for orchards				
HC18	Maintenance of high-value traditional orchards	£250	ha	22
HC20	Restoration of traditional orchards	£250	ha	22
HC19	Maintenance of traditional orchards in production	£95	ha	23
HC21	Creation of traditional orchards	£190	ha	23
Options for historic and landscape features				
HD6	Crop establishment by direct drilling (non-rotational)	£70	ha	24
HD7	Arable reversion by natural regeneration	£500	ha	24
HD8	Maintaining high water levels to protect archaeology	£240	ha	25
HD9	Maintenance of designed/engineered water bodies	£295	ha	25
HD10	Maintenance of traditional water meadows	£350	ha	25
HD11	Restoration of traditional water meadows	£350	ha	25
Options for arable land				
HE10	Floristically enhanced grass buffer strips (non-rotational)	£485	ha	26
HF12	Enhanced wild bird seed mix plots (rotational or non-rotational)	£475	ha	26
HF14	Unharvested, fertiliser-free conservation headland (rotational)	£440	ha	27
HF20	Cultivated fallow plots or margins for arable plants (rotational or non-rotational)	£440	ha	27
HF24	Supplementary feeding in winter for farmland birds ***NEW IN 2013*** Please note this option is subject to approval by the European Commission.	£822	tonne	27
HG5	Brassica fodder crops followed by overwintered stubble	£90	ha	28
HG6	Fodder crop management to retain or recreate an arable mosaic (rotational)	£150	ha	28
HG7	Low-input spring cereal to retain or recreate an arable mosaic (rotational)	£250	ha	28
Options to protect soil and water				
HJ3	Arable reversion to unfertilised grassland to prevent erosion or run-off	£280	ha	29
HJ4	Arable reversion to grassland with low fertiliser input to prevent erosion or run-off	£210	ha	29
HJ6	Preventing erosion or run-off from intensively managed, improved grassland	£280	ha	29
HJ7	Seasonal livestock removal on grassland with no input restriction	£40	ha	30
Supplements				
HJ8	Nil fertiliser supplement	£55	ha	30
Options for grassland				
Species-rich, semi-natural grassland				
HK6	Maintenance of species-rich, semi-natural grassland	£200	ha	30
HK7	Restoration of species-rich, semi-natural grassland	£200	ha	31
HK8	Creation of species-rich, semi-natural grassland	£280	ha	31

Code	Option	Payment	Unit	Page
Management of wet grassland for waders and wildfowl				
HK9	Maintenance of wet grassland for breeding waders	£335	ha	32
HK10	Maintenance of wet grassland for wintering waders and wildfowl	£255	ha	32
HK11	Restoration of wet grassland for breeding waders	£335	ha	33
HK12	Restoration of wet grassland for wintering waders and wildfowl	£255	ha	33
HK13	Creation of wet grassland for breeding waders	£355	ha	33
HK14	Creation of wet grassland for wintering waders and wildfowl	£285	ha	33
Management of grassland for target features				
HK15	Maintenance of grassland for target features	£130	ha	34
HK16	Restoration of grassland for target features	£130	ha	34
HK17	Creation of grassland for target features	£210	ha	34
Buffer strips				
HE11	Enhanced strips for target species on intensive grassland	£590	ha	34
Supplements				
HK18	Haymaking supplement	£75	ha	35
HK19	Raised water levels supplement	£80	ha	35
HQ13	Inundation grassland supplement	£85	ha	35
Options for moorland and upland rough grazing				
HL9	Maintenance of moorland	£40	ha	36
HL10	Restoration of moorland	£40	ha	36
HL11	Creation of upland heathland	£60	ha	36
HL7	Maintenance of rough grazing for birds	£80	ha	37
HL8	Restoration of rough grazing for birds	£80	ha	37
Supplements				
HL12	Supplement for management of heather, gorse and grass by burning, cutting or swiping	£7	ha	37
HL13	Moorland re-wetting supplement	£10	ha	38
HL15	Seasonal livestock exclusion supplement	£10	ha	38
Options for educational access				
HN8	Educational access – base payment	£500	agreement/yr	38
HN9	Educational access – payment per visit	£100	visit	38
Options for lowland heathland				
HO1	Maintenance of lowland heathland	£200	ha	40
HO2	Restoration of lowland heathland	£200	ha	40
HO3	Restoration of forestry areas to lowland heathland	£200	ha	41
HO4	Creation of lowland heathland from arable or improved grassland	£450	ha	41
HO5	Creation of lowland heathland on worked mineral sites	£150	ha	41
Options for inter-tidal and coastal locations				
Sand dunes and vegetated shingle systems				
HP1	Maintenance of sand dunes	£140	ha	42
HP2	Restoration of sand dunes	£140	ha	42
HP3	Creation of coastal vegetated shingle and sand dunes on arable land	£320	ha	42
HP4	Creation of coastal vegetated shingle and sand dunes on grassland	£200	ha	42
Salt marsh, mudflats and saline lagoons				
HP5	Maintenance of coastal salt marsh	£30	ha	43
HP6	Restoration of coastal salt marsh	£30	ha	43
HP7	Creation of inter-tidal and saline habitat on arable land	up to £700	ha	44

Code	Option	Payment	Unit	Page
HP8	Creation of inter-tidal and saline habitat on grassland	up to £500	ha	44
HP9	Creation of inter-tidal and saline habitat by non-intervention	£150	ha	44
Supplements				
HP10	Supplement for extensive grazing on salt marsh	£70	ha	44
HP11	Salt marsh livestock exclusion supplement	£40	ha	44
Options for wetland				
Ponds				
HQ1	Maintenance of ponds of high wildlife value (less than 100 m^2)	£90	pond	45
HQ2	Maintenance of ponds of high wildlife value (more than 100 m^2)	£180	pond	45
Reedbeds				
HQ3	Maintenance of reedbeds	£60	ha	45
HQ4	Restoration of reedbeds	£60	ha	45
HQ5	Creation of reedbeds	£380	ha	46
Fens				
HQ6	Maintenance of fen	£60	ha	46
HQ7	Restoration of fen	£60	ha	46
HQ8	Creation of fen	£380	ha	46
Lowland raised bogs				
HQ9	Maintenance of lowland raised bog	£150	ha	47
HQ10	Restoration of lowland raised bog	£150	ha	47
Supplements				
HQ11	Wetland cutting supplement	£350	ha	47
HQ12	Wetland grazing supplement	£200	ha	47
Additional supplements				
HL16	Shepherding supplement	£5	ha	48
HR1	Grazing supplement for cattle	Up to £35	ha	48
HR2	Grazing supplement native breeds at risk	Up to £70	ha	48
HR4	Supplement for control of invasive plant species	£60	ha	51
HR5	Bracken control supplement	£35	ha	51
HR6	Supplement for small fields	£35	ha	51
HR7	Supplement for difficult sites	£50	ha	51
HR8	Supplement for group applications	£10	ha	51

2.2.2 Detailed description of HLS options

This Section outlines the management required for each of the HLS options. The exact management prescriptions will be discussed and agreed with you by your Natural England adviser, then included in your agreement.

In order to check the eligibility of your HLS options for the Single Payment Scheme (SPS), you should refer to the *SPS Guidance* and any supplements (see details in Appendix 2).

Options for boundary features

Hedgerows and ditches provide shelter and food for many target species of farmland birds, insects and mammals. They are often an intrinsic part of the farmed landscape, can be important for the plants they contain and can provide important corridors for wildlife movement.

Traditionally, hedgerows and ditches were used to enclose or exclude animals and to mark ownership boundaries and rights of way. Ditches were also used to manage water levels and provide drinking water to livestock. The particular mix of shrub and tree species in a hedgerow, which reflects the soil type, the age of the hedgerow and local management customs, contributes to local landscape character. Hedgerows and ditches are a living part of our history and provide a record of our use of the countryside over the centuries.

The FEP will help identify species-rich hedgerows suitable for HB11 and HB12

HB11 Management of hedgerows of very high environmental value (both sides)	£54 per 100 m
HB12 Management of hedgerows of very high environmental value (one side)	£27 per 100 m

These options are used to manage hedgerows that support target species of farmland birds, insects or mammals, such as the tree sparrow, brown hairstreak and dormouse. They are also used to maintain hedgerows that make a significant contribution to the local landscape character and/or are historically important boundaries.

Improving the structure of hedgerows through sympathetic trimming, and encouraging a diverse range of hedges across the farm, including the development of a balanced tree population where it is appropriate to the local landscape, benefits farmland birds, insects, plants and mammals.

Where required, works such as laying, coppicing, planting up gaps or establishing new hedgerow trees can be funded by a Capital Works Plan. Hedges managed under an ELS option may also be eligible for HLS capital item payments.

HB14 Management of ditches of very high environmental value	£36 per 100 m

This option is aimed at the management of ditches that support target species of plants, birds, mammals and insects. They can occur in grassland, wetland and arable landscapes. Ditches can rapidly become dominated by tall vegetation with scrub on the banks. Sensitive management is necessary to maintain a variety of habitats, from open water to ditches full of wetland plants to benefit the target species. This will also help to maintain local historic wetland landscape character.

If there is a hedge adjacent to the ditch this can also be managed under an appropriate Environmental Stewardship (ES) option.

Ditch restoration, and other capital items such as the provision of bridges and sluices, can be funded by a Capital Works Plan.

Options for trees, woodland and scrub

Trees and woodlands provide a distinctive, integral, and often dominant, part of the landscape in many parts of England. Woodlands have been managed for timber for thousands of years and many still retain signs of this historic management. Old coppice stools and pollards can still be found in many woodlands, as can evidence of woodbanks, charcoal hearths, iron-smelting works and pottery kilns. Woodland, wood pasture, parkland and successional scrub are valuable and important wildlife habitats supporting a diversity of flora, insects, birds and mammals, as well as being of historic interest.

The greatest concentrations of our ancient trees are found in ancient woodlands, wood pastures and parklands. These trees are a valuable habitat for wildlife, including rare and threatened species of insects, lichens, fungi and bats. Wood pasture consists of large, open-grown trees (often pollards), usually standing in grassland or heath. They are a remnant of an ancient system of combining livestock and woodland management. Parklands include designed landscapes created to retain deer for hunting as well as those established more recently. Often originating in medieval times, many were embellished with formal avenues, water features and follies in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Woodland and hedgerow planting can be used to protect soils and watercourses and must be considered with grass buffer strips as a resource protection measure. In drier parts of the country, on peaty and sandy soils where high wind speeds coincide with bare seedbeds, hedgerow and woodland planting may provide a windbreak or shelterbelt and help to reduce the risk of soil erosion. On long, steep slopes, re-establishment or introduction of breaks, such as hedgerows or woodlands, may help to intercept and slow surface run-off water before it builds into damaging flow. Native species would normally be specified for tree planting and in all cases the species used must be appropriate to the site. The establishment of new tree features must be designed and appropriately sited in order to fit with and strengthen the local landscape character and any distinctive pattern of trees and woodlands.

These options will not be available if the woodland is already receiving payments under the Farm Woodland Premium Scheme, the Farm Woodland Scheme or the English Woodland Grant Scheme.

HC5 Ancient trees in arable fields	£25 per tree
HC6 Ancient trees in intensively managed grass fields	£25 per tree

Significant individual trees are often important landscape features as well as providing habitat for wildlife and shelter for stock. By establishing a grass buffer around the base of the tree, these options protect ancient trees within arable or intensively managed grass fields from damage by livestock, cultivation and other agricultural activities.

Management must include:

- establishing an unfertilised grass buffer with a radius of at least 15 m around the base of each tree;
- not allowing treatments applied to the adjacent land to affect the buffer;
- protecting trees from damage by livestock including stock rubbing against the trees, bark stripping and soil compaction;
- retaining all tree limbs, including the lower limbs on the tree; and
- retaining any standing or fallen dead wood.

Capital items, such as fencing to protect trees from livestock, can be funded by a Capital Works Plan.

HC12 Maintenance of wood pasture and parkland	£180 per ha
HC13 Restoration of wood pasture and parkland	£180 per ha

These options are used to maintain or restore the wildlife, historic and landscape character of existing and former wood pasture and parkland. Sites that are suitable for restoration will still support a number of ancient trees and/or parkland features. It may be that the sites are not grazed, are managed under arable cropping or have been planted with conifers or other inappropriate trees.

Parkland restoration will require a parkland plan, which is a capital item funded under the HAP code (see Section 3 of this handbook). This is to ensure that the original views and important elements of the designed parkland are retained. The other options will require an implementation plan, which can be funded by a Capital Works Plan under the Professional help with implementation plan (PAH) capital item.

Management must include:

- protection of existing and newly established trees from damage by livestock, including stock rubbing against the trees, bark stripping and soil compaction;
- grazing to maintain areas of closely grazed turf interspersed with taller tussocks;
- no use of fertiliser;
- no ploughing or other cultivation; and
- no re-seeding, rolling or chain harrowing.

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Remnant oak wood pasture, Hampshire

Restoration, such as tree planting to replace lost trees, scrub removal to prevent shading to ancient trees and restoration of ponds or water features, can be funded by a Capital Works Plan.

HC14 Creation of wood pasture

£180 per ha

This option is used to create wood pasture on sites that are known to have been wood pasture previously or on sites adjacent to or linking existing areas of wood pasture. The option can also be used on appropriate sites within the National Forest and community woodlands. Planting will not be allowed on archaeological features, on sites of existing wildlife value or where trees would be detrimental to the landscape.

The preferred method of creation will be by careful and flexible grazing management to allow trees and shrubs to develop by natural regeneration. In some cases, it might be necessary to sow a specified grass seed mixture or to plant additional trees, both of which can be funded by a Capital Works Plan.

HC7 Maintenance of woodland £100 per ha
HC8 Restoration of woodland £100 per ha

These options are used to maintain or restore farm woodlands to benefit wildlife and to protect and strengthen the local landscape character. They are only appropriate where the woodlands are part of the farmed landscape or part of the management of the agricultural holding (eg grazed). The Forestry Commission's English Woodland Grant Scheme must be used for any woodland with silvicultural objectives – contact your Natural England adviser for further advice.

Management includes:
- maintaining rides and glades within the woodland by grazing or cutting;
- high forest management; and
- rotational coppicing.

Restoration may require you to:
- exclude livestock;
- remove inappropriate species;
- undertake planting;
- protect trees from grazing damage; and
- re-introduce a selective felling or coppicing cycle to restructure the habitat.

Capital items, such as planting new trees and fencing, can be funded by a Capital Works Plan.

In your application, you will need to provide details of what you are trying to achieve and how this will be done. The maintenance option HC7 may not be eligible on plantations funded under the Farm Woodland Scheme or the Farm Woodland Premium Scheme for up to 15–20 years after the period of grant aid for the scheme has ended. For further details please contact your Natural England adviser.

Depending on the size of the woodland, funding can be obtained through Environmental Stewardship

HC9 Creation of woodland in Severely Disadvantaged Areas £200 per ha
HC10 Creation of woodland outside Severely Disadvantaged Areas £315 per ha

These options are used to create small areas of new woodland that benefit wildlife and strengthen the character of the local landscape. They can also be used to protect soils and watercourses. The options will be particularly valuable on sites adjacent to existing woodland. Planting will not be allowed on archaeological features, on sites of existing wildlife value or where trees will be detrimental to the landscape.

Option HC10 can be used in riparian zones to create flood plain woodland. These can be beneficial, not only in terms of creating valuable habitat, but also in the potential buffering of sensitive waterbodies against diffuse pollution and as water retention areas to mitigate intense flood activity. It must be located in areas supported by the Environment Agency's Catchment Flood Management Plans and in agreement with the Environment Agency.

These options are for new woodlands that are, individually, less than 1 ha in size and, in total, less than 3 ha across your land. If you are considering planting areas larger than 1 ha, grants might be available from the Forestry Commission under the English Woodland Grant Scheme.

Woodland creation may include:

- site preparation;
- fencing the area of natural regeneration or new planting; and
- controlling weeds.

Capital items, such as trees, tree tubes and fencing, can be funded by a Capital Works Plan.

With your application you will need to provide information about how you are going to create and maintain the woodland. This must include the proposed methods of establishment (eg natural regeneration or planting). If you propose planting, you need to provide information on the species that will be planted.

HC15 Maintenance of successional areas and scrub £100 per ha
HC16 Restoration of successional areas and scrub £100 per ha
HC17 Creation of successional areas and scrub £100 per ha

These options aim to maintain, restore or create a succession of scrub habitat. They can be used to provide structure in valuable scrub habitats, including sea buckthorn on east-coast dune systems and limestone pavement in Yorkshire and the North-West. Adjacent to woodland these options can be used to enhance or maintain the quality of the woodland edge environment.

These options can also be used to provide or enhance habitats for specific target species and to protect soils and watercourses. Scrub creation is particularly aimed at sites where target species already occur and where the site is adjacent to existing areas of scrub or woodland. Planting will not be allowed on archaeological features, on sites of existing wildlife value or where trees would be detrimental to the landscape.

Duke of Burgundy butterflies benefit from management of scrub grassland

Management will be tailored in order to maintain, restore or create the ideal habitat conditions required by a particular target species, or to protect vulnerable soils. This may include:

- allowing scrub to develop naturally;
- extensive grazing on part, or all, of the site;
- exclusion of livestock; and
- coppicing.

Supplements

HC11 Woodland livestock exclusion supplement £100 per ha

This supplement supports the removal of livestock from overgrazed woodland or from areas of scrub, in order to encourage the establishment of trees and shrubs by natural regeneration. Following successful establishment, a grazing regime would then be re-introduced. The supplement is only available on the Restoration of woodland option (HC8) and the Creation/Restoration of successional areas and scrub options (HC16/HC17). It only applies in the years that grazing is excluded.

Please note, you may not be able to claim SPS on land subject to this supplement. Please contact the RPA or refer to the *SPS Handbook* and any supplements, details at Appendix 2.

Options for orchards

Traditional orchards are characterised by widely spaced standard or half-standard fruit trees, of old and often scarce varieties, grown on vigorous rootstocks and planted at low densities, usually less than 150 trees per ha in permanent grassland. Where they occur, they are a record of historic land use and a distinctive feature in the local landscape, often containing rare fruit varieties and providing valuable habitats for birds, mammals and insects. Dead wood on old orchard trees can support many species of insect, including the rare noble chafer beetle.

Traditional orchards generally consist of apple (for fruit or cider), pear (for fruit or perry), cherry, plum or damson trees or cobnut plantations. Extant orchards that are over 30 years old may be eligible for options HC18, HC19 or HC20. Remnant and recently planted orchards may be eligible for option HC21. Preference will be given to sites that can provide public amenity – particularly public access.

HC18 Maintenance of high-value traditional orchards £250 per ha
HC20 Restoration of traditional orchards £250 per ha

These options are aimed at existing traditional orchards and nut plantations of high landscape, historical or wildlife value that are no longer managed primarily for fruit production (although there are no restrictions on selling the fruit).

HC18 is used for maintaining existing traditional orchards that are generally in good condition. These will have at least two-thirds of the original stations occupied by trees, with less than 25 per cent of these requiring restorative pruning.

HC20 is aimed at restoring neglected orchards. These may contain trees that are overgrown or being lost to scrub, and there may be gaps where trees have died or have been removed. Suitable orchards will have between one-third and two-thirds of the original stations occupied by trees. The option is also used where more than 75 per cent of trees require restorative pruning.

Under either option, management must include:

- maintaining the characteristic tree form (this will vary depending on species, variety, management system and – in some cases – region);
- protecting trees from damage by livestock;
- retaining and protecting all mature or over-mature standing trees;
- retaining some standing dead trees and some dead wood on living trees;
- managing the sward through hay-cutting or grazing – without the use of fertiliser; and
- no rolling or chain harrowing.

Restoration may include:

- restorative pruning;
- re-introducing annual pruning;

- a tree-planting programme to restore tree numbers to an appropriate level (see option HC21 for guidance on planting orchard trees); and
- establishing or re-introducing management of a grass sward and/or scrub control.

Capital items, such as fencing, new trees and protective guards, can be funded by a Capital Works Plan.

HC19 Maintenance of traditional orchards in production — £95 per ha

This option aims to maintain traditional orchards that contribute to the Historic Landscape Character (HLC) of the area and are managed primarily for commercial fruit production.

Management will include:
- maintaining the characteristic traditional tree form;
- protecting trees from damage by livestock; and
- following an agreed programme of crop protection to control specific, recorded pests and diseases.

Other management, including a grazing regime, appropriate pruning, fertiliser applications and supplementary feeding, will be tailored to the site and fruit varieties.

Traditional apple and plum orchard, Cambridgeshire

HC21 Creation of traditional orchards — £190 per ha

This option aims to enhance the historic landscape character by establishing small orchards on sites that are known to have been orchard in the past, or are now remnant features with fewer than one-third of the original stations occupied by trees. New traditional orchards that have been recently planted may also be eligible. The option can also be used to extend the area of orchard habitat adjacent to sites known to support threatened species, such as the noble chafer beetle. Suitable sites will normally be smaller than 1 ha and will either contain remnant trees or tree stations or appear as an orchard on old map records. The use of this option is highly targeted and will require the recommendation of a specialist.

To create an orchard, you will need to plant fruit trees of traditional varieties grown on vigorous rootstocks. A circle with a diameter of 1 m around the base of all newly planted trees must be kept free of all vegetation for the first 3 years after planting by mulching, the use of mulch mats, or the careful use of an approved herbicide. Watering will be necessary initially and during dry periods. Formative pruning will also be required, and once grazing is introduced, the trees will need to be protected from livestock damage.

Once the trees are established, the management must be the same as that for option HC18.

Capital items, such as fencing trees and protective guards, can be funded by a Capital Works Plan.

Options for historic and landscape features

Archaeological features such as hill forts, burial chambers, hollow ways, ridge and furrow, sheep washes, traditional farm buildings and Second World War defensive structures all contribute to our rich historical heritage and landscape. They are often of ecological value, enriching landscape diversity and providing wildlife habitat. These features are an important record of our cultural development and where they occur on agricultural land it is important to protect and preserve them. Many features of archaeological interest are protected and preserved in wetlands with high water levels.

The historic environment options will protect the features from further damage or erosion. Provision of interpretation, permissive access and/or educational visits is encouraged on suitable sites.

Where they are considered appropriate by Natural England, the ELS/OELS historic options can also be used to protect or enhance features of historic environment interest within an HLS agreement. The historic options HD/OHD1 to HD/OHD5 are available to use in HLS agreements as the principle means of addressing the management needs of targeted historic features. These options are specifically designed to deliver clear benefits for targeted features in HLS.

HD6 Crop establishment by direct drilling (non-rotational) £70 per ha

This option allows annual crops to be direct-drilled, in order to protect archaeological features just below the surface from damage by ploughing or other deep cultivation. Due to the damage caused by the deep root systems of some crops and from harvesting operations, certain crops may not be grown under this option. It is targeted at sites where the land parcel cannot be removed from arable cropping.

Management includes:

- no growing of root crops, maize or energy crops;
- direct drilling all crops at a depth no greater than 30 mm; and
- no cultivation, sub-soiling, deep ploughing or mole-ploughing.

Care must be taken to direct-drill only in dry soil conditions, in order to avoid compaction or rutting.

HD7 Arable reversion by natural regeneration £500 per ha

This option is targeted at the most vulnerable features within arable or grass ley situations. The purpose is to protect sub-surface features by ceasing cultivation and establishing permanent grassland by natural regeneration.

Other reversion options, such as HD2/OHD2 (Taking archaeological features out of cultivation), may be more appropriate on less sensitive sites; your Natural England adviser will be able to provide further advice. This option may also help to protect soils from erosion and reduce diffuse pollution.

Management must include:

- allowing the sward to establish by natural regeneration; and
- managing the sward by grazing or topping during the first year or so to encourage tillering of the grasses.

Once established, the sward must be managed by grazing or cutting for hay. Any activities that would damage the sward must be avoided.

HD8 Maintaining high water levels to protect archaeology — £240 per ha

Features of archaeological interest that are protected and preserved in wetlands are vulnerable to drainage and agricultural improvement. This option is used to maintain current high water levels to protect underlying archaeological features from desiccation. The option may also help to protect vulnerable soils from erosion, reduce diffuse pollution and maintain the landscape character of the area.

Management includes:

- maintaining water levels at no more than 30 cm below the ground level at all times of the year;
- avoiding field operations and stocking when the land is wet, as this can cause compaction and damage to sub-surface features;
- no ploughing, sub-surface cultivation, re-seeding, chain harrowing or rolling; and
- preventing the development of reeds, large sedges or scrub.

HD9 Maintenance of designed/engineered water bodies — £295 per ha

Designed or engineered water bodies such as millponds and formal water features enhance distinctive historic and landscape character and can provide valuable habitats for wildlife. This option maintains both the designed or engineered water body and the associated features such as dams, retaining walls and sluices. In some cases, an implementation plan will be required; this must be discussed with your Natural England adviser. Water bodies of 1 ha or more are not eligible for this option.

Management will be tailored to the individual feature but will include:

- annual maintenance inspections of masonry, brickwork, pointing or engineering structures;
- regular maintenance to avoid decay or deterioration of the fabric; and
- use of traditional materials, techniques and craftsmanship.

HD10 Maintenance of traditional water meadows — £350 per ha
HD11 Restoration of traditional water meadows — £350 per ha

Water meadows are an important component of the distinctive historic and landscape character in parts of England. They also provide valuable habitats for wildlife and, in certain circumstances, may provide an area of flood containment. Water levels in traditionally managed water meadows, including catch meadows, are controlled using sluices and hatches, a process known as floating or drowning the meadow.

These options are used to maintain or restore the demanding traditional management required on water meadows. Management will include:

- floating or drowning the water meadow for an agreed period of time each year; and
- maintaining gutters, carriers or channels to encourage an even film of water approximately 25 mm deep to flow over the sward.

© Natural England/Simon Duffield

Flooded water meadow south of Salisbury

Once the land has dried out, the meadow must be managed by grazing and/or by hay-cutting. Particular care must be taken to ensure that field operations and stocking do not damage the soil structure or cause heavy poaching – especially when the land is waterlogged.

To restore water meadows, you are likely to need an implementation plan before any work to restore items can be started. You may need to restore water control structures and associated gutters, carriers and other channels. Scrub clearance and coppicing of bank-side trees may also be required. These works can be funded by a Capital Works Plan or can form a capital special project.

Options for arable land

Arable farming creates the characteristic open-ploughed land of areas such as East Anglia and the Vale of York. It is also an important part of the mixed farming tradition of the Midlands and the South-West. However, modern crop management can limit the variety of insects, plants, birds and mammals traditionally associated with such land with species such as the corn bunting, grey partridge, pheasant's-eye and cornflower showing declines. In some circumstances, crop management can also cause soil compaction which can lead to increased run-off and erosion and cause pollution of water courses or increased local flooding.

Arable options can play an important role in restoring some of the habitats and resources needed in modern farmed landscapes to support some of the key species living there. They are normally available only on land that has been in arable production, including temporary grassland and long-term set-aside, during the 5 years prior to the start of your agreement. An exception to this are options involving the recreation of an arable mosaic (HG6 and HG7), where you can include land that has been in arable cultivation at any time in the last 10 years.

Arable options must only be considered where you can provide evidence that your proposals will benefit species mentioned in your target area or theme statement and recorded in your FEP. Arable options must be placed sensitively to avoid any detrimental impacts on adjacent waterbodies, particularly where that option may encourage soil compaction and enhance sediment mobility. Measures to mitigate these issues should be undertaken but care must be taken to avoid impacts on any below-ground archaeology present. Arable options should be carefully located to ensure they support and enhance the characteristic field pattern and scale of the landscape.

Rotational arable options can be moved from field to field to fit in with your crop rotation or within a field to help reduce pest and disease build-up. They can also be kept in the same location within a field if this delivers the required HLS benefits.

If you choose any rotational arable options, you will need to keep a record to confirm the location of these options each year.

Non-rotational arable options will normally be fixed in an agreed location for the duration of the agreement.

HE10 Floristically enhanced grass buffer strips (non-rotational) £485 per ha

This option is used to provide habitat and foraging areas for insects and birds by maintaining buffer strips that contain a mixture of grass and wildflower species. The strips can be located along field boundaries or as a buffer strip around in-field features, such as ponds or archaeological features.

Management must include establishing the strip by natural regeneration or by sowing a seed mixture agreed with your Natural England adviser. Once established, the strip must be cut or grazed to deliver the desired outcomes for your situation.

HF12 Enhanced wild bird seed mix plots (rotational or non-rotational) £475 per ha

This option is used to provide a valuable winter food source for declining farmland birds in arable and mixed farming landscapes. The plots or margins provide a year-round supply of food including small seeds. The size, location, number and composition of plots or areas will need to be tailored for the target bird species identified in your FEP.

Management must include establishing an agreed seed mixture every year or every other year, and following an agreed pesticide and fertiliser programme.

Many farmland birds will benefit when crops such as quinoa are allowed to set seed

HF14 Unharvested, fertiliser-free conservation headland (rotational) £440 per ha

This option is applied to the cereal headland of a cropped area. The aim is to provide a year-round food source for declining populations of farmland birds and habitats for other farmland wildlife. The restricted pesticide programme will allow insects to flourish, providing food for chicks in summer and over winter, the unharvested headland becomes a valuable food source for farmland birds by providing grain and seeding arable plants. The headland also has significant additional wildlife benefits when managed alongside HE10 (Floristically enhanced grass buffer strip) or with buffer strip options (EE1/OE1 or EE3/OE3).

Management includes cultivating and sowing a 6 m to 24 m cereal headland, which can surround a range of crop types including cereals. The headland is managed by following a restricted herbicide and insecticide programme, without the use of fertilisers and left unharvested until the following spring, when normal land management can be resumed. Care must be taken to avoid soil compaction.

HF20 Cultivated fallow plots or margins for arable plants (rotational or non-rotational) £440 per ha

Conservation edge to an arable field

This option is used to create opportunities for rare arable plants to germinate, flower, set seed and complete their life-cycle.

Management must include cultivation to establish a firm, fine tilth, either in the autumn or spring – depending on the rare arable plants being targeted. The fallow plot or margin must be retained for an agreed period without the use of pesticides and fertilisers. This option must not be located on land parcels identified on the FER/FEP map as being at risk of soil erosion.

HF24 Supplementary feeding in winter for farmland birds £822 per tonne

This option is used to provide winter food for seed-eating farmland birds through the 'hungry gap' period in late winter, before natural food resources become available again in late spring.

This option is only available within HLS agreements that contain the minimum area of arable options required to meet the HLS Farmland Bird Package and where certain farmland bird species are present.

Management includes spreading a tailored seed mixture at least weekly from January to April and keeping a record of the feeding carried out. The amount and type of feed will be determined by Natural England to support the target farmland birds present.

Please note this option is subject to approval by the European Commission.

HG5 Brassica fodder crops followed by overwintered stubble £90 per ha

Fodder brassicas such as rape, kale and fodder turnips, which are grazed in situ and where weeds can persist in the crop and set seed, provide an important habitat for small-seed eating birds. This option must not be located on land parcels identified on the FER/FEP map as being at risk of soil erosion.

Management must include:
- managed grazing to minimise poaching and soil erosion;
- following a restricted pesticide programme; and
- maintaining the stubble until the following spring.

HG6 Fodder crop management to retain or recreate an arable mosaic (rotational) £150 per ha

Where arable farming has declined in traditionally mixed farming areas, this option is used to return land parcels or parts of parcels to arable cultivation which can provide valuable foraging for seed-eating birds. Fodder crops (brassica or root) that are grazed in situ, allow arable plants to persist and set seed within the crop.

Management must include:
- establishing a fodder brassica/fodder root crop before 1 July;
- following a restricted pesticide programme;
- grazing over the autumn and winter; and
- maintaining the stubble until the following spring.

HG7 Low-input spring cereal to retain or recreate an arable mosaic (rotational) £250 per ha

This option is used to provide an important habitat for declining and localised farmland birds, such as the grey partridge and the corn bunting, and mammals such as the brown hare. The open spring cereal crop provides breeding sites for ground-nesting birds and will encourage rare arable plants. This option has particular value in areas where spring crops were traditionally grown but have now declined, and will also deliver significant additional wildlife benefits when managed in conjunction with grass buffer strips or margins. It also provides an opportunity for ley establishment by undersowing with a grass/legume mixture.

Management must include:
- establishing a spring cereal crop at a specified seed rate of not more than 100 kg/ha;
- following a restricted herbicide and fertiliser programme; and
- not harvesting the crop before 31 July.

Options to protect soil and water

These options are designed to protect watercourses, standing waters and wetlands by reducing diffuse pollution. They buffer sensitive habitats and protect areas that replenish groundwater by reducing the risk of soil erosion, nitrate leaching and phosphorus transport. They also contribute to flood management by reducing and slowing surface run-off. The use and location of options to protect soil and water in your application must be discussed with your Natural England adviser.

Diffuse pollution is the contamination of watercourses by run-off laden with eroded soils and nutrients (nitrate and phosphate), pesticides, herbicides and faecal contaminants from large areas of land. Increased run-off leading to soil erosion, nitrate leaching and phosphorus transport is often caused by the capping and/or compaction of soils in arable cultivation or grassland systems.

Careful management of grass cover and soil structure will improve water infiltration, reduce run-off and provide protection from soil erosion. The options to protect soil and water are only available on land identified on the FER/FEP map as being at risk of soil erosion. The options will be targeted at this land within priority catchments identified in your target area or theme statement. They can be applied to part-fields or whole fields.

These options can also help protect archaeological features. The guidance above under 'Options for arable land' on potential landscape impacts should be noted.

HJ3 Arable reversion to unfertilised grassland to prevent erosion or run-off £280 per ha
HJ4 Arable reversion to grassland with low fertiliser input to prevent erosion or run-off £210 per ha

In land parcels identified on the FER/FEP map as being at risk of soil erosion and run-off, using these options will stabilise soils and reduce nutrient loss by the establishment and maintenance of either an unfertilised or a nutrient-restricted, fertilised grass cover. Maintaining a grass cover will help to improve soil structure and water infiltration, reduce surface run-off and protect against wind erosion. Zero or restricted inputs of nitrogen fertilisers and organic manures will reduce the risk of nitrate leaching.

Management must include:

- alleviating any areas of soil compaction before sowing and establishing a specified grass mix (before 1 October);
- cutting the sward at least twice in the first year to encourage the tillering of grasses; and
- from the second year onwards, cutting once after mid-July or grazing.

There must be no overgrazing or poaching, and supplementary feeding will be restricted to mineral supplements.

Option HJ3 does not allow the use of fertilisers or organic manures.

Option HJ4 permits up to 100 kg/ha per year of total nitrogen from livestock manures or no more than 50 kg/ha per year of inorganic nitrogen fertiliser, which can only be applied between 1 February and 14 August.

HJ6 Preventing erosion or run-off from intensively managed improved grassland £280 per ha

Soil erosion can result in diffuse pollution as well as reduced profitability

This option aims to reduce soil compaction and risk of surface run-off on improved grassland by reducing the stocking density and fertiliser inputs. Extensive grazing will help to improve soil structure and water infiltration and reduce run-off. It will also help to reduce nitrate leaching through reduced inputs of fertiliser and/or organic manures.

This option is suitable for use on improved grassland that receives in excess of 200 kg nitrogen/ha and where there is evidence of soil erosion or run-off, or where a soil risk assessment indicates that a target feature is under significant threat from erosion or run-off. It may also be used to help buffer sensitive habitats if used in combination with the Nil fertiliser supplement (HJ8).

Management must include:

- grazing management to reduce risk of soil compaction and surface run-off;
- alleviation of severe soil compaction;
- application of up to 100 kg/ha per year of total nitrogen from livestock manures or no more than 50 kg/ha per year from inorganic nitrogen fertiliser; and
- restricting supplementary feeding to mineral blocks or licks.

Other management, including grazing and/or mowing regimes, will be tailored to site objectives.

HJ7 Seasonal livestock removal on grassland with no input restriction £40 per ha

Cattle grazing riverside land and causing some erosion

This option supports the removal of livestock at specific times of the year in order to reduce compaction and risk of surface run-off. This option is suitable for use on soils that are prone to waterlogging, compaction or poaching, and it applies to the whole field. Removing livestock from land parcels receiving this supplement must not cause soil damage on other parcels.

Supplements

HJ8 Nil fertiliser supplement £55 per ha

This supplement is designed to further extensify the management of land under option HJ6 (Preventing erosion or risk of run-off from intensively managed, improved grassland) without the use of fertilisers. The aim is to reduce nitrate leaching into ground and surface water and help buffer valuable habitats. It must normally be applied to whole fields or part fields greater than 1 ha.

Options for grassland

Species-rich, semi-natural grassland

Unimproved hay meadows and pastures are important to the character of locally distinctive pastoral or mixed farming landscapes. They support distinctive mixes of grasses and wildflowers that reflect acidic, neutral or calcareous soil conditions, often contain uncommon species such as orchids, and are also valuable for butterflies and other invertebrates.

These grasslands are a precious but threatened habitat. Fragments survive in areas that have not been re-seeded, drained or heavily fertilised and therefore often contain some of our best-preserved archaeology. Active management of these habitats will maintain their value for wildlife, contribute to the protection of valued landscapes and archaeology and promote good soil conditions. These options can be very appropriate on coastal cliff tops.

You will need to submit evidence of current soil pH and nutrient status with your application when proposing the creation or restoration of species-rich grassland. Results that are up to 3 years old are acceptable.

HK6 Maintenance of species-rich, semi-natural grassland £200 per ha

This option is aimed at maintaining grasslands that are already species-rich and in good condition by continuing, or making adjustments to, the current management.

Management must include:

- grazing and/or cutting for hay;
- no ploughing, re-seeding, or installation of new drainage; and
- no heavy poaching.

Other management, including use of organic manures and supplementary feeding, will be tailored to each site based on the type of grassland and the farming system.

HK7 Restoration of species-rich, semi-natural grassland £200 per ha

This option is used for restoring grasslands that were species-rich in the past, but have suffered from management neglect or have been agriculturally improved. Grasslands that are suitable for this option may still have some diversity of grasses and flowers. Potential for this option will also depend on soil type, pH and soil nutrient status (particularly the amount of available phosphorus).

This option will be managed as option HK6, but restoration may include scrub clearance, invasive weed control and/or seed introduction by an agreed method – such as spreading species-rich green hay from a suitable nearby site.

Species-rich hay meadow with great burnet, lady's bedstraw and rough hawkbit

HK8 Creation of species-rich, semi-natural grassland £280 per ha

This option is aimed at creating species-rich grassland on former arable land, ley grassland or set-aside. The creation of species-rich grassland is very demanding and will be feasible only in a few situations. Potential for this option will depend on soil type, pH and soil nutrient status (particularly the amount of available phosphorus). This option will normally be targeted at sites close to existing species-rich grassland.

Creation of a species-rich grassland will include establishing the sward by natural regeneration or using a seed source or mixture recommended by your Natural England adviser. The sward will need to be cut or grazed in the first year to encourage the grasses to tiller and to control annual weeds. Once established, management will be the same as for HK6.

Management of wet grassland for waders and wildfowl

Wet grasslands are important and distinctive components of the coastal and river flood plain landscape. Well-managed wet grasslands provide wintering and/or breeding habitat for wading birds and wildfowl. Winter flooding that creates islands of damp grassland surrounded by shallow surface water (up to knee-deep) provides secure feeding and roosting sites for wildfowl and waders. In addition, it will enhance the grassland habitat for wetland plants and may, in the right situation, provide an area of flood containment.

The shallow flooding concentrates seeds and invertebrates that can attract large numbers of ducks, geese, swans, lapwing and other wading birds. Breeding waders such as snipe, redshank, curlew and lapwing need damp soil conditions, with some areas of very shallow standing water in the spring and early summer, to provide an abundant supply of insect food for their chicks. Larger, open areas are generally preferred by waders and wildfowl, so scrub control may be necessary.

These options can help to protect the many features of archaeological interest that are preserved in wetlands with high water levels – see also Historic environment option HD8 (Maintaining high water levels to protect archaeology). For the management of other wetland habitats including ponds, reedbeds, fens and bogs please see Wetland options HQ1 to HQ10.

Curlew chick

These options will be almost entirely located in the lowland river valleys, in areas where surface water can be controlled. An implementation plan will be required for these options in most situations. In addition, consent may be required from the Environment Agency.

A range of capital items such as sluices, bunds, scrapes and ditch restoration can be funded by a Capital Works Plan.

HK9 Maintenance of wet grassland for breeding waders — £335 per ha

This option is used for maintaining wet spring and summer grasslands that already provide suitable habitat for breeding waders. In some instances, it may be necessary to change the water management regime to continue to attract these birds. In addition, these grasslands may, in the right situation, provide an area of flood containment and some benefits to flood risk management.

Management includes:

- controlling in-field and ditch water levels in the spring and early summer;
- maintaining ditches and existing field drainage systems;
- creating a varied sward structure by the end of the growing season by grazing and/or taking a late hay cut;
- restricting the stocking density in the bird-nesting season;
- avoiding heavy poaching (although small areas of bare ground are acceptable); and
- avoiding disturbance of birds by recreational or non-essential activities.

HK10 Maintenance of wet grassland for wintering waders and wildfowl — £255 per ha

This option is used for maintaining wet grasslands that already provide suitable habitat for wintering populations of wildfowl and waders. In some instances, it may be necessary to change the water management regime to continue to attract these birds. In addition, these grasslands may, in the right situation, provide an area of flood containment and some benefits to flood risk management.

Management includes:

- controlling in-field and ditch water levels over the winter months;
- maintaining ditches and existing field drainage systems;
- creating a varied sward structure by the end of the growing season through grazing and/or cutting for hay;
- no grazing over the winter months unless approved by your Natural England adviser;
- no heavy poaching (although small areas of bare ground are acceptable); and
- avoiding disturbance of birds by recreational or non-essential activities.

HK11 Restoration of wet grassland for breeding waders £335 per ha
HK12 Restoration of wet grassland for wintering waders and wildfowl £255 per ha

These options aim to provide suitable habitat for waders and wildfowl and/or breeding habitat for wading birds by re-wetting permanent grassland and by managing the grazing to create a mosaic of grass structure. These land parcels will have been wetter in the past but have since been drained or improved for agriculture. The potential for this option will depend on both the availability of surface water and the ability to control it. In addition, these grasslands may, in the right situation, provide an area of flood containment and some benefits to flood risk management. These options would normally only be suitable for locations that undergo flooding by freshwater in a non-tidal situation.

Land parcels under this option will be managed as HK9 or HK10, but for restoration of wet grassland you may need to:

- alleviate any areas of soil compaction (except on archaeological features);
- implement a water management regime; and
- excavate scrapes and re-profile ditches.

Shallow flooding provides good conditions for over-wintering wildfowl

HK13 Creation of wet grassland for breeding waders £355 per ha
HK14 Creation of wet grassland for wintering waders and wildfowl £285 per ha

These options are used to create wet grassland habitat for breeding waders in the spring and summer and waders and wildfowl in the winter months. Land parcels suitable for these options are current arable land or temporary grassland.

These land parcels will have been wetter in the past but have since been drained and improved for agriculture. The potential for this option will depend on both the availability of surface water and the ability to control it. In addition, these grasslands may, in the right situation, provide an area of flood containment and some benefits to flood risk management. These options would normally only be suitable for locations that undergo flooding by freshwater in a non-tidal situation and which have been identified in Environment Agency flood management strategies.

Land parcels under this option will be managed as HK9 or HK10, but additional management for the creation of the wet grassland habitat includes:

- establishing a grass sward by natural regeneration or by sowing a seed mixture recommended by your Natural England adviser;
- alleviating areas of soil compaction;
- implementing water-level management;
- restoring the ditch network; and
- excavating scrapes and ponds.

Management of grassland for target features

These options are used to manage grassland for target features such as great crested newt, chough, cirl bunting or buried archaeology, as well as particular groups of species such as scarce bumblebees and ground-nesting farmland birds. The FEP will contain records of target features that would benefit from management under options HK15–HK17. These options may also be used to link, buffer and extend existing sites of high wildlife value, where the management will be specifically tailored to the features found on the high-value site.

HK15 Maintenance of grassland for target features £130 per ha
HK16 Restoration of grassland for target features £130 per ha

These options will maintain or restore semi-improved or rough grassland, which is known to provide good conditions for target species and other features. These options can also be used to maintain and restore moderately species-rich, semi-improved and enclosed unimproved grassland, but only where this is a local target and where the grassland lacks the potential to be restored to species-rich, semi-natural grassland (option HK7).

They can also be used to manage enclosed species-rich or other valuable grassland in the uplands above or close to the Moorland Line, for example, upland calcareous grassland. They may also provide ongoing management for grasslands that have been created under classic schemes for objectives such as historic environment protection.

Within Severely Disadvantaged Areas (SDAs), the upland options HL9 and HL10 may be more appropriate for upland moorland sites. Options HL7 and HL8 (Maintenance/Restoration of rough grazing for birds) may be more appropriate for ground-nesting birds but not appropriate for extensive use above the Moorland Line.

Management must include grazing and/or cutting for hay. Other management, including fertiliser and supplementary feeding, will be tailored to each site based on the target species present.

HK17 Creation of grassland for target features £210 per ha

This option is used to create semi-improved or rough grassland on former arable, set-aside or temporary grassland.

Land parcels under this option will be managed in the same way as for option HK15, but creation of the grassland will include establishing a grassy sward through natural regeneration or by sowing a seed mixture recommended by your Natural England adviser.

Buffer strips

HE11 Enhanced strips for target species on intensive grassland £590 per ha

This option is used to provide additional habitat for invertebrates, birds and small mammals by managing buffer strips in intensive grass leys. These strips of wildflowers and grasses provide nesting habitat and shelter, as well as a food source for a variety of species including farmland birds, bats and insects such as bumblebees and butterflies. The location of the strip may be rotated within the same land parcel.

Management will include sowing and establishing a specified seed mixture of wildflowers and grasses. The strip will need to be protected from grazing and will need to be re-established when the cover of wildflowers decreases. Other management, such as cutting and fertiliser applications, will be tailored to each site based on the species targeted.

Supplements

HK18 Haymaking supplement £75 per ha

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Haymaking encourages botanical diversity by allowing flowers to set seed

This supplement is not intended for all fields that are cut for hay. It is available, at the discretion of your Natural England adviser, on meadows of high existing or potential value. These sites will typically be in pastoral areas where the ready availability of livestock and/or the climatic difficulty of haymaking mean they would otherwise be grazed and not cut.

This supplement is suitable for use with options HK6 to HK17 and HD10 and HD11. Providing one of these main management options is in place, and all eligibility criteria are met, it may also be used on the same sites as other supplements, such as the HR6 Supplement for small fields.

HK19 Raised water levels supplement £80 per ha

This supplement supports the raising of water levels in ditches and adjacent land, where exceptional and time-consuming management is needed at key periods of the year. This supplement may be used to provide feeding and nesting habitats for wetland birds. In addition, it will enhance the grassland habitat for wetland plants and may, in the right situation, provide an area of flood containment. This supplement can also be used to manage specialised wet grassland communities or to maintain the diversity of fauna and flora in important ditches.

The supplement is available on options HK6 to HK17. HK9 to HK14 are eligible for this supplement, but only in exceptional circumstances where specific management is required to raise water levels. The payments for HK9 to HK14 include an element for raised water-level management, so applicants will need to provide evidence to show that extra effort (such as the installation of pumps) is needed to raise levels.

HQ13 Inundation grassland supplement £85 per ha

This supplement is designed to allow the inundation of areas of the river flood plain that are currently protected by flood defence banks. Grassland that is made available for additional inundation by floodwater can develop as a valuable habitat, complement adjacent habitats and, in appropriate locations, contribute to flood management.

The supplement is also intended for use in designated washlands that are subject to prolonged and random flooding.

Use of this option must be supported by the Environment Agency and conform to their local and overall strategy for fluvial flood risk management. This supplement is only available on options HK10, HK12 and HK14 to HK17 where there are not significant numbers of breeding waders using the site. The site, either alone or as part of a group application, must form a natural hydrological unit, and there must be no significant negative impact on other valuable features.

Options for moorland and upland rough grazing

Past management of moorland and upland rough grassland has created diverse upland landscapes and habitats. These habitats, typically above 250 m, include open heather moorland, blanket bog and a variety of grasslands. It is important to establish or maintain appropriate grazing and/or burning regimes to conserve these habitats and associated wildlife, and to protect the soil (especially peat). Moorland and upland rough grassland contain important archaeology and some of our most extensive historical landscapes. Use of these options can help to protect these moorland features and landscapes.

Views across Grisedale, Mallerstang

The moorland options aim to maintain and restore habitats contained within moorland grazing units. They may also be used in the management of large land parcels such as allotments, intakes and newtakes.

Capital items, such as fencing and grip blocking, can be funded by a Capital Works Plan.
Please note that any HLS prescriptions in force will override the minimum Uplands ELS stocking density.

HL9 Maintenance of moorland	£40 per ha
HL10 Restoration of moorland	£40 per ha

These options are used to maintain or restore moorland habitats to benefit upland wildlife, retain historic features and strengthen the landscape character. In addition, in the right situation, they may provide an area of flood containment and some benefits to flood risk management. The options are targeted at grazing units that are predominantly in the Severely Disadvantaged Area, above the Moorland Line and characterised by the presence of upland habitats and species.

Management will include grazing the moorland following an agreed stocking calendar. This calendar will reflect the different habitats within the moorland unit and their present condition. It will indicate how many and what type of livestock will be allowed to graze the moorland in each month of the year.

Restoration may also include grip blocking or temporary fencing, in order to reduce or exclude grazing.

HL11 Creation of upland heathland	£60 per ha

This option aims to create dwarf-shrub communities in upland moorland areas where heathland plants are rare or absent and their seedbanks are depleted. It will enhance the diverse vegetation mosaic characteristic of upland landscapes and will be targeted at areas adjacent or close to existing dwarf-shrub heath.

Management must include:

- site preparation using a combination of topping, scarification, ploughing, burning and/or herbicide treatment;

- establishment of heathland vegetation by sowing or spreading heather or heathland seed or cuttings; and
- control of grass and weed species by an agreed method.

The methodology will be influenced by existing environmental values, such as the presence of archaeology or landscape considerations.

Once established, the heathland would be managed in the same way as option HL9 or HL10.

HL7 Maintenance of rough grazing for birds £80 per ha
HL8 Restoration of rough grazing for birds £80 per ha

These options are used to provide rough grassland habitat for upland birds (particularly breeding waders) and other target species. They are targeted at land parcels that are predominantly in the SDA, above the Moorland Line, and that either support populations of upland birds currently or have the potential to do so.

Management will normally include grazing with cattle and/or sheep at an agreed stocking density (between 0.4 and 1.0 Livestock Units/ha depending on site conditions and objective) between 31 March and 20 June. At other times, stocking densities must be managed to achieve the desired sward height.

Restoration will be individually tailored to the site, but may include blocking existing surface drains, ditches and grips to create or extend areas of wet, marshy grassland vegetation.

Shallow pools encourage breeding waders

Supplements

HL12 Supplement for management of heather, gorse and grass by burning, cutting or swiping £7 per ha

This supplement supports the establishment of an appropriate programme of rotational vegetation management, in order to maintain or restore the wildlife value of moorland habitats. It applies to land where a significant change in management activity is required.

The supplement is available on options HL7, HL8, HL9 and HL10.

HL13 Moorland re-wetting supplement £10 per ha

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 the re-wetted area. This may, in certain locations, help to reduce flooding downstream. In addition, the supplement can help to protect archaeological features and peat exposures.

The supplement is available on options HL7, HL8, HL9, HL10 and HL11.

HL15 Seasonal livestock exclusion supplement £10 per ha

This supplement supports the removal of livestock from moorland and other rough grassland land for periods of time, in order to allow moorland restoration or to achieve additional environmental benefits on moorland that is in good condition. Examples of these benefits include increasing the rate of heather regeneration and allowing rare plants such as spring gentian to flower, or shrubs such as juniper to regenerate. The supplement may also be used to help protect archaeological and other historic features.

The supplement is available on options HL7, HL8, HL9 and HL10.

Options for educational access

Options for permissive linear and open access (HN1 to HN7) are no longer available for new agreements or amending existing agreements. However, we are happy to support provision of voluntary permissive access in HLS agreements where considered suitable. A range of capital items are therefore available to support voluntary permissive access (see Section 3). Providing access is an important way of enhancing public enjoyment of the countryside. The educational access option provides opportunities for visits by schools for curricular studies and illustrates the links between farming, conservation and food production. It also provides for Care Farming visits - supervised on-farm activities for vulnerable groups of disaffected, disadvantaged or disabled people. It also allows people to see and enjoy the environmental improvements being made as a result of Environmental Stewardship.

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The start of a permissive footpath with a site map describing the route

HN8 Educational access – base payment £500 per agreement/year
HN9 Educational access – payment per visit £100 per visit

The educational access option is aimed at encouraging site visits by schools for curricular studies for pupils up to the age of 16 (Key Stage 4) and Care Farming visits. It provides the opportunity to explain the links between farming, conservation and food production. It is suitable for any farm where the farmer or nominated person is keen, willing and able to take groups around and where there is likely to be a demand for such a service. With your application, you will be expected to provide evidence of this demand in the form of letters of support from schools or Care Farming groups.

You will need to provide basic information about your farm for inclusion in a 'farm facts' leaflet, which will be produced by Natural England. Copies will be supplied to you to help you in promoting your site to schools.

You will be required to arrange between 4 and 25 free visits per year, and you will be paid for each visit. You must submit a signed, educational access evaluation form from each group for each visit claimed. If you do not achieve the minimum of four visits in any agreement year, we cannot pay you for this option.

Farm visits provide an opportunity to raise awareness of rural issues

You will also be required to undertake a health and safety check and prepare a risk assessment. You will agree to Natural England promoting your site on the Natural England website at cwr.naturalengland.org.uk and the Growing Schools website (www.growingschools.org.uk). You will be encouraged to undertake an accreditation course in the first year of your agreement.

It will be your responsibility to ensure that your public liability insurance is sufficient to cover educational access by members of the public. Please discuss this with your insurance company.

Access payments and those relating to the maintenance of (E/HD1) or the restoration of historic buildings (HTB) are classified as non-agricultural 'de minimis state aid'. Under European rules, individual benefactors are not allowed to receive more than €200,000 from this type of aid over a 3-year rolling period. You will need to keep a record of all such payments that you have received, including those from other government departments or agencies, for the duration of your agreement.

Educational access provided under HLS must be compliant with the Equality Act 2010. The extent to which this requirement might apply to you will depend on the nature of your particular access site. You can find more information at **www.equalityhumanrights.com**.

A range of capital items are available to support educational access. Please see Section 3 for more details.

Options for lowland heathland

Formed and maintained by a combination of grazing, cutting and burning over centuries, most lowland heathlands are ancient, semi-natural landscapes on nutrient-poor acidic, sandy and peaty soils, typically below 250 m in altitude. The vegetation of lowland heathland is a mixture of dwarf shrubs (particularly heathers and gorses), grasses, flowering plants and trees, with scattered bare ground, providing a refuge for rare species such as the marsh gentian, Dartford warbler and sand lizard.

In the past heathlands were exploited by grazing livestock, cutting vegetation for building materials and fuel and by burning patches to produce new growth for the livestock. Many heathlands have been lost or become fragmented due to ploughing, development or forestry planting. Those that remain are often neglected, dominated by rank grasses, scrub, bracken or secondary woodland.

One quarter of all lowland heathlands in England are Common Land. While these were created in the same way as other heathlands (grazing, cutting, burning), in many cases the traditional management was discontinued decades ago due to economic and social changes. These areas have become important for public access and recreation. The restoration of the nature conservation value, which usually involves reintroducing traditional practices, and the public access and enjoyment, should be complementary, not antagonistic targets.

Grazing raises particular concerns amongst communities perhaps less familiar with livestock. Animals can offer a remarkably high level of subtlety and selectivity as a management tool, and deliver effects that machinery alone cannot. However, the scale, timing and frequency of grazing events can vary considerably depending on the desired results and can be planned to reduce the impacts on recreational use of the site.

Management of lowland heathland under the options below will protect and enhance the valuable plant communities and associated wildlife, the vegetation mosaics and structure characteristic of lowland landscapes and protect archaeological features.

Soil type, management history and location in relation to existing heathland sites will be significant factors in determining the suitability of a site for restoration or heathland creation. You will need to submit evidence of current soil analysis with your application when applying for the restoration or creation options (results that are up to 3 years old are acceptable). Heathlands vary in character and complexity and therefore an implementation plan may be required. Areas of fen or bog within heathland must be managed under these lowland heathland options.

A range of capital items, including fencing, bunds, sluices and ditch restoration, can be funded by a Capital Works Plan.

HO1 Maintenance of lowland heathland £200 per ha

This option is used to maintain the valuable plant communities and associated wildlife of lowland heathland by appropriate, active management. The choice of management options or combination of options will depend on the particular characteristics and features of each site.

You will be required to:

- burn, and/or cut and remove, small patches of heathland each year to sustain a varied and balanced age range and structure of dwarf shrubs and bare ground;
- maintain fire breaks;
- graze where this is essential to achieve the desired nature conservation outcomes, and to help control scrub encroachment, create structural diversity, and to control the spread of bracken and coarse grasses. Where grazing is not possible, you must specify how you will produce a similar effect through increased cutting and/or burning;
- No supplementary feeding is allowed.

HO2 Restoration of lowland heathland £200 per ha

This option is used to restore lowland heath on sites that have become degraded by scrub (including non-native species such as rhododendron), bracken, invasive grasses or woodland encroachment. Fragments of heathland vegetation will still be evident.

In addition to the management required for option HO1, you will need to:

- reduce areas of scrub, trees and bracken to appropriate levels;
- burn and/or cut and remove areas of mature and over mature heathland vegetation to create a varied and balanced age range and structure of dwarf shrubs and bare ground;
- graze from late spring to control competing weeds and grasses; and
- restore an appropriate drainage system to areas of wet heathland and mire.

HO3 Restoration of forestry areas to lowland heathland £200 per ha

This option is used to restore lowland heathland by clear-felling and re-introducing traditional management practices on sites that were heathland in the past, but have since been forested. Evidence of heathland vegetation will often still remain.

In addition to the management required for option HO1, you will need to:

- clear-fell trees and remove them from the site (or agree on-site disposal);
- remove accumulated organic litter and brash where it is deeper than 5 cm;
- graze from late spring to control competing weeds and grasses; and
- restore the original drainage system to areas that historically were wet heathland.

HO4 Creation of lowland heathland from arable or improved grassland £450 per ha

This option is used to create lowland heathland on arable or improved grassland sites that were historically heathland, but have been improved for agricultural production. It will usually only be possible to restore heathland on sites that have been in intensive agricultural production for just a few years and on which the soil nutrient status is low.

It may be necessary to consider producing a crop for up to 3 years to reduce the nutrient levels in the soil. It may also be necessary to consider adding small amounts of bracken litter or other amendments (A soil amendment is any material added to a soil to improve its physical properties) to reduce pH.

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Lowland heath, North Yorkshire

In addition to the management required for option HO1, you will need to:

- spread dwarf-shrub cuttings or seed sourced from a local site;
- exclude livestock to allow germination; and
- graze from late spring to control competing weeds and grasses, after the vegetation has developed.

The methodology will be influenced by existing environmental features, such as the presence of archaeology or landscape considerations.

HO5 Creation of lowland heathland on worked mineral sites £150 per ha

This option is used to create lowland heathland on worked mineral-extraction (quarry) sites that were historically heathland. These sites are likely to have good potential for heathland creation as they will be very low in nutrients. However, former chalk or limestone quarries are not suitable for this option.

In addition to the management required for option HO1, you will need to:

- prepare the mineral substrate by light surface cultivation;
- spread dwarf-shrub cuttings or seeds sourced from a local site;
- exclude livestock following seeding; and
- graze from late spring after the vegetation has developed.

Options for inter-tidal and coastal locations

Our coastline is valued for its wild, varied and dynamic landscapes; its wildlife, historical features and amenity value; and the vital role that many habitats play in forming natural coastal defences. These options are targeted at managed sand dunes, vegetated shingle ridges and inter-tidal habitats, such as salt

marsh. Many of these habitats are nationally and internationally important for their plant, bird and other wildlife interest. Coastal land that is currently behind sea walls, or lies behind sand dunes or shingle ridges, may be suitable for creating new inter-tidal and coastal habitats by allowing managed re-alignment of these areas.

For management of cliff tops see the grassland or lowland heathland options. For management of coastal grazing marshes see the grassland options. For management of dune heaths, see the lowland heathland options; these will need to be individually tailored to meet the management needs of this scarce habitat.

Sand dune and vegetated shingle

Sand dunes and grazed shingle systems support many unusual plants and animals. Flowers such as wild thyme, dog violet and restharrow grow in grassy areas on sand dunes, while yellow horned poppy and sea pea grow on the vegetated areas of shingle. These habitats are also very important for unusual animals and often contain valuable wetlands.

Arable land, set-aside or grassland that lies behind a sand dune or shingle ridge may be suitable to allow the roll-back of these habitats inland. Each site is unique and will require detailed feasibility and planning studies. Please contact your Natural England adviser for further advice.

HP1 Maintenance of sand dunes	£140 per ha
HP2 Restoration of sand dunes	£140 per ha

These options are used to maintain or restore areas of grazed or mown sand dune and vegetated shingle. Management must include:

- an agreed extensive grazing or mowing regime with no fertiliser or supplementary feeding, in order to protect these rare and often fragile coastal habitats;
- scrub management;
- maintaining the existing drainage and seasonal flooding pattern; and
- retaining accumulations of seaweed and wood debris.

Restorative management may be informed by an implementation plan, but may involve introducing or changing the grazing or cutting regime to manage vegetation, or undertaking erosion control activities such as replacing worn paths with boardwalks.

HP3 Creation of coastal vegetated shingle and sand dunes on arable land	£320 per ha
HP4 Creation of coastal vegetated shingle and sand dunes on grassland	£200 per ha

These options allow the migration or development inland of coastal vegetated shingle and sand dune systems. Very sandy or shingle soils may indicate where this habitat has occurred further inland in the past. Each site is unique and will require detailed feasibility and planning studies. Please contact your Natural England adviser for further advice.

Management must include:

- flexible grazing or cutting to control excessive growth of vegetation;
- retaining wood debris and accumulations of seaweed; and
- no cultivation, re-seeding, rolling, chain harrowing, fertiliser or supplementary feeding.

Sand dunes and fen at Bamburgh, Northumbria

Salt marsh, mudflats and saline lagoons

These habitats support many plants and insects that are specially adapted to survive high salinities and/or regular flooding by the tide. Salt marshes are inter-tidal areas vegetated with plants such as salt marsh grasses, sea aster and sea lavenders. They may attract grazing ducks and geese over the winter and breeding waders such as redshank in the spring. They also provide high-water roosting sites for both wildfowl and waders.

Mudflats exposed at low tide provide vital feeding areas for large numbers of wading birds. Saline lagoons are an uncommon habitat that support some of our rarest plants and animals and are particularly important for birds such as the avocet.

Coastal land that is currently protected from flooding by the sea may be suitable for creating new salt marsh, mudflat or saline lagoon habitat by breaching the sea wall or constructing a water inlet and outlet system. The most suitable sites will be located close to existing inter-tidal habitat and will naturally rise to higher land.

HP5 Maintenance of coastal salt marsh	£30 per ha
HP6 Restoration of coastal salt marsh	£30 per ha

These options are used to maintain or restore coastal salt marsh through continuation or reintroduction of proactive beneficial management practices to achieve environmental objectives. Restorative management will be based on the existing and traditional practices in the area, and may involve introducing or removing grazing in order to produce a mixture of sward structures that supports a high number of salt marsh species. A site suitable for restoration may be one that is currently being inappropriately grazed, overgrazed, or being grazed at an inappropriate time of year, or the site may be difficult to graze and has become dominated by a few coarse plant species.

Management must include:

- maintaining or reintroducing favourable management to encourage the environmental features;
- not damaging the saltmarsh vegetation by disturbing the surface;
- no supplementary feeding or fertiliser inputs unless agreed with Natural England; and
- retaining wood debris and accumulations of seaweed.

Salt marsh at Morecambe Bay

HP7 Creation of inter-tidal and saline habitat on arable land up to £700 per ha
HP8 Creation of inter-tidal and saline habitat on grassland up to £500 per ha

These options are used to create inter-tidal and saline habitats, such as salt marsh, mudflats and saline lagoons on former arable land, set-aside or improved grassland by way of a managed breach in the sea defences or, for a saline lagoon, constructing a water inlet and outlet system. Suitable sites will normally have been identified in local Environment Agency flood management strategies.

Each site is unique and will require detailed feasibility, design and planning studies. An inter-tidal habitat creation management plan will be required in order to apply for this option. This needs to be discussed with your Natural England adviser and must include details of:

- site preparation and management of the existing vegetation;
- excavation of any creeks required; and
- breaching the sea wall to allow the site to be regularly inundated by the tide and allowing for variations between lowest and highest tides.

Saline lagoon creation may involve the excavation of the lagoon and the construction of a water inlet and outlet system.

Please note the payment indicated for these options is a maximum rate for land ineligible for SPS. Where the land is eligible for SPS the payment rates will be lower. Please contact the RPA or refer to the *SPS Handbook* and any supplements, details at Appendix 2.

HP9 Creation of inter-tidal and saline habitat by non-intervention £150 per ha

This option is used to create inter-tidal and transitional habitats on former arable land, set-aside or improved grassland where an unmanaged breach in the sea defences has already occurred.

A management plan for the site will be required. This will require you to continue to allow tidal flooding and limit any field operations or treatments, and may only allow grazing with prior agreement.

Supplements
HP10 Supplement for extensive grazing on salt marsh £70 per ha

This supplement supports the management of grazing on salt marshes where grazing is traditional, or on newly created salt marsh where grazing is appropriate. It is available on options HP5, HP6, HP7, HP8 and HP9.

HP11 Salt marsh livestock exclusion supplement £40 per ha

This supplement supports the removal of livestock grazing from salt marshes where grazing is either not traditional or is damaging the environmental value of the site. It is available on options HP6 and HP9.

Options for wetlands

Wetlands come in many different forms and are one of our greatest natural assets. Wetland habitats include ponds, reedbeds, fens, bogs and coastal and flood plain grazing marsh. They are home to a wide diversity of wildlife and are often important and distinctive features of the local landscape. In addition they may, in the right situation, provide an area of flood containment and benefits to flood risk management.

When restoring or creating wetlands you must have the ability to control water levels and in most situations you will also need a management plan. For coastal and flood plain grazing marsh, please see the coastal salt marsh options and wet grassland options.

A range of capital items, such as sluices, bunds, pond creation, pond restoration and ditch restoration, can be funded through a Capital Works Plan.

Ponds

HQ1 Maintenance of ponds of high wildlife value (less than 100 m²)	£90 per pond
HQ2 Maintenance of ponds of high wildlife value (more than 100 m²)	£180 per pond

These options are targeted at ponds that are of particular value to wildlife – either because they support rare or threatened species or because of the diversity of wildlife that is present.

Management will be tailored to the individual pond, but you will have to:

- retain the present pond profile;
- retain submerged or partially submerged dead wood; and
- allow natural draw-down to occur.

You must not:

- top up the water level;
- alter the drainage of the pond or adjoining land in any way;
- use any pesticides or fertilisers within 6 m of the pond;
- introduce any plants, animals or waterfowl; or
- feed any waterfowl.

Option HQ1 is used for the management of the first 100 m² of a pond and option HQ2 is used for the management of any area larger than this.

Reedbeds

Reedbeds are an important part of the wetland landscape mosaic. They provide a valuable habitat for plants, insects and birds, including the rare and secretive bittern. Many sites are small and neglected, while some of the larger sites are threatened by drainage and other land improvements. Reedbeds can also be harvested to provide traditional material for purposes such as thatching.

HQ3 Maintenance of reedbeds	£60 per ha
HQ4 Restoration of reedbeds	£60 per ha

These options are used to maintain or restore reedbeds, in order to provide a valuable habitat for birds, insects and mammals such as otter and watervole. Sites suitable for these options must be more than 0.5 ha, with a good cover of reeds.

Management must include:

- reed cutting;
- maintaining water control structures in good working order;
- controlling scrub cover and retaining some open water;
- cleaning ditches and foot-drains no more than once in every 5 years;
- cutting ditch banks in rotation; and
- no fertiliser.

You must not use poor-quality water to top up the water levels.

Restoration can include:

- clearing scrub;
- cutting reeds at the appropriate time;
- implementing a water management regime; and
- restoring the ditch network.

Restoration or installation of water control structures and restoration of ditches can be funded under a Capital Works Plan.

HQ5 Creation of reedbeds £380 per ha

This option is used to create new reedbeds on land of low conservation interest. It is suitable for use on arable, ley grassland or permanent improved grassland. The site must be flat and have a reliable summer water supply.

It will be necessary to maintain standing water over a significant part of the site in summer. Any impacts the use of this option would have on the historic environment would need to be considered.

Reedbed creation and establishment will be informed by a management plan. This plan will detail the design and construction of the reedbed and will include:

- creating a variety of land forms with areas of higher ground and areas of shallow open water;
- excavating ditches, installing bunds and sluices; and
- establishing reeds.

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Transplanting reeds

Once established, the reedbed will be managed in the same way as option HQ3.

Fens

Fens range from wetlands that are typically dominated by rushes, sedges, wetland grasses and characteristic flowering plants, to others that are moss-covered. Fens can be easily damaged by inputs of nutrients or by scrub encroachment. In addition to high botanical diversity, many of these sites will support a variety of birds and insects. These options can also help to protect archaeological features, particularly organic remains.

HQ6 Maintenance of fen £60 per ha
HQ7 Restoration of fen £60 per ha

These options are used to maintain or restore fens to provide a valuable habitat for birds, insects and small mammals.

Management must include:

- maintaining water control structures in good working order; and
- maintaining fens in an open condition with just a few scattered trees or shrubs.

You must not allow water containing high levels of nutrients to empty into fens, or use poor-quality water to top up water levels.

Restoration will include scrub clearance and the implementation of a water management regime. Restoration or installation of water control structures and restoration of ditches may be funded by a Capital Works Plan.

HQ8 Creation of fen £380 per ha

This option is used to create new fens on land of low conservation interest, especially around existing wetlands. Suitable sites will be arable, ley grassland or permanent improved grassland on peaty soils that are over 0.5 ha (or less if part of a wider wetland mosaic). The potential for this option will depend on the availability of a reliable and adequate water supply. Any impacts the use of this option would have on the historic environment would need to be considered.

Lowland raised bogs
These rare and fragile ecosystems occur on acid peat deposits and only survive in waterlogged conditions. Historically, they often formed part of a larger wetland mosaic. Management of adjacent areas is likely to influence the condition of the bog, and they are easily damaged by drainage, peat digging, scrub encroachment and nutrient enrichment from surrounding land.

HQ9 Maintenance of lowland raised bog £150 per ha
HQ10 Restoration of lowland raised bog £150 per ha

These options are used to maintain or restore lowland raised bog to provide habitat for the specialist plants and wildlife that are associated with them. Both options will require the preparation of an implementation plan. Sites suitable for restoration will usually occur on acid peat deposits, be part of a wider wetland habitat and have some typical bog plants.

Management must include:
- retaining rainfall to maintain a high water table throughout the year;
- maintaining water control structures in good working order;
- not digging or turning over peat; and
- no fertilisers.

Restoration will include removing scrub and tree cover to below 10 per cent of the site area and/or filling or blocking ditches.

Supplements
HQ11 Wetland cutting supplement
£350 per ha

This supplement supports a cutting regime where this is the most appropriate form of management for the habitat. In addition, this option may help to maintain local techniques and traditions that may otherwise disappear.

The supplement is only available on the fen, reedbed or lowland raised bog maintenance, restoration and creation options (HQ3 to HQ10).

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Round-leaved sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*) growing on the edge of a bog pool

HQ12 Wetland grazing supplement £200 per ha

This supplement is used only with the fen, reedbed or lowland raised bog maintenance, restoration and creation options (HQ3 to HQ10). The aim is to support a grazing regime where this is the most appropriate form of management for the habitat.

Additional supplements

These HLS supplements may be available on the same land as certain HLS options. They are not available with other HLS options, or ELS or OELS options on their own, nor with O/ELS options being used as 'more of the same options'. See Section 2.2.4 for the list of HLS options which these supplements can be combined with.

Their use will be discussed with you, and is at the discretion of Natural England. Where appropriate and agreed, however, the use of more than one supplement on a single parcel is possible.

HL16 Shepherding supplement £5 per ha

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

HR1 Grazing supplement for cattle up to £35 per ha

This supplement promotes 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. In addition, mature cattle are often more suitable for grazing fibrous herbage of low digestibility, trampling bracken, controlling scrub and grazing wet habitats. Cattle treading creates patches of bare soil where new plants can establish themselves, but it can also damage the soil unless it is well managed. This option is available on common land.

You can use this supplement with a range of options, please refer to Section 2.2.4 for details.

The number and breed of cattle and the way in which they are managed must be suitable for meeting the objectives of the option(s) and the 'indicators of success' to which the supplement is added. Cattle must normally be the main grazing animal in any parcel or part-parcel for the period during which cattle grazing is required under this supplement. If the cattle also meet the eligibility requirements for HR2, the two supplements can be used on the same parcel providing their combined payment rate does not exceed the maximum payment rate for HR2. This combination does not apply to common land.

HR2 Grazing supplement for native breeds at risk up to £70 per ha

Longhorn cow, Cumbria

This supplement is for the use of appropriate native breeds of livestock (from the list in Table 1) for grazing to help achieve the aims of relevant options and the 'indicators of Success'. Evidence suggests that some native livestock breeds have attributes that are particularly well-suited to harsh climatic conditions, to difficult terrain, to grazing semi-natural vegetation and to achieving conservation objectives. This supplement is not available on common land.

You can use this supplement with a range of options, please refer to Section 2.2.4 for details.

The number and breed of livestock, and the way in which they are managed, must be suitable for meeting the objectives of the option(s) to which the supplement is added. Only pedigree-registered animals, and/or their genetically traceable, purebred offspring, are eligible because of the need for independent verification by the relevant recognised-breed society.

You are advised to seek the view of your Natural England adviser about which native breeds may be considered suitable for grazing your land early in the application process. HR2 can also be located on the same parcel as HR1 – providing their combined payment rate does not exceed the maximum rate for HR2. This combination does not apply to common land.

Table 1 Approved list of native breeds at risk

Cattle	Horses and ponies	Sheep	Goats	Pigs
Aberdeen Angus (Orig[1])	British Percheron Horse	Badger Face Welsh	Bagot	Berkshire
Beef Shorthorn	Cleveland Bay Horse	Balwen	Cheviot (Feral)	British Landrace (Orig[1])
Belted Galloway (including White Galloway)	Clydesdale Horse	Beulah Speckled Face	Golden Guernsey	British Lop
British Friesian (Orig[1])	Dales Pony	Black Welsh Mountain	Saanen	British Saddleback
British White	Dartmoor Pony	Border Leicester	Toggenburg	Gloucestershire Old Spot
Chillingham	Eriskay Pony	Boreray		Large Black
Dairy Shorthorn (Orig[1])	Exmoor Pony	Castlemilk Moorit		Large White (Orig[1])
Devon (Red Ruby)	Fell Pony	Clun Forest		Middle White
Dexter[2]	Hackney Horse	Cotswold		Oxford Sandy and Black
Galloway[3]	Hackney Pony	Derbyshire Gritstone		Tamworth
Gloucester	Highland Pony	Devon and Cornwall		Welsh
Guernsey	New Forest Pony	Longwool		
Guernsey (Island[4])	Shire Horse	Devon Closewool		
Hereford (Orig[1])	Suffolk Horse	Dorset Down		
Highland	Welsh Mountain (Section A semi-feral[6]) Pony	Dorset Horn		
Irish Moiled/Maol[2]		Exmoor Horn		
Jersey (Island[4])		Greyface Dartmoor		
Lincoln Red		Hampshire Down		
Lincoln Red (Orig[1])		Hebridean		
Longhorn		Herdwick		
Luing		Hill Radnor		
Northern Dairy Shorthorn[5]		Jacob		
Red Poll		Kerry Hill		

Cattle	Horses and ponies	Sheep	Goats	Pigs
Shetland		Leicester Longwool		
Sussex		Lincoln Longwool		
Vaynol		Llandovery Whiteface Hill		
White Park		Llanwenog		
Whitebred Shorthorn		Lonk		
		Manx Loaghtan		
		Norfolk Horn		
		North Ronaldsay		
		Oxford Down		
		Portland		
		Romney		
		Ryeland (including Coloured)		
		Shetland		
		Shetland (Island[4])		
		Shropshire		
		Soay		
		South Wales Mountain (Nelson type)		
		Southdown		
		Teeswater		
		Welsh Hill Speckled Face		
		Wensleydale		
		Whiteface Dartmoor		
		Whitefaced Woodland		
		Wiltshire Horn		

[1] 'Orig' means pedigree-registered animals listed as being part of an 'Original Population' of that breed, usually in a separate 'closed' sub-register within the relevant breed society's herdbook.

[2] Native breeds at risk in both the UK and in the Republic of Ireland/Eire.

[3] 'Galloway' includes pedigree-registered Black, Dun, and Riggit Galloways.

[4] '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.

[5] Northern Dairy Shorthorn cattle are registered as separately-identified animals within the Dairy Shorthorn breed of cattle.

[6] 'Section A semi-feral' refers to a particular and separately identified sub-population of pedigree ponies that are registered within the studbook of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society (in accordance with their approved rules). To retain their semi-feral status they are required to remain within their designated environment and have individual passports officially annotated to show their semi-feral status. Confirmation as to their individual eligibility should be checked with the Welsh Pony and Cob Society which retains lists of all potentially eligible 'Section A semi-feral' ponies.

HR4 Supplement for control of invasive plant species — £60 per ha

This supplement supports the regular management of particularly severe infestations of invasive non-native species, such as rhododendron, Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed, which are damaging a feature of interest.

This supplement cannot be used for controlling weeds listed in the Weeds Act 1959, for the control of bracken or gorse (for which there are other specific options) or for complying with cross compliance requirements.

The HR4 supplement is not available for control of rushes, since rush management is costed into relevant base option payments. The only exception to this is option HL8, where this supplement may be available for a limited period.

HR5 Bracken control supplement — £35 per ha

Bracken control may be necessary to maintain or restore wildlife value or protect archaeological features. It can also help to maintain and conserve the vegetation mosaics characteristic of upland and heathland landscapes. This supplement supports control of the spread, or removal, of existing stands of bracken where it is desirable to do so. It is paid in addition to the capital payments for bracken control to cover the costs of follow-up management. Care must be taken not to cause areas of bare soil in areas vulnerable to soil erosion.

This supplement is mainly intended for use with lowland heathland and upland options, but could also be used where bracken control is necessary on dry grassland, in woodland and on sand dunes. Wherever possible, the primary method of control must be by mechanical means.

HR6 Supplement for small fields — £35 per ha

Small fields, their boundaries and their margins are valuable for wildlife and are important features of the local landscape and the historic environment. Some examples represent the earliest enclosed land used for agriculture, dating back to prehistoric times. Small fields are often proportionately more expensive to manage due to the higher ratio of headland, reduced yields, increased unproductive fieldwork and the higher labour cost per unit of land area and per head of stock, for example.

Only fields of less than 2 ha are eligible for this supplement at the discretion of Natural England.

HR7 Supplement for difficult sites — £50 per ha

Some sites are very difficult to access or may contain hazards to livestock that require a higher level of management. This supplement aims to compensate for the increased costs of managing particularly difficult sites, where there is a risk of abandonment. Examples may include urban sites, very steep slopes, cliffs, islands or lowland raised bogs. This option is not available in the SDA.

You will be required to justify the need for this supplement (for example, associated extra costs) in discussion with your Natural England adviser. This option is not available in addition to supplement HR6.

HR8 Supplement for group applications — £10 per ha

This supplement contributes towards the costs of facilitating linked agreements, which together manage a target feature. It is particularly targeted at common land and areas of shared grazing that have two or more active graziers. It may also be applied to applications for agreements covering areas under more than one ownership, which are to be managed for resource protection, inter-tidal habitat management and/or wetland management. This option is only available for the first year of the agreement.

The Uplands ELS mandatory requirement UX1 Moorland commons and shared grazing requirements underpins the HLS supplement HR8 Supplement for group applications and a combined payment of both UX1 and HR8 cannot exceed £10 per ha.

2.2.3 Adding extra ELS or OELS options to your HLS application

Within HLS, it is possible to apply for some ELS and OELS options over and above those required to meet your points target. When these options are used in HLS, the payment rate is equivalent to the points value of the option in pounds sterling, and they will contribute to your HLS payment.

ELS or OELS options in HLS must not be used where an HLS option is more appropriate, and are only eligible to be used where a feature is best managed with an ELS or OELS option, or where the HLS target area or theme statement states it would be advantageous. Further information is provided in Section 4.2.2 of this handbook.

Entry Level Stewardship options that are also available under Higher Level Stewardship
(nb These codes are formed by replacing the 'E' with 'H' at the start of the relevant Entry Level Stewardship option)

	Code	Payment	Unit
Options for trees and woodlands			
Protection of in-field trees on arable land	HC1	£16	tree
Protection of in-field trees on grassland	HC2	£11	tree
Management of woodland edges	HC4	£380	ha
Hedgerow tree buffer strips on cultivated land	HC24	£400	ha
Hedgerow tree buffer strips on grassland	HC25	£400	ha
Options for historic and landscape features			
Maintenance of weatherproof traditional farm buildings	HD1	£2	m^2 (of ground floor area)
Take out of cultivation archaeological features currently on cultivated land	HD2	£460	ha
Reduced-depth, non-inversion cultivation on archaeological features	HD3	£60	ha
Management of scrub on archaeological features	HD4	£120	ha
Management of archaeological features on grassland	HD5	£16	ha
Options for buffer strips			
2 m buffer strips on cultivated land	HE1	£255	ha
4 m buffer strips on cultivated land	HE2	£340	ha
6 m buffer strips on cultivated land	HE3	£340	ha
2 m buffer strips on intensive grassland	HE4	£255	ha
4 m buffer strips on intensive grassland	HE5	£340	ha
6 m buffer strips on intensive grassland	HE6	£340	ha
Buffering in-field ponds in improved permanent grassland	HE7	£400	ha
Buffering in-field ponds in arable land	HE8	£400	ha
Supplement to add wildflowers to field corners and buffer strips on cultivated land ***NEW IN 2013*** Please note this option is subject to approval by the European Commission.	HE12	£63	ha

	Code	Payment	Unit
Options for arable land			
Management of field corners	HF1	£400	ha
Wild bird seed mixture	HF2	£450	ha
Nectar flower mixture	HF4	£450	ha
Overwintered stubble	HF6	£120	ha
Beetle banks	HF7	£580	ha
Skylark plots	HF8	£5	plot
Cereal headlands for birds	HF9	£100	ha
Unharvested cereal headlands for birds and rare arable plants	HF10	£330	ha
Uncropped, cultivated margins for rare plants	HF11	£400	ha
Uncropped, cultivated areas for ground-nesting birds on arable land	HF13	£360	ha
Reduced herbicide cereal crops followed by overwintered stubble	HF15	£195	ha
Options to encourage a range of crop types			
Undersown spring cereals	HG1	£200	ha
Cereals for whole-crop silage followed by overwintered stubble	HG4	£230	ha
Options to protect soil and water			
Management of maize crops to reduce soil erosion	HJ2	£18	ha
In-field grass areas to prevent erosion and run-off	HJ5	£454	ha
12 m buffer strips for watercourses on cultivated land	HJ9	£400	ha
Enhanced management of maize crops to reduce soil erosion and run-off	HJ10	£94	ha
Maintenance of watercourse fencing	HJ11	£4	100 m
Winter cover crops	HJ13	£65	ha
Options for grassland outside the Severely Disadvantaged Areas (SDAs)			
Take field corners out of management	HK1	£400	ha
Permanent grassland with low inputs	HK2	£85	ha
Permanent grassland with very low inputs	HK3	£150	ha
Management of rush pastures	HK4	£150	ha
Ryegrass seed-set as winter/spring food for birds ***NEW IN 2013*** Please note this option is subject to approval by the European Commission.	HK20	£80	ha
Legume- and herb-rich swards ***NEW IN 2013*** Please note this option is subject to approval by the European Commission.	HK21	£200	ha

	Code	Payment	Unit
Option for mixed stocking on grassland			
Mixed stocking	HK5	£9	ha
Options for grassland and moorland inside the Severely Disadvantaged Areas (SDAs)			
Take field corners out of management in SDAs	HL1	£100	ha
Permanent grassland with low inputs in SDAs	HL2	£35	ha
Permanent grassland with very low inputs in SDAs	HL3	£60	ha
Management of rush pastures in SDAs	HL4	£60	ha
Enclosed rough grazing	HL5	£35	ha
Unenclosed moorland rough grazing	HL6	£5	ha
Uplands Entry Level Stewardship options (Uplands ELS)			
(nb These codes are formed by replacing the 'U' with 'UH' at the start of the relevant Uplands Entry Level Stewardship option)			
Woodland livestock exclusion	UHC22	£75	ha
Maintenance of weatherproof traditional farm buildings in remote locations	UHD12	£4	m^2
Maintaining visibility of archaeological features on moorland	UHD13	£53	feature
Winter livestock removal next to streams, rivers and lakes	UHJ12	£35	ha
No supplementary feeding on moorland	UHL17	£4	ha
Cattle grazing on upland grassland and moorland	UHL18	£30	ha
Haymaking	UHL20	£60	ha
No cutting strip within meadows	UHL21	£250	ha
Management of enclosed rough grazing for birds	UHL22	£35	ha
Management of upland grassland for birds	UHL23	£37	ha

Organic Entry Level Stewardship options also available under Higher Level Stewardship
(nb These codes are formed by replacing the 'O' with 'OH' at the start of the relevant Organic Entry Level Stewardship option)

	Code	Payment	Unit
Options for trees and woodlands			
Protection of in-field trees on rotational land	OHC1	£16	tree
Protection of in-field trees on organic grassland	OHC2	£11	tree
Management of woodland edges	OHC4	£380	ha
Hedgerow tree buffer strips on rotational land	OHC24	£500	ha
Hedgerow tree buffer strips on organic grassland	OHC25	£500	ha
Options for historic and landscape features			
Maintenance of weatherproof traditional farm buildings	OHD1	£2	m^2 (of ground floor area)

	Code	Payment	Unit
Take out of cultivation archaeological features that are currently on rotational land	OHD2	£600	ha
Reduced-depth, non-inversion cultivation on archaeological features	OHD3	£100	ha
Management of scrub on archaeological features	OHD4	£120	ha
Management of archaeological features on grassland	OHD5	£16	ha
Options for buffer strips			
2 m buffer strips on rotational land	OHE1	£340	ha
4 m buffer strips on rotational land	OHE2	£425	ha
6 m buffer strips on rotational land	OHE3	£425	ha
2 m buffer strips on organic grassland	OHE4	£340	ha
4 m buffer strips on organic grassland	OHE5	£425	ha
6 m buffer strips on organic grassland	OHE6	£425	ha
Buffering in-field ponds in organic grassland	OHE7	£500	ha
Buffering in-field ponds in rotational land	OHE8	£500	ha
Supplement to add wildflowers to field corners and buffer strips on cultivated land ***NEW IN 2013*** Please note this option is subject to approval by the European Commission.	OHE12	£63	ha
Options for rotational land			
Management of field corners	OHF1	£500	ha
Wild bird seed mixture	OHF2	£550	ha
Nectar flower mixture	OHF4	£550	ha
Overwintered stubble	OHF6	£150	ha
Beetle banks	OHF7	£750	ha
Skylark plots	OHF8	£5	plot
Uncropped, cultivated margins for rare plants	OHF11	£460	ha
Uncropped, cultivated areas for ground-nesting birds	OHF13	£360	ha
Options to encourage a range of crop types			
Undersown spring cereals	OHG1	£150	ha
Cereals for whole-crop silage followed by overwintered stubble	OHG4	£250	ha
Options to protect soil and water			
Management of maize crops to reduce soil erosion	OHJ2	£18	ha
In-field grass areas to prevent erosion and run-off	OHJ5	£454	ha
12 m buffer strips for watercourses on rotational land	OHJ9	£500	ha
Maintenance of watercourse fencing	OHJ11	£4	100 m

	Code	Payment	Unit
Winter cover crops	OHJ13	£65	ha
Options for grassland outside the Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDAs)			
Take field corners out of management	OHK1	£500	ha
Permanent grassland with low inputs	OHK2	£115	ha
Permanent grassland with very low inputs	OHK3	£180	ha
Management of rush pastures	OHK4	£180	ha
Ryegrass seed-set as winter/spring food for birds ***NEW IN 2013*** Please note this option is subject to approval by the European Commission.	OHK20	£80	ha
Legume- and herb-rich swards ***NEW IN 2013*** Please note this option is subject to approval by the European Commission.	OHK21	£200	ha
Option for mixed stocking on grassland			
Mixed stocking	OHK5	£9	ha
Options for grassland and moorland inside the Severely Disadvantaged Areas (SDAs)			
Take field corners out of management in SDAs	OHL1	£100	ha
Permanent grassland with low inputs in SDAs	OHL2	£35	ha
Permanent grassland with very low inputs in SDAs	OHL3	£60	ha
Management of rush pastures in SDAs	OHL4	£60	ha
Enclosed rough grazing	OHL5	£35	ha
Uplands Organic Entry Level Stewardship options (Uplands OELS)			
(nb These codes are formed by replacing the 'UO' with 'UOH' at the start of the relevant Organic Uplands Entry Level Stewardship option)			
Woodland livestock exclusion	UOHC22	£75	ha
Maintenance of weatherproof traditional farm buildings in remote locations	UOHD12	£4	m^2
Maintaining visibility of archaeological features on moorland	UOHD13	£53	feature
Winter livestock removal next to streams, rivers and lakes	UOHJ12	£35	ha
No supplementary feeding on moorland	UOHL17	£4	ha
Cattle grazing on upland grassland and moorland	UOHL18	£30	ha
Haymaking	UOHL20	£60	ha
No cutting strip within meadows	UOHL21	£250	ha
Management of enclosed rough grazing for birds	UOHL22	£35	ha
Management of upland grassland for birds	UOHL23	£37	ha

2.2.4 Combinations of options that can occupy the same land

Options that apply over the whole agreement are not included in this list (for example, OU1, HN8, and HN9). This is because they are, by default, co-locatable with all other options.

Fencing options such as UC5, UJ3 and J11 are not included.

Relationships between HLS supplements and O/ELS options are only shown where the relationship affects the payment rate of the HLS supplement. With this exception, there are no direct co-location relationships between HLS supplements and O/ELS options because supplements must be used with an underlying HLS option. The co-location relationship is between the underlying HLS option and O/ELS option. For co-location relationships between HLS options and O/ELS options being used as 'more of the same' options in HLS, follow the ELS/OELS columns.

Other options not listed in this table cannot be co-located with any other option (HC5, HC6, HC7, HC10, HD9, and HG5).

HLS option code	HLS option title	ELS/OELS option codes (without the initial E, O or U) that can be located on the same land as those listed in the first column without a reduction in your HLS payment	ELS/OELS option codes (without the initial E, O or U) that can be located on the same land as those listed in the first column with a reduction in your HLS payment	HLS option codes that can be located on the same land as those listed in the first column
Options for boundary features				
HB11	Management of hedgerows of very high environmental value (both sides)	B4, B5, B12–16	B1, B3, B8, B10	
HB12	Management of hedgerows of very high environmental value (one side)	B4, B5, B12–16	B2, B9	
HB14	Management of ditches of very high environmental value		B6–10	HK6–17, HK19, HP5, HP6
Options for trees, woodland and scrub				
HC12	Maintenance of wood pasture and parkland	D13, J12, K5, L18		HR1, HR2, HR4, HR5, HR7
HC13	Restoration of wood pasture and parkland	D13, J12, K5, L18		HR1, HR2, HR4, HR5, HR7
HC14	Creation of wood pasture	D13, J12, K5, L18		HR1, HR2, HR4, HR5, HR7
HC8	Restoration of woodland			HC11, HR4, HR5, HR7
HC9	Creation of woodland in Severely Disadvantaged Areas		C22	
HC15	Maintenance of successional areas and scrub	K5, L18		HR1, HR2, HR4–7
HC16	Restoration of successional areas and scrub	K5, L18		HC11, HR1, HR2, HR4–7
HC17	Creation of successional areas and scrub	K5, L18		HC11, HR1, HR2, HR4–7
HC11	Woodland livestock exclusion supplement			HC8, HC16, HC17, HR4, HR5, HR7

HLS option code	HLS option title	ELS/OELS option codes (without the initial E, O or U) that can be located on the same land as those listed in the first column without a reduction in your HLS payment	ELS/OELS option codes (without the initial E, O or U) that can be located on the same land as those listed in the first column with a reduction in your HLS payment	HLS option codes that can be located on the same land as those listed in the first column
Options for orchards				
HC18	Maintenance of high-value traditional orchards			HR1, HR2, HR4–7
HC20	Restoration of traditional orchards			HR1, HR2, HR4–7
HC19	Maintenance of traditional orchards in production			HR1, HR2, HR4–7
HC21	Creation of traditional orchards			HR1, HR2, HR4–7
Options for historic and landscape features				
HD6	Crop establishment by direct drilling	G1		HR6
HD7	Arable reversion by natural regeneration	J12, L18, L20, L21, L23		HR1, HR2, HR6, HR7
HD8	Maintaining high water levels to protect archaeology	J12, K2–5, L2–5, L18, L20, L21, L23		HR1, HR2, HR4, HR6, HR7
HD10	Maintenance of traditional water meadows	J12, L18, L20, L21	K2–4	HK18, HR1, HR2, HR4, HR6, HR7
HD11	Restoration of traditional water meadows	J12, L18, L20, L21	K2–4	HK18, HR1, HR2, HR4, HR6, HR7
Options for arable land				
HE10	Floristically enhanced grass buffer strips			HR6, HR7
HF12	Enhanced wild bird seed mix plots	D3		HR6
HF14	Unharvested, fertiliser-free conservation headland	D3		HR6
HF20	Cultivated fallow plots or margins for arable plants	D3		HR6
HF24	Supplementary feeding in winter for farmland birds	F2, F22		
HG6	Fodder crop management to retain or recreate an arable mosaic			HR6
HG7	Low-input spring cereal to retain or recreate an arable mosaic	D3		HR6

HLS option code	HLS option title	ELS/OELS option codes (without the initial E, O or U) that can be located on the same land as those listed in the first column without a reduction in your HLS payment	ELS/OELS option codes (without the initial E, O or U) that can be located on the same land as those listed in the first column with a reduction in your HLS payment	HLS option codes that can be located on the same land as those listed in the first column
Options to protect soil and water				
HJ3	Arable reversion to unfertilised grassland to prevent erosion or run-off	L18, L20, L21	J12, L23	HR1, HR2, HR4, HR6, HR7
HJ4	Arable reversion to grassland with low fertiliser input to prevent erosion or run-off	L18, L20, L21	J12, L23	HR1, HR2, HR4, HR6, HR7
HJ6	Preventing erosion or run-off from intensively managed, improved grassland	L18, L20, L21	J12, L23	HJ8, HR1, HR2,HR4, HR6, HR7
HJ7	Seasonal livestock removal on grassland with no input restriction	D2, D5, K2–5, L3–5, L18, L20, L21, L23	J12	HR2, HR4, HR6, HR7
HJ8	Nil fertiliser supplement			HJ6, HR1, HR2,HR4, HR6, HR7
Options for grassland				
HK6	Maintenance of species-rich, semi-natural grassland	K5, L18, L20, L21	D5, D13, J12, K2–4, L2–4, L22, L23	HB14, HK18, HK19, HL16, HR1, 2, HR4–7
HK7	Restoration of species-rich, semi-natural grassland	K5, L18, L20, L21	D5, D13, J12, K2–4, L2–4, L22, L23	HB14, HK18, HK19, HL16, HR1, HR2, HR4–7
HK8	Creation of species-rich, semi-natural grassland	K5, L18, L20, L21	D5, D13, J12, L22, L23	HB14, HK18, HK19, HL16, HR1, HR2, HR4–7
HK9	Maintenance of wet grassland for breeding waders	B6, B7, K5, L18, L20	D5, K2–4, L2–4, L21, L23	HB14, HK18, HK19, HL16, HR1, HR2, HR4–7
HK10	Maintenance of wet grassland for wintering waders and wildfowl	B6, B7, K5	D5, K2–4, L2–4,	HB14, HK18, HK19, HL16, HQ13, HR1, HR2, HR4–7
HK11	Restoration of wet grassland for breeding waders	B6, B7, K5, L18, L20	D5, J12, K2–4, L2–4, L21, L23	HB14, HK18, HK19, HL16, HR1, HR2, HR4–7
HK12	Restoration of wet grassland for wintering waders and wildfowl	B6, B7, K5	D5, K2–4, L2–4	HB14, HK18, HK19, HL16, HQ13, HR1, HR2, HR4–7

HLS option code	HLS option title	ELS/OELS option codes (without the initial E, O or U) that can be located on the same land as those listed in the first column without a reduction in your HLS payment	ELS/OELS option codes (without the initial E, O or U) that can be located on the same land as those listed in the first column with a reduction in your HLS payment	HLS option codes that can be located on the same land as those listed in the first column
HK13	Creation of wet grassland for breeding waders	B6, B7, K5, L18, L20	D5, J12, L21, L23	HB14, HK18, HK19, HL16, HR1, HR2, HR4–7
HK14	Creation of wet grassland for wintering waders and wildfowl	B6, B7, K5	D5	HB14, HK18, HK19, HL16, HQ13, HR1, HR2, HR4–7
HK15	Maintenance of grassland for target features	D13, J12, K5, L18, L20	D5, K2, L2–5, L17, L22, L23	HB14, HK18, HK19, HL16,HQ13, HR1, HR2, HR4–7
HK16	Restoration of grassland for target features	D13, J12, K5, L18, L20	D5, K2, L2–5, L17, L22, L23	HB14, HK18, HK19, HL16, HQ13, HR1, HR2, HR4–7
HK17	Creation of grassland for target features	D13, J12, K5, L18, L20	D5, K2, K3, L2–5, L17, L22, L23	HB14, HK18, HK19, HL16, HQ13, HR1, HR2, HR4–7
HE11	Enhanced strips for target species on intensive grassland			HR4, HR6
HK18	Haymaking supplement		L20	HD10, HD11, HK6–17, HK19, HL16, HR4–7
HK19	Raised water levels supplement			HB14, HK6–18, HL16, HR4–7
HQ13	Inundation grassland supplement			HK10, HK12, HK14–17, HL16, HR1, HR2, HR4–7
Options for moorland and upland rough grazing				
HL9	Maintenance of moorland	D13, K5, L18	L5, L6, L17, L22	HL12, 13, 15, 16, HR1, HR2,
HL10	Restoration of moorland	D13, K5, L18	L5, L6, L17, L22	HL12, 13, 15, 16, HR1, HR2, HR4–7
HL11	Creation of upland heathland	D13, K5, L18	L5, L6, L17, L22	HL13, HL16, HR1, HR2, HR4–7
HL7	Maintenance of rough grazing for birds	D13, J12, K5, L18, L20, L21	EL2–6, OL2–5, L17, L22, L23	HL12, 13, 15, 16, HR1, HR2, HR4–7
HL8	Restoration of rough grazing for birds	D13, J12, K5, L18, L20, L21	EL2–6, OL2–5, L17, L22, L23	HL12, 13, 15, 16, HR1, HR2, HR4–7

HLS option code	HLS option title	ELS/OELS option codes (without the initial E, O or U) that can be located on the same land as those listed in the first column without a reduction in your HLS payment	ELS/OELS option codes (without the initial E, O or U) that can be located on the same land as those listed in the first column with a reduction in your HLS payment	HLS option codes that can be located on the same land as those listed in the first column
HL12	Supplement for management of heather, gorse and grass by burning, cutting or swiping			HL7–10, HL16, HR4–7
HL13	Moorland re-wetting supplement			HL7–11, HL16, HR4–7
HL15	Seasonal livestock exclusion supplement			HL7–10, HL16, HR4–7
Options for lowland heathland				
HO1	Maintenance of lowland heathland			HL16, HR1, HR2, HR4–7
HO2	Restoration of lowland heathland			HL16, HR1, HR2, HR4–7
HO3	Restoration of forestry areas to lowland heathland			HL16, HR1, HR2, HR4–7
HO4	Creation of lowland heathland from arable or improved grassland			HL16, HR1, HR2, HR4–7
HO5	Creation of lowland heathland on worked mineral sites			HL16, HR1, HR2, HR4–7
Options for inter-tidal and coastal locations				
HP1	Maintenance of sand dunes	K5		HL16, HR1, HR2, HR4–7
HP2	Restoration of sand dunes	K5		HL16, HR1, HR2, HR4–7
HP3	Creation of coastal vegetated shingle and sand dunes on arable land	K5		HL16, HR1, HR2, HR4–7
HP4	Creation of coastal vegetated shingle and sand dunes on grassland	K5		HL16, HR1, HR2, HR4–7
HP5	Maintenance of coastal salt marsh	K5		HB14, HL16, HP10, HR1, HR2
HP6	Restoration of coastal salt marsh	K5		HB14, HL16, HP10, HP11, HR1, HR2, HR4–7
HP7	Creation of inter-tidal and saline habitat on arable land	K5		HL16, HP10, HR1, HR2, HR4–7

HLS option code	HLS option title	ELS/OELS option codes (without the initial E, O or U) that can be located on the same land as those listed in the first column without a reduction in your HLS payment	ELS/OELS option codes (without the initial E, O or U) that can be located on the same land as those listed in the first column with a reduction in your HLS payment	HLS option codes that can be located on the same land as those listed in the first column
HP8	Creation of inter-tidal and saline habitat on grassland	K5		HL16, HP10, HR1, HR2, HR4–7
HP9	Creation of inter-tidal and saline habitats by non-intervention	K5		HL16, HP10, HP11, HR1, HR2, HR4–7
HP10	Supplement for extensive grazing on salt marsh			HL16, HP5–9, HR1, HR2, HR4, HR5
HP11	Salt marsh livestock exclusion supplement			HP6, HP9, HR4, HR5
Options for wetland				
HQ1	Maintenance of ponds of high wildlife value (less than 100 m^2)	C22, D13, J12, K1–5, L1–6, L17, L18, L20–23		HR4, HR7
HQ2	Maintenance of ponds of high wildlife value (more than 100 m^2)	C22, D13, J12		HR4, HR7
HQ3	Maintenance of reedbeds			HL16, HQ11, HQ12, HR1, HR2, HR4, HR6, HR7
HQ4	Restoration of reedbeds			HL16, HQ11, HQ12, HR1, HR2, HR4, HR6, HR7
HQ5	Creation of reedbeds			HL16, HQ11, HQ12, HR1, HR2, HR4, HR6, HR7
HQ6	Maintenance of fen	L18		HL16, HQ11, HQ12, HR1, HR2, HR4, HR6, HR7
HQ7	Restoration of fen	L18		HL16, HQ11, HQ12, HR1, HR2, HR4, HR6, HR7
HQ8	Creation of fen	L18		HL16, HQ11, HQ12, HR1, HR2, HR4, HR6, HR7
HQ9	Maintenance of lowland raised bog			HL16, HQ11, HQ12, HR1, HR2, HR4, HR6, HR7
HQ10	Restoration of lowland raised bog			HL16, HQ11, HQ12, HR1, HR2, HR4, HR6, HR7

HLS option code	HLS option title	ELS/OELS option codes (without the initial E, O or U) that can be located on the same land as those listed in the first column without a reduction in your HLS payment	ELS/OELS option codes (without the initial E, O or U) that can be located on the same land as those listed in the first column with a reduction in your HLS payment	HLS option codes that can be located on the same land as those listed in the first column
HQ11	Wetland cutting supplement			HQ3–10
HQ12	Wetland grazing supplement			HL16, HQ3–10
Additional supplements				
HL16	Shepherding supplement			HK6–19, HL7–13, HL15, HO1–5, HP1–10, HQ3–10, HQ12, HQ13, HR1, HR2, HR4–7
HR1	Grazing supplement for cattle		L18	HC12–21, HD7–8, HD10–11, HJ3–4, HJ6, HJ8, HK6–17, HL7–11, HL16, HO1–5, HP1–10, HQ3–10, HQ13, HR2, HR4–7
HR2	Grazing supplement for native breeds at risk		L18 (if the NBAR are cattle)	HC12–21, HD7–8, HD10–11, HJ3–4, HJ6–8, HK6–17, HL7–11, HL16, HO1–5, HP1–10, HQ3–10, HQ13, HR1, HR4–7
HR4	Supplement for control of invasive plant species			HC8, HC11–21, HD8, HD10–11, HE11, HJ3–4, HJ6-8, HK6–19, HL7–13, HL15, HL16, HO1–5, HP1–4, HP6–11, HQ1–10, HQ13, HR1–2, HR5–7
HR5	Bracken control supplement			HC8, HC11–21, HK6–19, HL7–13, HL15, HL16, HO1–5, HP1–4, HP6–11, HQ13, HR1–2, HR4, HR6–7

HLS option code	HLS option title	ELS/OELS option codes (without the initial E, O or U) that can be located on the same land as those listed in the first column without a reduction in your HLS payment	ELS/OELS option codes (without the initial E, O or U) that can be located on the same land as those listed in the first column with a reduction in your HLS payment	HLS option codes that can be located on the same land as those listed in the first column
HR6	Supplement for small fields			HC15–21, HD6–8, HD10–11, HE10–11, HF12, HF14, HF20, HG6–7, HJ3–4, HJ6–8, HK6–19, HL7–13, HL15, HL16, HO1–5, HP1–4, HP6–9, HQ3–10, HQ13, HR1–2, HR4–5
HR7	Supplement for difficult sites			HC8, HC11–21, HD7–8, HD10–11, 0, HK6–19, HL7–13, HL15, HL16, HO1–5, HP1–4, HP6–9, HQ1–10, HQ13, HR1–2, HR4–5
HR8	Supplement for group applications		UX1	

Section 3
Capital items

3.1 Summary table of HLS capital items and payment rates

Further information on special projects and capital items for historic features is provided after this table. For further information on other capital items, please consult your Natural England adviser.

Capital item	Code	Payment (£ or % of cost)	Unit
Boundaries			
Hedgerow restoration including laying, coppicing and gapping up	HR2010	£7.00	m
Hedgerow planting – new hedges	PH	£5.00	m
Hedgerow supplement – removal of old fence lines	HF	£0.60	m
Hedgerow supplement – substantial pre-work	HSC	£2.40	m
Hedgerow supplement – top binding and staking	HSL	£2.40	m
Stone wall restoration	WR2010	£30.00	m
Stone wall supplement – stone from holding	WRS	£6.00	m
Stone wall supplement – stone from quarry	WRQ	£30.00	m
Stone wall supplement – difficult sites	WRD	£7.00	m
Stone wall supplement – top wiring	TW	£1.80	m
Stone-faced hedge bank repair	BR	£16.00	m
Stone-faced hedge bank restoration	BS2010	£55.00	m
Earth bank restoration	ER2010	£10.10	m
Creation of new earth banks	EC	£11.00	m
Casting up supplement – hedge bank options	ERC	£1.20	m (per side)
Ditch, dyke and rhine restoration	DR	£2.90	m
Items associated with tree planting and management			
Spiral rabbit guards	TR	£0.20	each
Tree and shrub – whips and transplants plus planting	TSP	£1.60	each
Tree tube and stake	TT	£0.50	each
Standard parkland tree/hedgerow tree and planting	STT	£7.50	each
Parkland tree guard – post and wire (wood)	TP	£64.00	each
Welded steel tree guard	TGS	£106.00	each
Identification of orchard fruit tree varieties	IDF	£30.00	tree variety
Planting fruit trees	MT/SF	£17.00	each
Orchard tree guard (tube and mesh)	TO	£3.30	each
Orchard tree guard (cattle proof)	TOF	£36.00	each
Orchard tree guard (sheep proof)	TOS	£32.00	each
Orchard tree pruning	FP	£17.00	each
Coppicing bankside trees	CBT	£29.00	each

Capital item	Code	Payment (£ or % of cost)	Unit
Tree surgery, minor – to include minor pollarding	TS1	£43.00	each
Tree surgery, major – to include major pollarding	TS2	£89.00	each
Tree removal	TRE	£25.00	m^3
Fencing in association with conservation work			
Sheep fencing	FSB2010/ FSH2010	£2.50	m
Post and wire	FW2010/ FWB2010	£2.50	m
Deer fencing	FD	£4.00	m
Rabbit fencing supplement	FR/B	£1.50	m
Permanent electric fencing	FPE	£1.20	m
Fencing supplement – difficult sites	FDS	£2.50	m
High-tensile fencing	FHT	£1.25	m
Historic features			
Historical and archaeological feature protection	HAP	Up to 100% of costs	
Restoration of historic buildings	HTB	Up to 80% of costs	
Landscape items			
Wooden field/river gate	GF	£149.00	each
Stone gate post	LSP	£96.00	each
Removal of eyesore	E	£120.00	each
Wooden wings for gates	LWW	£70.00	each
Resource protection			
Cross-drains under farm tracks	RPD	£139.00	each
Relocation of gates	RPG	£136.00	each
Hard base for livestock drinker	HBD	£85.00	each
Hard base for livestock feeder	HBF	£120.00	each
Reversion – heathland, grass, meadow			
Native seed mix	GS	100% of costs	
Major preparatory work for heathland recreation	LHX	100% of costs	
Re-introduction of livestock			
Cattle drinking bay	CDB	£119.00	each
Cattle grids	CCG	£538.00	each
Water supply	WS	£2.00	m
Water trough	WT	£85.00	each
Livestock handling facilities	CLH	60% of costs	
Upland management			
Grip blocking drainage channels	GBC2010	£4.30	per block
Grip blocking on difficult sites	GBD	100% of costs	

Capital item	Code	Payment (£ or % of cost)	Unit
Scrub and bracken control			
Scrub management – base payment	SS	£76.00	per agreement per year
Scrub management – less than 25% cover	SA	£228.00	ha
Scrub management – 25% to 75% cover	SB	£376.00	ha
Scrub management – over 75% cover	SC	£583.00	ha
Management of scrub on wet sites	SW	Up to 100% of costs	
Mechanical bracken control – base payment	BMB	£106.00	per agreement per year
Mechanical bracken control – area payment	BMA	£48.00	ha
Chemical bracken control – base payment	BCB	£61.00	per agreement per year
Chemical bracken control – area payment	BCA	£112.00	ha
Difficult site supplement for bracken and scrub control	BDS	£7.00	ha
Access			
Access Capital Item	ACI	No set payment	
Countryside Educational Visits Accreditation	CEVA	Actual cost	
Hard standing for car parking	CP2010	Actual cost	
Hard standing for disabled paths	ADC2010	Actual cost	
Bridle gate	GB2010	Actual cost	
Kissing gate	GK2010	Actual cost	
Kissing gate for disabled access	GD2010	Actual cost	
Dog gate	ADG2010	Actual cost	
Timber stile	ST2010	Actual cost	
Ladder stile	LS2010	Actual cost	
Step over stile in a stone wall	WSS2010	Actual cost	
Step through stile in stone wall	WST2010	Actual cost	
Wooden footbridge	FB2010	Actual cost	
Bench	B2010	Actual cost	
Items associated with wetlands			
Creation of ditches – rhines and dykes	WDC	£3.60	m
Creation of gutters	WGC	£1.90	m
Soil bund	S1	£149.00	each
Culvert	C	£153.00	each
Timber sluice	S2	£314.00	each
Brick, stone or concrete sluice	S3	£960.00	each

Capital item	Code	Payment (£ or % of cost)	Unit
Creation of temporary ponds – first 100 m^2	SCR	£1.40	m^2
Creation of temporary ponds – over 100 m^2	SCP	£0.90	m^2
Silt trap provision	STP	60% of costs	
Wind pumps for water-level measures	WWP	80% of costs	
Drove improvement	WDI	50% of costs	
Construction of water-penning structures	WPS	Up to 100% of costs for structures and for feasibility and/or hydrological implementation plans	
Ponds			
Pond creation – first 100m^2	PC	£3.00	m^2
Pond creation – over 100m^2	PCP	£1.00	m^2
Pond restoration – first 100 m^2	PR	£2.10	m^2
Pond restoration – over 100m^2	PRP	£0.80	m^2
Species			
Otter holt – log construction	OH1	£108.00	each
Otter holt – pipe and chamber construction	OH2	£203.00	each
Bat/bird box	SBB	£28.00	each
Bird strike markers	SBS	£1.50	each
Small mammal boxes	SSM	£10.00	each
Badger gates	SBG	£27.00	each
Payment for advice			
Professional help with implementation plan	PAH	£400.00	each
Other environmental issues			
Special projects	OES	No set payment	

3.2 Capital items for historic features

The range of non-standard payment capital items includes two options intended to deal with historic features or landscapes that require management that falls outside the scope of the annual land management payments.

HAP: Historic and archaeological feature protection

This option may be used where proposals directly contribute to the protection and conservation of the historic environment. Its uses are diverse but include:

- parkland plans or other management plans for historic environment features or landscapes, where research, survey and tailored specifications are required to guide future management, conservation or restoration;
- work to conserve or consolidate historic structures and features that are not considered to be 'historic buildings';
- scrub clearance on archaeological features where the standard methodology and payment rates are unable to meet the requirements of the feature; and
- works such as moving access routes or gateways designed to prevent damage to historic environment features.

HTB: Restoration of historic buildings

The restoration of historic buildings under HLS aims to conserve and lengthen the life of buildings that contribute to the character of the landscape and are of historic interest.

We have produced a guide to assist applicants on the repair and restoration of historic buildings in Higher Level Stewardship. The guide includes details on what we are looking for in a building restoration project, eligible buildings and the materials and techniques that need to be used. It is available from your Natural England adviser.

Flint walled barn in Hampshire

Any application for a building restoration will be measured against how it meets the wider Environmental Stewardship scheme objectives, including its historic or architectural interest, its contribution to the landscape character of the area, its existing or potential value for wildlife (for example, barn owls and bats) and its accessibility to the public. Priority will be given to buildings that demonstrably meet an objective in the targeting statement for your area. In some cases, specific building types may have been identified where they are considered to be at risk. A building at risk from further significant decay in the near future will have priority over one in a more stable state.

Historic building restoration will normally require a management plan as a first stage. The management plan will be included in your first Capital Works Plan and will provide a full assessment of the building, a specification for the work required and tendered costs for carrying it out. Once the management plan has been completed and the claim paid, you will be able to apply in a subsequent Capital Works Plan for a restoration payment for undertaking the work.

We will not normally grant aid for the restoration of any building after 5 years of an agreement. Funding will not be given to assist with the conversion of buildings or where changes would be made that affect the character or interest of the building.

In all cases, you should consult your Natural England adviser at an early stage, and before you start detailed planning or seeking quotes. You will be asked to complete a Historic Buildings Information Form, available from your Natural England office, and return it to your Natural England adviser. This information is needed so that Natural England can do an initial 'desk-based' sift to assess a building's eligibility, historic value and the urgency of work.

Payments for this option are classified as 'non-agricultural de minimis state aid'. Under European rules, individual benefactors are not allowed to receive more than €200,000 from this type of aid over any 3 tax years. You will need to keep a record of all such payments that you have received, including those from other government departments or agencies, for the duration of your agreement.

3.3 Access

A range of capital items are available to help support voluntary permissive access and educational access on your holding. Any applicant considering providing voluntary permissive access should discuss this with their local highways authority at the relevant council. The standard items listed can support voluntary access and are paid at actual cost. Natural England will provide a specification for these items, and can suggest a guide to the cost of such items.

Access capital items are not available on Public Rights of Way. Any structures required for a public route should be discussed with the local highways authority.

Where no standard item exists, then novel projects can be considered through the use of the Access Capital Item (ACI) option. This can be used for projects that support public access to the countryside or

for assisting with the educational access option. These will typically be negotiated at a percentage rate of project costs. Further details about ACI option eligibility and assessment criteria are available on the Natural England website, details at Appendix 2.

Applicants considering projects for educational access should also have the educational access revenue (HN8) item within their agreement. A range of guidance (details are available on the Natural England website) exists to help target these type of projects to areas where there is demand for educational access facilities and also details what type of projects may be available.

Claims for all projects will need to be supported by receipted invoices.

Where access payments are classified as 'non-agricultural de minimis state aid', European rules apply. Individual benefactors are not allowed to receive more than €200,000 from this type of aid over any 3 tax years. You will need to keep a record of all such payments that you have received, including those from other government departments or agencies, for the duration of your agreement.

3.4 Special projects

In exceptional circumstances, your proposals may need work outside the scope of the standard payments, or your particular feature will require a unique, tailored specification.

This type of work may be funded as a Special Project. Claims for all projects will need to be supported by receipted invoices.

In all cases you should consult your Natural England adviser before you start detailed planning or seeking quotes, so that you can be clear that your proposed work is eligible. Special Projects are only available for unique items. If there is a standard capital item listed then this item and its payment rate must be used.