



# Higher Level Stewardship

Environmental Stewardship Handbook

Fourth Edition – January 2013

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

NATURAL  
ENGLAND

This page is intentionally left blank

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

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

# The HLS Handbook – A Quick Guide

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

1

## Section 1 – Introduction to Higher Level Stewardship

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

2

## Section 2 – Option Directory for HLS

Contains the detailed management requirements for each HLS option, and the new option for 2013.

**You should make sure you have read and understood all the management requirements that apply to the HLS options you select** and any combined management with ELS, OELS and Uplands ELS and OELS options (please refer to the ELS or OELS handbook as appropriate and Section 2.2.2 of this handbook). When you sign your application form, you are confirming that you will comply fully with the management requirements for the duration of your agreement.

3

## Section 3 – Capital items

Contains a full summary of capital items and their payment rates.

4

## Section 4 – How to apply for HLS

Explains what you need to do before you apply, and provides a step-by-step guide to completing your application form.

5

## Section 5 – Terms and conditions

The rules that you will need to comply with when you enter into an HLS agreement. If you have a combined ELS/HLS, Uplands ELS/HLS, OELS/HLS or Uplands OELS/HLS you must refer to the ELS or OELS handbook as appropriate. **You should read the relevant Terms and Conditions before you apply as these will also form part of your legal agreement with Natural England.**

6

## Section 6 – Appendices

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

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

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

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

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

# Contents

## Section 1

### Introduction to Higher Level Stewardship

|            |   |           |
|------------|---|-----------|
| <b>1.1</b> | <b>Introduction and general overview</b> .....                    | <b>9</b>  |
| 1.1.1      | What is Environmental Stewardship? .....                          | 9         |
| 1.1.2      | Why join ES?.....   | 9         |
| 1.1.3      | Where can you get help?.....                                      | 9         |
| <b>1.2</b> | <b>Key information</b> .....                                      | <b>10</b> |
| 1.2.1      | Who can apply?.....   | 10        |
| 1.2.2      | Do you need to join ELS/OELS?.....                                | 10        |
| 1.2.3      | How can you apply? .....  | 10        |
| 1.2.4      | What land is eligible? .....                                      | 10        |
| 1.2.5      | What are you agreeing to do?.....                                 | 10        |
| 1.2.6      | When will the agreement start and how long will it operate? ..... | 10        |
| 1.2.7      | What will you be paid? .....                                      | 10        |
| 1.2.8      | When will you be paid? .....                                      | 10        |
| 1.2.9      | Can an agent act on your behalf?.....                             | 11        |
| 1.2.10     | How will your information be stored and used?.....                | 11        |
| 1.2.11     | Can you make changes to your agreement? .....                     | 11        |

## Section 2

### Option directory for HLS

|            |   |           |
|------------|---|-----------|
| <b>2.1</b> | .....   | <b>12</b> |
| 2.1.1      | What is an 'indicator of success'? .....  | 12        |
| 2.1.2      | What is the difference between the maintenance, restoration and creation options? ..... | 12        |
| 2.1.3      | How should you take landscape considerations into account? .....                        | 13        |
| <b>2.2</b> | .....   | <b>13</b> |
| 2.2.1      | Summary table of HLS options and payment rates .....                                    | 13        |
| 2.2.2      | Detailed description of HLS options.....  | 16        |
| 2.2.3      | Adding extra ELS or OELS options to your HLS application .....                          | 52        |
| 2.2.4      | Combinations of options that can occupy the same land .....                             | 56        |

## Section 3

### Capital items

|            |   |           |
|------------|---|-----------|
| <b>3.1</b> | <b>Summary table of HLS capital items and payment rates</b> ..... | <b>65</b> |
| <b>3.2</b> | <b>Capital items for historic features</b> .....                  | <b>68</b> |
| <b>3.3</b> | <b>Access</b> .....   | <b>69</b> |
| <b>3.4</b> | <b>Special projects</b> .....                                     | <b>70</b> |

## Section 4

### How to apply for HLS

|            |  |           |
|------------|--|-----------|
| <b>4.1</b> | <b>Before you apply</b> .....  | <b>71</b> |
| 4.1.1      | Things to do before you apply .....                                    | 71        |
| 4.1.2      | Contact Natural England to determine HLS suitability and HLS Tier .... | 71        |
| 4.1.3      | Obtain an application form and maps .....                              | 72        |
| 4.1.4      | Check your application pack is complete .....                          | 72        |
| 4.1.5      | Have a FEP survey carried out .....                                    | 73        |
| <b>4.2</b> | <b>Choosing your options</b> .....                                     | <b>74</b> |
| 4.2.1      | How should you choose which options to put in your application? ...    | 74        |
| 4.2.2      | Can you use ELS/OELS options to complement your HLS options? .....     | 74        |
| 4.2.3      | Can you have more than one option on the same area of land? .....      | 75        |
| 4.2.4      | Can you apply for capital works? .....                                 | 75        |
| 4.2.5      | Do you need to submit an implementation plan or management plan? ...   | 76        |
| 4.2.6      | Do you need consent from anyone?.....                                  | 76        |
| 4.2.7      | What should you do if you have already sown your crops? .....          | 77        |
| 4.2.8      | When should you send in your application? .....                        | 77        |
| <b>4.3</b> | <b>Step-by-step summary of how to apply</b> .....                      | <b>78</b> |
| <b>4.4</b> | <b>What happens next?</b> .....  | <b>87</b> |
| 4.4.1      | What happens once you have submitted your application?.....            | 87        |
| 4.4.2      | What will you receive if your application has been successful?.....    | 87        |
| 4.4.3      | What if your application is unsuccessful? .....                        | 87        |

## Section 5

### Terms and Conditions

|            |  |           |
|------------|--|-----------|
| <b>5.1</b> | <b>Introduction</b> .....  | <b>89</b> |
| <b>5.2</b> | <b>About your agreement</b> .....                                    | <b>89</b> |
| 5.2.1      | When will your agreement start and how long will it last? .....      | 89        |
| 5.2.2      | Do you need to join ELS/OELS?.....                                   | 90        |
| 5.2.3      | What are you agreeing to do?.....                                    | 90        |
| 5.2.4      | Are you guaranteed an agreement? .....                               | 91        |
| 5.2.5      | What payments will you receive?.....                                 | 91        |
| 5.2.6      | How will you be paid?.....   | 92        |
| 5.2.7      | Will Natural England discuss your application with anyone else?..... | 92        |
| 5.2.8      | Will your details be made public? .....                              | 92        |
| <b>5.3</b> | <b>Who can apply?</b> .....  | <b>92</b> |
| 5.3.1      | Who can join the scheme?.....  | 92        |
| 5.3.2      | What if you are a tenant? .....                                      | 92        |
| 5.3.3      | What if you are a licensee? .....                                    | 92        |
| 5.3.4      | What if you are a landlord?.....                                     | 93        |
| 5.3.5      | What if you are a licensor? .....                                    | 93        |
| 5.3.6      | What about using contractors to manage the land? .....               | 93        |
| 5.3.7      | Are business partnerships and trusts eligible?.....                  | 93        |
| 5.3.8      | Are public bodies and their tenants eligible? .....                  | 93        |
| 5.3.9      | Is common land and shared grazing eligible? .....                    | 93        |
| 5.3.10     | What if others hold rights over your land? .....                     | 93        |

|            |   |            |
|------------|---|------------|
| <b>5.4</b> | <b>Is your land eligible?</b> .....   | <b>93</b>  |
| 5.4.1      | What land can you enter into the scheme?.....   | 93         |
| 5.4.2      | What land must be excluded from your application?.....  | 93         |
| 5.4.3      | Is land that is subject to another scheme or obligation eligible? .....                       | 93         |
| 5.4.4      | Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS)/<br>Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) .....         | 93         |
| 5.4.5      | Energy Crops Scheme (ECS) .....   | 94         |
| 5.4.6      | Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations .....   | 94         |
| 5.4.7      | Felling licences/Tree Preservation Orders .....   | 94         |
| 5.4.8      | Habitat Scheme (HS).....  | 95         |
| 5.4.9      | Heather and Grass Burning .....   | 95         |
| 5.4.10     | Heritage Lottery Funding .....  | 95         |
| 5.4.11     | Inheritance Tax/Capital Gains Tax exemption .....   | 95         |
| 5.4.12     | Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZ) .....  | 95         |
| 5.4.13     | Producer Organisation Aid Scheme .....  | 95         |
| 5.4.14     | Protected areas: Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and<br>Natura 2000 Network..... | 95         |
| 5.4.15     | Protected species .....   | 96         |
| 5.4.16     | Scheduled Monuments.....  | 96         |
| 5.4.17     | Single Payment Scheme (SPS) .....   | 96         |
| 5.4.18     | Can you use land to apply for HLS that<br>someone else is using to apply for SPS? .....       | 96         |
| 5.4.19     | Tenancy conditions .....  | 96         |
| 5.4.20     | Uplands Transitional Payment (UTP) .....  | 96         |
| 5.4.21     | Woodland schemes .....  | 97         |
| <b>5.5</b> | <b>What additional requirements will apply to your agreement?</b> .....                       | <b>97</b>  |
| 5.5.1      | Cross compliance management and HLS options .....   | 97         |
| 5.5.2      | Avoidance of under-utilisation and overgrazing.....   | 98         |
| 5.5.3      | Common land.....  | 98         |
| 5.5.4      | Capital works.....  | 98         |
| 5.5.5      | Protection of historic features .....   | 98         |
| 5.5.6      | Archaeological fieldwork and metal detecting on your land.....                                | 99         |
| 5.5.7      | Other activities on your land.....  | 99         |
| 5.5.8      | Inspecting and monitoring your agreement.....   | 100        |
| 5.5.9      | Keep necessary records .....  | 100        |
| 5.5.10     | Other funding.....  | 100        |
| 5.5.11     | Publicity.....  | 100        |
| 5.5.12     | Photographs .....   | 100        |
| 5.5.13     | Organic standards.....  | 101        |
| <b>5.6</b> | <b>Making changes to your agreement</b> .....   | <b>101</b> |
| 5.6.1      | Can you make changes to your agreement? .....   | 101        |
| 5.6.2      | What if you let, sell or transfer your land to another party? .....                           | 101        |
| 5.6.3      | What if you acquire land? .....   | 102        |
| 5.6.4      | When will agreement transfers take effect? .....  | 102        |
| 5.6.5      | What if you want to upgrade your agreement? .....   | 102        |
| 5.6.6      | Derogations .....   | 103        |
| 5.6.7      | Variation of your agreement by us.....  | 103        |
| 5.6.8      | Certainty of payment.....   | 103        |
| 5.6.9      | Exceptional circumstances (force majeure) .....   | 103        |
| 5.6.10     | Can you change your Organic Inspection Body? .....  | 103        |
| 5.6.11     | Are phased conversions possible under OELS? .....   | 103        |

|       |  |     |
|-------|--|-----|
| 5.7   | Disputes: What happens if you fail to keep to the terms of your agreement, have a dispute or wish to make a complaint? ..... | 103 |
| 5.7.1 | What is a breach of agreement? .....   | 103 |
| 5.7.2 | What penalties could be applied?.....  | 104 |
| 5.7.3 | What do you do if you receive an overpayment? .....  | 105 |
| 5.7.4 | What if you disagree with any of our decisions or proposed actions regarding your application or agreement? .....            | 105 |
| 5.7.5 | What do you do if you have a dispute with an Organic Inspection Body (OIB) over certification issues?.....                   | 105 |
| 5.7.6 | How do you make a complaint? .....   | 105 |

## Section 6 Appendices

### Appendix 1

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Contact details..... | 106 |
|----------------------|-----|

### Appendix 2

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Useful web addresses ..... | 108 |
|----------------------------|-----|

### Appendix 3

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Glossary and list of abbreviations and acronyms..... | 110 |
|--|-----|

### Appendix 4

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Standard letter for Historic Environment Record (HER) consultation for Standard tier and Complex tier applications ..... | 116 |
|--|-----|

### Appendix 5

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Map of Target Areas ..... | 118 |
|---------------------------|-----|

**In Section 5, Terms and conditions, the text in black is applicable to all HLS agreements. The text specific to HLS agreements including OELS, is highlighted green.**

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



# Section 1

## Introduction to Higher Level Stewardship

### 1.1 Introduction and general overview

#### 1.1.1 What is Environmental Stewardship?

Environmental Stewardship (ES) is an agri-environment scheme that provides funding to farmers and other land managers in England in return for delivering environmental management on their land.

Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) is one of three elements of ES. The other two elements are Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) and Organic Entry Level Stewardship (OELS). Detailed information about ELS and OELS is provided in the separate ELS and OELS handbooks.

HLS, which will usually be combined with ELS or OELS, aims to deliver significant environmental benefits in high-priority situations and areas. HLS concentrates on the higher level of management where land managers need advice and support and where agreements can be tailored to local circumstances.

*(Uplands ELS and Uplands OELS offer a higher level of payment in return for environmental management of land within the Severely Disadvantaged Areas [SDAs]).*

This section provides an introduction to ES, setting out the key elements of the scheme. Section 2 details the land management options available for you to choose from, Section 3 lists the capital items and Section 4 provides advice on how to apply. The full terms and conditions are set out in Section 5. Please ensure that you understand the full terms and conditions before submitting an application to join ES.

Before reading this document you may wish to refer to the *Look After Your Land with Environmental Stewardship* booklet, which provides an introduction to the scheme and is available to download from the Natural England website at [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk).

#### 1.1.2 Why join ES?

The 44,000 current ES agreements are delivering almost 200,000 km of environmentally-friendly hedgerow management (around 124,000 miles) and more than 7,500 ha of bird seed mix, and protecting more than 191,000 in-field trees. Monitoring shows that this management is achieving real benefits for wildlife.

#### 1.1.3 Where can you get help?

Your Natural England adviser will be able to answer any questions you may have about the scheme and your application. We will visit you to discuss your application and at intervals during the life of your agreement. This is so we can monitor the progress of the various management options with you. It will also provide an opportunity for all parties to reflect on whether the management is achieving the outcomes as set out in your agreement and to consider the need for any adjustments to your agreement. We can also discuss the requirements for including additional capital items.

During these visits, we will collect basic data on the results of the management being undertaken. This will allow us to assess the contribution your agreement is making toward government targets for agri-environment schemes.

You can contact your Natural England adviser at any time for further information.

You can also contact Natural England for help with general enquiries. If you have a general query about ES, please call us on 0300 060 0011.

## 1.2 Key information

### 1.2.1 Who can apply?

HLS is open to all farmers and land managers who are freehold owners, tenants, contractual licensees or common land rights holders. **You must have management control of the land for the entire term of your agreement (a minimum of 10 years).** If you are not certain that you will have management control for the term of your agreement, you must make a countersigned application with a person who undertakes to carry on your agreement if your management control of the land ceases (see Section 5.3 of the ELS or OELS handbook).

### 1.2.2 Do you need to join ELS/OELS?

Normally yes, because ELS, OELS and HLS have been designed to complement each other. If you already have an ELS, or OELS agreement, you will need to re-apply for these options when you make your HLS application. This will ensure that the elements of ES are combined in the most effective way. Natural England will then provide you with a joint ELS/HLS, Uplands ELS/HLS, OELS/HLS or Uplands OELS/HLS agreement.

### 1.2.3 How can you apply?

If you have not already been approached by a Natural England adviser about submitting an application, you must contact Natural England before completing and submitting a Farm Environment Plan (FEP) and an HLS application. A Natural England adviser will give you a realistic assessment of whether your holding has potential for HLS. Further details can be found in Section 4, How to apply for HLS.

### 1.2.4 What land is eligible?

Land to be entered into the scheme must be registered on the Rural Land Register (RLR). ES is a whole-farm scheme, so your HLS application must include all the eligible farmland that you manage. See Section 5.4 for full details, including eligibility of land in other schemes.

### 1.2.5 What are you agreeing to do?

In applying for and undertaking an HLS agreement, you are required to:

- Identify, map and retain your Farm Environment Record (FER) features, and deliver your ELS or OELS options in accordance with the requirements of the appropriate handbook. Deliver the HLS management options and complete any capital works, as set out in your agreement document.
- Adhere to all the scheme terms and conditions contained in this handbook and the ELS or OELS handbook. In particular, follow cross compliance requirements throughout your land and comply with the additional requirements contained in Section 5.5.

### 1.2.6 When will the agreement start and how long will it operate?

Natural England prioritises holdings for inclusion in HLS based on known features and information about their potential for environmental delivery. The aim is to prioritise holdings which have the potential to provide the maximum environmental outcomes. The resulting prioritised list of holdings for each area is called the 'HLS Pipeline'. The proposed start dates may be sometime in the future depending on the potential environmental outcomes.

### 1.2.7 What will you be paid?

You will be paid according to the work you agree to when entering into the scheme.

Subject to any EU rule changes referred to at Section 5.6.7 of your ELS or OELS handbook, the payment rates you receive for HLS options will remain the same for the first five years of your agreement, even if the payment rates are reviewed during this period. At this five-year break point, any rates that have been changed as the result of a review will normally be applied to your agreement.

For details of all the payment rates, please see Sections 2 and 3 of this handbook.

### 1.2.8 When will you be paid?

You will receive two payments in each year of your agreement, with each payment representing half of your total annual payment for that year. These payments will be made automatically and you will not have to complete a claim form. However, if there are any changes to your agreement then you must let us know, for instance, if you have amended your field boundaries.

We are required to operate a fixed annual cycle for payments:

- if your agreement starts on or before 1 June in any calendar year, you should receive your first payment in that calendar year; or
- if your agreement has a start date of 1 July or later in the year, you will receive your first payment in the following calendar year.
- we will assume that on 15 May each year, you make a deemed claim for payments. If there are any reasons why you are no longer eligible to claim, or changes have occurred to your agreement land which we are unaware of, for instance, if you have amended your field boundaries, you must inform us immediately.

Further details including a tool to help you work out the timings of your payments are available at: [www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/funding/developments.aspx](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/funding/developments.aspx).

If we overpay you in error, you may be asked to refund the overpayment.

### 1.2.9 Can an agent act on your behalf?

Yes. You can authorise an agent to discuss a potential application, to submit an application and to act on your behalf in all matters relating to the maintenance of your agreement. Your payments can also be made to an agent.

If you wish an agent to be authorised to attend and act on your behalf at a meeting led by Natural England to identify and discuss potential HLS applications that you may decide to submit to Natural England in the future, you must complete and send an agent authorisation form (NE-auth) to your local Natural England office in advance of the meeting. The addresses for all our offices can be found at: [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk). Please contact your local team to discuss dates for HLS application clinics led by Natural England in your area.

You will need to complete, sign and return the agent authorisation form in advance of any Natural England HLS application clinic. You can download one from our website at: [www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/funding/es/forms/default.aspx](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/funding/es/forms/default.aspx).

An additional Agent Authorisation form will need to be submitted to allow an agent to act on your behalf to submit an HLS Farm Environment Plan (FEP), an HLS application or to claim HLS payments.

You will need to complete, sign and return the agent authorisation form (NE-auth) with your application. You can obtain one from us or from our website at: [www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/funding/es/forms/default.aspx](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/funding/es/forms/default.aspx).

Please note that any payment you make to an agent to help with your application will not be reimbursed by us.

### 1.2.10 How will your information be stored and used?

Your information will be stored and processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. This Act gives you, as an individual, the right to know what data we hold on you, how we use it, with whom we share it and to ensure that it is accurate.

We will respect personal privacy whilst complying with access to information requests to the extent necessary to enable Natural England to comply with its statutory obligations under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (see Section 5.2.8 for details).

### 1.2.11 Can you make changes to your agreement?

Continuity is important during your agreement if we are to achieve the environmental benefits. We will therefore only agree to changes that are absolutely necessary. Should the situation arise where you need to change the choice or location of your management options, or vary your management for a short period of time then, subject to our approval, we can amend your agreement. If you need to make a minor or temporary change to your management prescriptions, you can apply for a derogation. You must not make changes without our prior approval (see Section 5.6 for details).

# Appendix 1

## Contact details

### Natural England offices

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

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

#### East of England

Bedfordshire  
Cambridgeshire  
Essex  
Hertfordshire  
Norfolk  
Suffolk

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

#### East Midlands

Derbyshire  
Leicestershire  
Lincolnshire  
Northamptonshire  
Nottinghamshire  
Rutland

Natural England  
Customer Services  
PO Box 8296, Nottingham NG8 3WZ  
Tel: 0300 060 0011\*  
Fax: 0300 060 1121  
Email: [enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk)

#### North East

Durham  
Northumberland  
Tyne and Wear  
Former county of Cleveland

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

#### North West

Cheshire  
Cumbria  
Greater Manchester  
Lancashire  
Merseyside

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

#### South East

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

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

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

**Please note:**

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

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

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

# Appendix 2

## Useful web addresses

### Natural England application information:

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

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

Guidance on e-FEP:

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

HLS Targeting and theme statements

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

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

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

### Other Natural England sources of information:

Advice about wildlife management and licensing is available at:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Further information about Access Capital Item (ACI) Option Eligibility and Assessment criteria can be found at:

[www.naturalengland.org.uk/images/access\\_capital\\_items\\_eligibility\\_tcm6-30525.pdf](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/images/access_capital_items_eligibility_tcm6-30525.pdf)

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

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

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

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

Further information on Environmental Impact Assessments is available at:

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

The Heather and Grass Burning Code can be downloaded from:

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

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

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

### External sources of information:

Information about Non-departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs) and other public bodies can be found at:

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

Information on Felling licences including the booklet *Tree Felling – getting permission* is available at:  
[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-6DFK86](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-6DFK86)

Forestry Commission website:  
[www.forestry.gov.uk](http://www.forestry.gov.uk)

Code of Good Agricultural Practice can be found at:  
[www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/06/16/pb13558-cogap](http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/06/16/pb13558-cogap)

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

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

Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO)  
[www.algao.org.uk/Cttees/Countryside/ES-HLS.htm](http://www.algao.org.uk/Cttees/Countryside/ES-HLS.htm)

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

Customer Service Centre  
Rural Payments Agency  
PO Box 1058  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE99 4YQ  
Tel: 0845 603 7777  
Email: [csc@rpa.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:csc@rpa.gsi.gov.uk)

Full details about cross compliance can be found on the RPA website at:  
[www.rpa.gov.uk/crosscompliance](http://www.rpa.gov.uk/crosscompliance)

In addition, the Farming Advice Service provides advice on cross compliance and other subjects to help you improve the economic and environmental performance of your farm:  
[www.defra.gov.uk/farming-advice](http://www.defra.gov.uk/farming-advice)

*Single Payment Scheme Handbook* and supplements:  
[rpa.defra.gov.uk/rpa/index.nsf/home](http://rpa.defra.gov.uk/rpa/index.nsf/home)

# Appendix 3

## Glossary and list of abbreviations and acronyms

### Glossary

#### **Agreement land**

All land on which Entry Level Stewardship or Organic Entry Level Stewardship and Higher Level Stewardship management prescriptions apply, including items within a Capital Works Plan.

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

Schemes under European Commission Regulations 1698/2005, 1974/2006, 1975/2006 and 65/2011 (as amended or as may be amended) that offer grants for measures to conserve and enhance the countryside.

#### **Arable land**

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

#### **Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs)**

Action plans to conserve and enhance biological diversity within the UK for our most threatened species and wildlife habitats.

#### **Capital works**

Works in an agreement attracting one-off payments, for example, hedge laying.

#### **Capital Works Plan (CWP)**

The capital works to be carried out during specified periods of your agreement.

#### **Common land**

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

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

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

#### **Derogation**

Agreed temporary relaxation from the specified requirements in an agreement.

#### **Easement**

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

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

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) (England) Regulations 2006, and the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999.

#### **Environmental Information Map**

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

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

Replaced Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Countryside Stewardship Schemes from 2005. It has three elements – Entry Level Stewardship (including Uplands Entry Level Stewardship), Organic Entry Level Stewardship (including Uplands Organic Entry Level Stewardship) and Higher Level Stewardship.



### **Farm Environment Plan (FEP)**

Records features identified on your land together with a statement on their condition. Must accompany an application for Higher Level Stewardship.

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

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

### **Force majeure**

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

### **Historic parkland**

A designed landscape, usually with mature trees set in pasture.

### **Leaching**

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

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

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

### **Livestock Unit (LU)**

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

### **Moorland Line**

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

### **Mosaic**

A number of vegetation types within a given area, often having increased environmental value through association with each other.

### **Non-rotational options**

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

### **Options Map**

The map(s) of your land that you return to Natural England, with your completed application form, on which you have marked the options you wish to enter into ELS (including Uplands ELS) or OELS (including Uplands OELS) and HLS. These will usually include both land management options and capital works.

### **Overgrazing**

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

### **Permanent grassland**

Land that is used to grow grasses or other herbaceous forage naturally or through cultivation, which has not been subject to cultivation for at least five years.

### **Plantation**

Woodland where most of the trees have been planted.

## Poaching

Severe damage to the sward and soil caused by inappropriate or untimely concentrations of livestock.

## Pollarding

The traditional practice of cutting all the branches from a tree, usually willow, at about 1.8 m above the ground so that the regrowth cannot be eaten by stock. The harvested timber was used for a variety of purposes.

## Priority targets

The targets against which your application will be assessed. Details of the targets that apply to your land will be included with your application form. If your application does not address any of the targets for your area, it may be rejected.

## Rotational options

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

## Rural Land Register (RLR)

A database of land parcels and areas within England, managed by the RPA. For land to be eligible for HLS, it must be registered on the RLR.

## Rural Payments Agency (RPA)

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

## Scheduled Monument

Nationally important sites and monuments that have been given legal protection by being placed on a list or 'schedule'. English Heritage takes the lead in identifying sites in England that should be placed on the schedule by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. The current legislation, the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, supports a formal system of Scheduled Monument consent for any work to a designated monument.

## Scrub

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

## Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDA)

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

## Shared Grazing

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

## Silviculture

The management of woods and forests.

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

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

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

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

### **Supplements**

Annual payments to cover additional work needed for the management of specific habitats.

### **Target Area Statement**

Over 100 individually named, multi-objective target areas have been identified across England. These represent the areas where Natural England wishes to focus delivery of HLS to maximise environmental outcomes. The priorities for each target area are set out in the Target Area Statement.

### **Target feature/species**

Environmental features, or species of particular significance in an area, that need to be protected, enhanced or (re-)created, and on which Natural England wishes to focus delivery of HLS to maximise environmental outcomes and value for money. Examples include historic features, wildlife habitats and plant or animal species.

### **Theme Statement**

These address priorities for HLS outside the target areas and have been agreed on a regional basis. They are detailed in the regional Theme Statements.

### **Undergrazing**

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

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

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

### **Vendor number**

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

### **List of abbreviations and acronyms**

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>ACI</b>   | Access Capital Item                                     |
| <b>ALGAO</b> | Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers |
| <b>BAP</b>   | Biodiversity Action Plan                                |
| <b>BASIS</b> | British Agrochemical Standards Inspection Scheme        |
| <b>CALM</b>  | Carbon Accounting for Land Managers                     |
| <b>CAP</b>   | Common Agricultural Policy                              |
| <b>CES</b>   | Conservation and Enhancement Scheme                     |
| <b>CPH</b>   | County Parish Holding                                   |

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>CRoW Act</b> | Countryside and Rights of Way Act                  |
| <b>CS</b>       | Customer Services                                  |
| <b>CSS</b>      | Countryside Stewardship Scheme                     |
| <b>CWP</b>      | Capital Works Plan                                 |
| <b>Defra</b>    | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs |
| <b>ECS</b>      | Energy Crops Scheme                                |
| <b>EH</b>       | English Heritage                                   |
| <b>ELS</b>      | Entry Level Stewardship                            |
| <b>ERDP</b>     | England Rural Development Programme                |
| <b>ES</b>       | Environmental Stewardship                          |
| <b>ESA</b>      | Environmentally Sensitive Area                     |
| <b>EU</b>       | European Union                                     |
| <b>EWGS</b>     | English Woodland Grant Scheme                      |
| <b>FEP</b>      | Farm Environment Plan                              |
| <b>FER</b>      | Farm Environment Record                            |
| <b>FWPS</b>     | Farm Woodland Premium Scheme                       |
| <b>FWS</b>      | Farm Woodland Scheme                               |
| <b>FYM</b>      | Farm Yard Manure                                   |
| <b>GAEC</b>     | Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition      |
| <b>HER</b>      | Historic Environment Record                        |
| <b>HLC</b>      | Historic Landscape Character                       |
| <b>HLF</b>      | Heritage Lottery Fund                              |
| <b>HLS</b>      | Higher Level Stewardship                           |
| <b>HS</b>       | Habitat Scheme                                     |
| <b>LEAF</b>     | Linking Environment and Farming                    |
| <b>LFA</b>      | Less Favoured Area                                 |
| <b>LU</b>       | Livestock Unit                                     |
| <b>MESME</b>    | Making Environmental Stewardship More Effective    |
| <b>NDPB</b>     | Non-Departmental Public Body                       |
| <b>NVZ</b>      | Nitrate Vulnerable Zone                            |

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>OELS</b>  | Organic Entry Level Stewardship                 |
| <b>OIB</b>   | Organic Inspection Body                         |
| <b>PAH</b>   | Professional help with implementation plan      |
| <b>PRoW</b>  | Public Rights of Way                            |
| <b>RDPE</b>  | Rural Development Programme for England         |
| <b>RLR</b>   | Rural Land Register                             |
| <b>RPA</b>   | Rural Payments Agency                           |
| <b>SAC</b>   | Special Area of Conservation                    |
| <b>SBI</b>   | Single Business Identifier                      |
| <b>SDA</b>   | Severely Disadvantaged Area                     |
| <b>SHINE</b> | Selected Heritage Inventory for Natural England |
| <b>SMRs</b>  | Statutory Management Requirements               |
| <b>SPA</b>   | Special Protection Area                         |
| <b>SPS</b>   | Single Payment Scheme                           |
| <b>SSSI</b>  | Site of Special Scientific Interest             |
| <b>TFB</b>   | Traditional Farm Building                       |
| <b>TPO</b>   | Tree Preservation Order                         |
| <b>UTP</b>   | Uplands Transitional Payment                    |
| <b>WES</b>   | Wildlife Enhancement Scheme                     |
| <b>WGS</b>   | Woodland Grant Scheme                           |

# Appendix 4

## Standard letter for Historic Environment Record (HER) consultation for Standard tier and Complex tier applications

Dear [name] .....  
[Your address].....  
[Address for HER contact].....  
[Date letter sent] .....

See [www.algao.org.uk/Association/Members.htm](http://www.algao.org.uk/Association/Members.htm)

### HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP: FARM ENVIRONMENT PLAN CONSULTATION

I am carrying out a FEP for: .....  
Application number: .....  
Farm name: .....  
Farm address:.....  
.....  
.....  
Six-figure grid reference for the holding:.....  
Local authority area(s) which the holding falls within:.....  
.....  
Holding area (ha):.....  
The ownership of all or part of the holding is known to be:.....  
National Trust      Yes/No                      Defence Estates                      Yes/No  
There [is/is not] an ELS agreement on the holding.  
My aim is to submit an application to meet the following HLS application deadline:  
.....

As part of the FEP process, I am required to consult with you, as the local HER.

Please provide me with information and advice on the known historic environment resource on the above holding, in line with the agreed ALGAO, Natural England and English Heritage Service Standard for HER consultation responses and using the standard pro forma template. For your information, the Service Standard is available at:

[www.algao.org.uk/Cttees/Countryside/Agri-envEng/ServiceStandard-Version3.o.pdf](http://www.algao.org.uk/Cttees/Countryside/Agri-envEng/ServiceStandard-Version3.o.pdf)

I enclose a blank colour copy of the official Natural England FEP Map(s) at 1:10,000 scale or larger. This shows the holding boundary, the RLR field numbers that should be used in the consultation response and the field parcels that form the application area.

*[Delete as appropriate if the following points are not applicable to this holding.]*

- I have identified the limit of any areas of National Trust or Defence Estates land on the enclosed map.
- There is an ELS agreement on the holding and I also enclose a copy of the ELS agreement map and FER Map.

The other land management agreements in place on the holding are *[please insert relevant details or state 'none']*:

.....  
.....

Please provide me with a formal response even if you conclude that there are no known features recorded on the HER that can be managed under the scheme.

I would be grateful for return of your response within 20 working days from receipt of this letter. I understand that I will be charged a fee of £75 for holdings under 50 ha and £150 for holdings over 50ha, and that this fee may be subject to VAT.

Please send the invoice to: *[insert relevant name and address]*

.....  
.....

I look forward to hearing from you and thank you in advance for your advice.

Yours sincerely *[Your name]*.....



**Enclosures:**

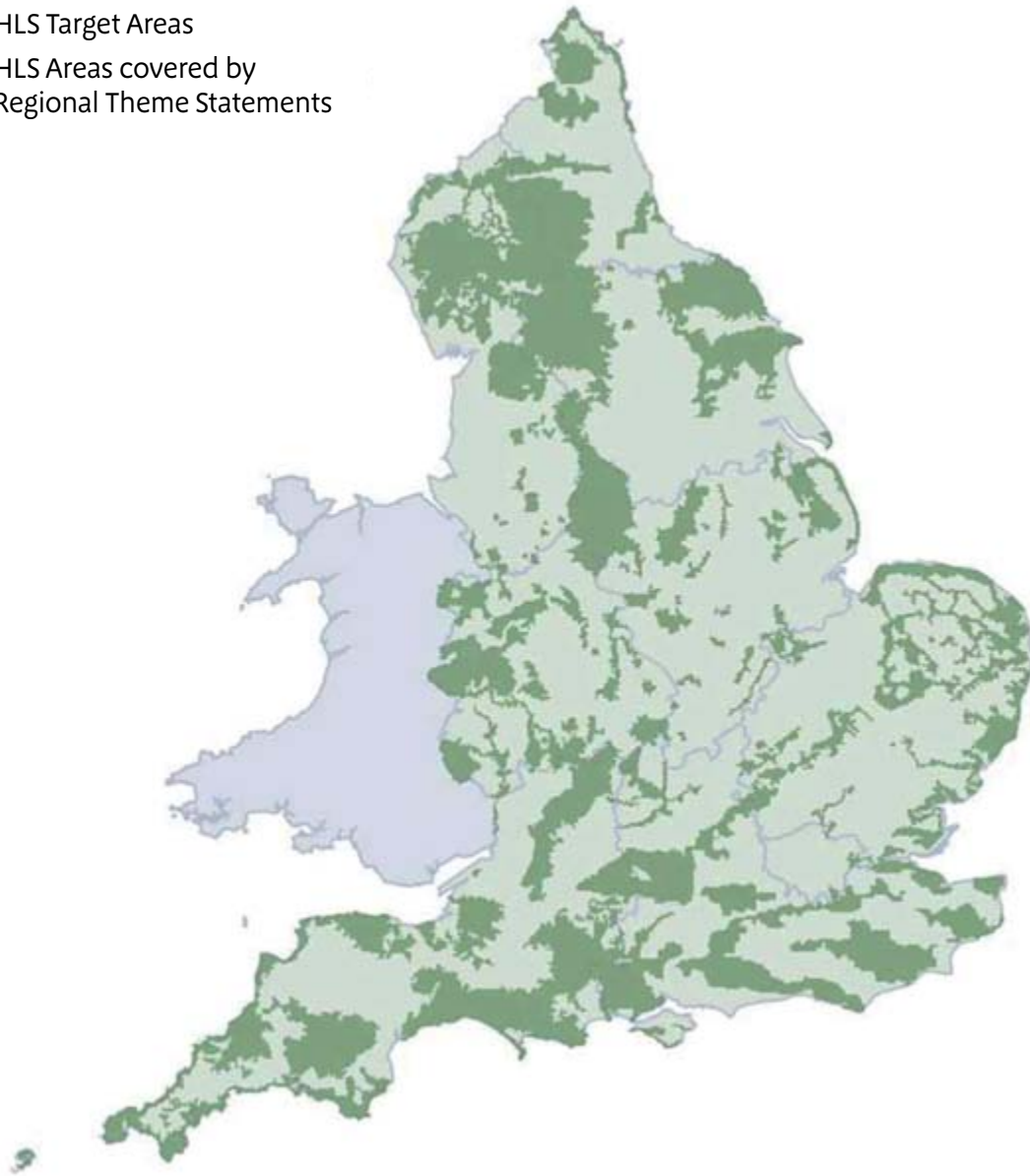
With this consultation request, I have enclosed *[tick where relevant]*:

- a colour copy of a blank FEP Map(s) at 1:10,000 scale or larger;
- a copy of the ELS agreement map(s); and
- a copy of the FER Map(s).

# Appendix 5

## Map of Target Areas

-  HLS Target Areas
-  HLS Areas covered by Regional Theme Statements



Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. © Crown copyright and database right 2009. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100022021.



## Our promise to you

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

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

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

Our 'Promise to you' is our public commitment to delivering excellent customer service, setting out what you can expect from our staff, our commitment to our service standards and customers, and our desire to continually learn from our customer feedback.

You can see our full 'Promise to you' online at [www.naturalengland.org.uk/about\\_us/customer](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/about_us/customer).

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

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

**Front cover photograph:**

Traditional hay meadow and barn in Swaledale.

© Natural England/James LePage



The European Agricultural  
Fund for Rural Development:  
Europe investing in rural areas



**Natural England is here to secure a healthy natural environment for people to enjoy, where wildlife is protected and England's traditional landscapes are safeguarded for future generations.**

ISBN 978-1-84754-240-3

Catalogue Code: NE350

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

Natural England publications are available as accessible pdfs from: [www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications)

Should an alternative format of this publication be required, please contact our enquiries line for more information: 0845 600 3078 or email [enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk)

Printed on stock comprising 75% recycled fibre.

---

This note/report/publication is published by Natural England under the Open Government Licence for public sector information. You are encouraged to use, and reuse, information subject to certain conditions.

For details of the licence visit [www.naturalengland.org.uk/copyright](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/copyright)

Natural England photographs are only available for non-commercial purposes. If any other information, such as maps or data, cannot be used commercially this will be made clear within the note/report/publication.

© **Natural England 2012**