

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP
ENTRY LEVEL / HIGHER LEVEL
STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT
DECLARATIONS

South West
Natural England
ISS South West
PO Box 277
Bristol

BS10 6WW

NATURAL
ENGLAND



DECLARATION 1 - Agreement Acceptance

- (a) Name:
- (b) Business name (name to which payment will be made):
South Gloucestershire Council~115031900
- (c) Main correspondence address:
Council Offices
Broad Lane
Engine Common
Yate
Avon
BS37 7PN

Agreement number: AG00365947

Vendor number: 507453

Declaration:

- I have read, understood and agree to undertake the 'ELS/HLS Options' in accordance with Parts 2, 3, 4 and 5 of my Agreement.
- I agree to manage all the land on my holding in accordance with the requirements set out in the section called 'What additional requirements will apply to my agreement?' in the ELS and HLS Scheme Handbooks.
- I have read, understood and agree to be bound by all other requirements contained in the ELS and HLS Scheme Handbooks and supplements (if any).
- I undertake to manage the HLS environmental features in accordance with the appropriate specific prescriptions to achieve the 'indicators of success' as set out in Part 3 of this Agreement.
- I understand that if I do not comply with my requirements I may be considered in breach of my agreement and any payments received may be recovered and any future payments due may be withheld.

Name: *IAN WOODS*

Signature: *Ian Woods* Date: *31 March 2011*

Chief Financial Officer

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Entry Level and Higher Level Stewardship Agreement

Agreement number AG00365947

This Agreement is between South Gloucestershire Council

of

Council Offices
Broad Lane
Engine Common
Yate
Avon
BS37 7PN

and Natural England

of

South West
Natural England
ISS South West
PO Box 277
Bristol
BS10 6WW

This Agreement covers all of the land parcels listed on the table entitled 'Parcel based options summary' at Part 2A.

This Agreement will run from 01/04/2011 to 31/03/2021.

Natural England agrees to pay you according to the schedules in Part 1 and 4.

This Agreement is made up of the following parts:

- Part 1A ELS annual payments
- Part 1B Annual payment schedule for HLS options (excluding capital works)
- Part 1C Annual payment schedule for all options (excluding capital items)
- Part 2A Parcel based options summary
- Part 2B Whole farm, rotational, farm buildings and access base payment options
- Part 3 HLS Management of Environmental Features - Specific options, prescriptions and Indicators of Success
- Part 4 HLS Capital Works Plan and payments (if applicable)
- Part 5 Capital works specifications (if applicable)
- Part 6 Grassland Management
- Part 7 Maps, including Historic Environment Features map

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Entry Level and Higher Level Stewardship Agreement

PART 1A Annual payments for ELS

Your annual payment for ELS is as follows:

Land Description	Payment per Ha	Area (Ha)	Target Points	Payment
Area of land in agreement, excluding parcels of 15 ha or more above the Moorland Line		0	0	0
Area of parcels of 15 ha or more above the Moorland Line		0	0	0

Annual Payment £0.00

Total Target Points

Actual Points

PART 1B
Annual payment schedule for HLS options (excluding capital items) Years 1-10

Options	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
HK7 Restoration of species-rich, semi-natural grassland	£22,640.00	£22,640.00	£22,640.00	£22,640.00	£22,640.00	£22,640.00	£22,640.00	£22,640.00	£22,640.00	£22,640.00
Total HLS payment years 1-10	£22,640.00	£22,640.00	£22,640.00	£22,640.00	£22,640.00	£22,640.00	£22,640.00	£22,640.00	£22,640.00	£22,640.00

PART 1C

Annual payment schedule for all options (excluding capital items)

	ELS payment	HLS payment	Total payment
Year 1	£0.00	£22,640.00	£22,640.00
Year 2	£0.00	£22,640.00	£22,640.00
Year 3	£0.00	£22,640.00	£22,640.00
Year 4	£0.00	£22,640.00	£22,640.00
Year 5	£0.00	£22,640.00	£22,640.00
Year 6	£0.00	£22,640.00	£22,640.00
Year 7	£0.00	£22,640.00	£22,640.00
Year 8	£0.00	£22,640.00	£22,640.00
Year 9	£0.00	£22,640.00	£22,640.00
Year 10	£0.00	£22,640.00	£22,640.00

PART 2A
Parcel based options summary

RLR field number	Field name	RLR field size (ha)	OPTIONS					
			Code	Description	Quantity (ha/100m/no.)	Start date	End date	Duration (years/months)
ST73884121		1.68						
ST74872096		29.20						
ST74876375		3.15						
ST74879598		10.46						
ST74881210		1.78						
ST74881742		45.63						
ST74883174		1.36	A13	Non payment option - permanent grassland for Article 13	1.36	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
			HK7	Restoration of species-rich, semi-natural grassland	1.36	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
ST74883778		2.52	A13	Non payment option - permanent grassland for Article 13	2.52	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
			HK7	Restoration of species-rich, semi-natural grassland	2.52	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
ST74884828		1.67						
ST74884916		1.61						

PART 2A
Parcel based options summary

RLR field number	Field name	RLR field size (ha)	OPTIONS					
			Code	Description	Quantity (ha/100m/no.)	Start date	End date	Duration (years/months)
ST74885816		0.16						
ST74888053		2.62	A13	Non payment option - permanent grassland for Article 13	2.54	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
			HK7	Restoration of species-rich, semi-natural grassland	2.54	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
ST75867879		13.69	A13	Non payment option - permanent grassland for Article 13	13.69	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
			HK7	Restoration of species-rich, semi-natural grassland	13.69	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
ST75869578		3.25	A13	Non payment option - permanent grassland for Article 13	3.25	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
			HK7	Restoration of species-rich, semi-natural grassland	3.25	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
ST75872512		10.27	A13	Non payment option - permanent grassland for Article 13	8.97	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
			HK7	Restoration of species-rich, semi-natural grassland	8.97	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
ST75873703		14.23	A13	Non payment option - permanent grassland for Article 13	14.23	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
			HK7	Restoration of species-rich, semi-natural grassland	14.23	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years

PART 2A
Parcel based options summary

RLR field number	Field name	RLR field size (ha)	OPTIONS					
			Code	Description	Quantity (ha/100m/no.)	Start date	End date	Duration (years/months)
ST75875526		0.58	A13	Non payment option - permanent grassland for Article 13	0.58	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
			HK7	Restoration of species-rich, semi-natural grassland	0.58	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
ST75877018		0.05	A13	Non payment option - permanent grassland for Article 13	0.05	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
			HK7	Restoration of species-rich, semi-natural grassland	0.05	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
ST75878013		0.22	A13	Non payment option - permanent grassland for Article 13	0.22	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
			HK7	Restoration of species-rich, semi-natural grassland	0.22	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
ST75878610		0.09	A13	Non payment option - permanent grassland for Article 13	0.09	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
			HK7	Restoration of species-rich, semi-natural grassland	0.09	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
ST75879795		1.47	A13	Non payment option - permanent grassland for Article 13	1.47	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
			HK7	Restoration of species-rich, semi-natural grassland	1.47	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
ST75879908		0.73	A13	Non payment option - permanent grassland for Article 13	0.73	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years

PART 2A
Parcel based options summary

RLR field number	Field name	RLR field size (ha)	OPTIONS					
			Code	Description	Quantity (ha/100m/no.)	Start date	End date	Duration (years/months)
			HK7	Restoration of species-rich, semi-natural grassland	0.73	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
ST75880226		15.86						
ST75880554		1.58	A13	Non payment option - permanent grassland for Article 13	1.58	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
			HK7	Restoration of species-rich, semi-natural grassland	1.58	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
ST75881103		0.39						
ST75881907		2.61						
ST75883801		15.67	A13	Non payment option - permanent grassland for Article 13	15.60	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
			HK7	Restoration of species-rich, semi-natural grassland	15.60	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
ST75884734		13.26						
ST75888023		38.47	A13	Non payment option - permanent grassland for Article 13	38.41	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
			HK7	Restoration of species-rich, semi-natural grassland	38.41	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years

PART 2A
Parcel based options summary

RLR field number	Field name	RLR field size (ha)	OPTIONS					
			Code	Description	Quantity (ha/100m/no.)	Start date	End date	Duration (years/months)
ST75897457		3.87	A13	Non payment option - permanent grassland for Article 13	3.87	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
			HK7	Restoration of species-rich, semi-natural grassland	3.87	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
ST75898852		0.83	A13	Non payment option - permanent grassland for Article 13	0.83	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
			HK7	Restoration of species-rich, semi-natural grassland	0.83	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
ST76870612		0.39	A13	Non payment option - permanent grassland for Article 13	0.39	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
			HK7	Restoration of species-rich, semi-natural grassland	0.39	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
ST76870863		0.21						
ST76871615		1.10	A13	Non payment option - permanent grassland for Article 13	1.10	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
			HK7	Restoration of species-rich, semi-natural grassland	1.10	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
ST76871710		0.25	A13	Non payment option - permanent grassland for Article 13	0.25	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
			HK7	Restoration of species-rich, semi-natural grassland	0.25	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years

PART 2A
Parcel based options summary

RLR field number	Field name	RLR field size (ha)	OPTIONS					
			Code	Description	Quantity (ha/100m/no.)	Start date	End date	Duration (years/months)
ST76880628		1.13	A13	Non payment option - permanent grassland for Article 13	1.13	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
			HK7	Restoration of species-rich, semi-natural grassland	1.13	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
ST76880816		0.34	A13	Non payment option - permanent grassland for Article 13	0.34	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years
			HK7	Restoration of species-rich, semi-natural grassland	0.34	01/04/11	31/03/21	10 Years

PART 2B

**Whole farm, rotational, farm buildings and
access base payment options summary**

Code	Description	Quantity (ha/100m/no.)	Start date	End date	Duration (years/ months)
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PART 3

HLS - Management of environmental features

General conditions on all HLS agreement land

On your HLS agreement land you must follow the general management conditions set out below, unless specifically stated otherwise in a subsequent section of this agreement. HLS agreement land is all land on which Higher Level Stewardship management prescriptions apply, including items within a Capital Works Plan

- Do not apply lime.
- On the conventional land that you manage: do not apply pesticides, except for the control of spear thistle, creeping thistle, curled dock, broad-leaved dock, common ragwort, nettles or other undesirable species named in your agreement. Herbicides may only be applied to these species by weedwiper or by spot treatment.
- Do not allow your agreement land to be levelled, infilled, used for the storage or dumping of materials or used by motor vehicles or machinery (except where necessary for the management of the land), if this is likely to cause long-term damage from rutting or compaction of the soil, or otherwise damage areas being managed under the scheme.
- Do not light fires (including burning brash or cuttings) where they could cause damage to features of archaeological or historic interest, or within ten metres of tree canopies or on any areas managed for their wildlife habitat interest. (This does not restrict your ability to manage heathland vegetation by controlled burning in compliance with the Heather and Grass Burning Regulations 1986 and accompanying Code.)
- Do not allow your agreement land to be used for organised games or sports, rallies, camping or caravanning, shows or sales where this is likely to damage areas being managed for their wildlife habitat interest or features of archaeological or historic interest; where this is likely to cause excessive or unreasonable disturbance to wildlife being encouraged under your agreement; or where this would cause unreasonable restriction to Public Rights of Way or "access land" as designated under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.
- Do not carry out or permit metal detecting or archaeological fieldwork on any of the archaeological sites on your holding identified in your Farm Environment Plan, unless agreed with your Natural England adviser in writing. In some cases a derogation will also be required.

HK7 - Restoration of species-rich, semi-natural grassland

Land parcels and associated features managed under this option:

RLR Field Number: ST73887854
RLR Field Number: ST73889966
RLR Field Number: ST74883174
RLR Field Number: ST74883778
RLR Field Number: ST74888053
RLR Field Number: ST75867879
RLR Field Number: ST75869578
RLR Field Number: ST75872512
RLR Field Number: ST75873703
RLR Field Number: ST75875526
RLR Field Number: ST75877018
RLR Field Number: ST75878013
RLR Field Number: ST75878610
RLR Field Number: ST75879795
RLR Field Number: ST75879908
RLR Field Number: ST75880554
RLR Field Number: ST75883801
RLR Field Number: ST75888023
RLR Field Number: ST75897457
RLR Field Number: ST75898852
RLR Field Number: ST76870612
RLR Field Number: ST76871615
RLR Field Number: ST76871710
RLR Field Number: ST76880628
RLR Field Number: ST76880816

General description of the management required:

This option is targeted at grasslands that are potentially rich in plant and associated animal life. They are often on difficult ground and may have suffered from management neglect or they may have been selected for agricultural improvement. The botanical diversity of such grassland may be enhanced by simply amending existing management practices. However, on many sites pro-active restoration management will be required involving introduction of seeds and creation of gaps for their establishment. Substantial changes of livestock type, timing of grazing or control of dominant species may also be required. The option can also contribute to protecting valued landscapes and archaeology, and the promotion of good soil

conditions.

Indicators of Success

- The extent of the habitats as identified in the Farm Environment Plan should be maintained or increased.
- The Soil Phosphate Index should be 0 or 1.
- By year 3, at least 4 high-value indicator species for BAP grassland habitat should be occasional in the sward.
- By year 6, at least 4 high value indicator species for BAP grassland should be frequent and four occasional in the sward.
- By year 2, cover of bare ground should be between 1% and 5%, distributed throughout the field in hoof prints or other small patches.
- The SSSI should remain in unfavourable recovering condition, with the aim of reaching favourable condition in time.

Management Prescriptions; the dos and don'ts of management

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

- Manage the sward by grazing and/or cutting to achieve a sward height of between 2cm and 10cm in November.
- Manage the grassland to achieve the indicators by grazing with cattle for at least 6 weeks between May and September, or cutting and removing field-dried hay after 15 July. In years when hay is taken graze the aftermath in autumn. Where spring grazing takes place exclude livestock at least 7 weeks before cutting for hay.
- There must be no application of nutrients such as fertilisers, organic manures or waste materials including sewage sludge. On neutral grassland you may apply lime, subject to a soil test, to raise pH to 6.0.
- Supplementary feeding is confined to the feeding of mineral blocks. Feeding sites should be moved regularly and never placed on archaeological features.
- Control undesirable species such as Creeping Thistle, Spear Thistle, Curled Dock, Broad-leaved Dock, Common Ragwort and Common Nettle so that their cover is less than 5% of the area. Agree all methods of control with your Natural England adviser.
- Do not install new drainage or modify existing drainage systems unless agreed in writing with your Natural England adviser. This includes subsoiling and mole ploughing. Maintain existing drains in working order.
- Ploughing, sub-surface cultivation and reseeding are not permitted. Chain harrowing or rolling are not permitted between 15 March and 15 July.
- Do not top, roll or harrow more than 30% of the total grassland area in any one year and always leave a minimum of 5% tussocks / longer grass.
- Field operations and stocking must not damage the soil structure or cause heavy poaching. Small areas of bare ground on up to 5% of the field are acceptable. Take particular care when the land is waterlogged.

PART 4

Capital works plan and payments

Schedule of works:

Works for each plan must be completed by the end date of the plan.

Plan no.	Code	Description	Location/ boundary reference	Grant rate (£)	Quantity to complete	Eligible grant (£)	Must be completed by:
1	SC	Scrub management > 75% cover	2512	583.00/ha	7.00 ha	4,081.00	Mar 2014
1	SC	Scrub management > 75% cover	3703	583.00/ha	7.00 ha	4,081.00	Mar 2014
1	SC	Scrub management > 75% cover	8023	583.00/ha	7.00 ha	4,081.00	Mar 2014
1	PAH	Professional help with an implementation plan		400.00/item	1	400.00	Mar 2014
1	SS	Scrub Control - Base Payment		76.00/item	1	76.00	Mar 2014
Total payment:						12,719.00	

Failure to complete and submit a claim for items by the date shown may be considered by Natural England as a breach of your agreement and you may have to repay any grant received, including payments for annual options.

Claim profile:

The following is the value of the work expected to be completed in each year of your agreement. You will be expected to complete works at least equal to this amount.

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
4,239.67	4,239.67	4,239.66	0.00	0.00
Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total payment:				12,719.00

PART 5

Capital works specifications

Introduction

The specifications set out below describe the minimum standard of work for the capital items set out in Part 4 of your Environmental Stewardship Agreement. If you do not follow these specifications we cannot pay you for the work.

All capital works must be completed and maintained to the standard required to perform their intended function for the duration of the agreement.

If this agreement replaces an existing or expired CSS, ESA or ES agreement, you must take all reasonable care to protect, for the duration of this new agreement, any capital works which you have completed and for which you have been paid under that agreement.

Health and Safety

The requirements of health and safety and other current legislation and codes of practice must be observed in all work undertaken, in particular in all cases where pesticides are used.

Permissions

The offer of a Stewardship agreement is a permission from Natural England to undertake the work on SSSI land under Section 28E of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). However, additional permissions from other organisations may be required. The following are examples of permissions that may be necessary:

- On a Scheduled Ancient Monument - Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent, from English Heritage.
- Pond creation, restoration, scrape creation, restoration, and ditch work - may require an Impoundment Licence or Abstraction Licence from the Environment Agency, Planning Permission from the planning authority, and permission from the Internal Drainage Board where these are present.
- Obstructions to water courses or in the floodplain. This includes disposal of spoil from ditches, scrapes and ponds, tree planting, otter holts, car parking, erecting sluices and river gates and fencing - permission from the Environment Agency.
- Works in a Conservation Area - consent from the Planning Authority
- Tree Preservation Order - consent from the local authority
- Tree felling, pollarding, hedgerow works, coppicing bankside trees - may require a felling licence from the Forestry Commission.
- Chemical bracken control - near water course will require permission from the Environment Agency
- Areas for parking cars, hard standing, earthworks - may require planning permission from the Planning Authority

- Proposed changes to the existing type of stile or gate on a right of way - consent from the Highway Authority

MANAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION

A management plan must be prepared following the brief given below. The plan should be submitted to your Natural England contact by XXXX. Any work identified in the management plan must not be started until it has been agreed with your Natural England contact.

SCRUB MANAGEMENT

General

For the purposes of this grant, scrub means any woody shrubs including European gorse, bramble and young trees. Dwarf and Western gorse are integral components of heathland and should not be included in this item.

A management plan is usually required before carrying out work on significant areas of scrub. The plan must be agreed in advance with your Natural England contact and the work carried out accordingly.

You must ensure any relevant consents are obtained before carrying out the work e.g. consent from English Heritage for work on a Scheduled Monument and the Natural England SSSI specialist for work in a SSSI.

Timing

Work must be done between 1 October and 28 February, outside the bird-nesting season.

Scrub control

Techniques for removing scrub include flailing, using a chain saw and clearing some species (e.g. birch or pine) by hand. Controlling scrub by burning is not acceptable unless it is specifically agreed with your Natural England contact.

Cut scrub down to ground level without disturbing the roots and leaving no protruding stems. Care must be taken to avoid uprooting adjacent grassland or heathland plants. Stumps must not be removed unless specifically agreed with your Natural England contact. In exceptional circumstances and where agreed with your Natural England contact, it may be necessary to remove large stumps using mechanical equipment. Under no circumstances is scrub burning or stump removal to be undertaken on sites of archaeological interest.

Controlling scrub regrowth

Regrowth should be controlled for the duration of the agreement only where the aim of the work is scrub reduction or eradication. Management work to diversify the age range and structural diversity of scrub stands may be seeking to encourage growth from cut stumps. This detail should be included within the management plan.

Disposal of cut material

Dispose of cut material by removing it from the site, tidying it into piles or burning. Bonfire sites must be far enough away from trees to avoid causing damage and at least 10m from the crown of any tree. Burning sites and piles of wood must not be on patches of ground where they could damage species rich grassland, anthills or other ecological or archaeological features. The area used for burning must be agreed in advance with your Natural England contact and cleaned up as soon as possible after burning. Burning on a metal sheet reduces damage to the soil and makes it easier to remove ash from the site. As the site regenerates the growth of nettle, thistle, dock, ragwort and other weed species must be controlled.

SCRUB MANAGEMENT

You must ensure any relevant consents are obtained before carrying out the work e.g. consent from English Heritage for work on a Scheduled Monument and the Natural England SSSI specialist for work in a SSSI.

PART 6

Grassland management

Where this Agreement includes grassland management, you must maintain the areas of permanent grassland, and at least 80% of the area of temporary grassland, on your farm* as set out below for the duration of your agreement.

In addition, you must not over-graze or under-utilise any of these areas and you must not exceed the maximum stocking density as also set out below.

Permanent grassland (RLR field number)	Total area of field (ha)
ST74883174	1.36
ST74883778	2.52
ST74888053	2.54
ST75867879	13.69
ST75869578	3.25
ST75872512	8.97
ST75873703	14.23
ST75875526	0.58
ST75877018	0.05
ST75878013	0.22
ST75878610	0.09
ST75879795	1.47
ST75879908	0.73
ST75880554	1.58
ST75883801	15.60
ST75888023	38.41
ST75897457	3.87
ST75898852	0.83
ST76870612	0.39
ST76871615	1.10
ST76871710	0.25
ST76880628	1.13
ST76880816	0.34
Total permanent grassland	113.20
Total temporary grassland	0.00
Total area of grassland (permanent + temporary)	113.20

Maximum stocking density for your farm permitted under this Agreement Lu/Ha	2
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* "Farm" means the coherent area of land which is managed under the charge of the Agreement Holder for the period of this Agreement. Land occupied under short term tenancies and temporary grass keeps should not be included.