

Habitat Wales Scheme 2025

Verifiable Standards

Verifiable standards and guidelines for classification of failures of:

Habitat Wales Scheme 2025

Version 1.0 2025



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

*This document should be used in conjunction with the Habitat Wales Penalty Matrix to define the Severity, Extent and Permanence of penalties.

Universal Code for All Habitats

Rules applicable to all Habitat Land. They apply to all semi-natural areas regardless of whether you are managing habitat as part of the Habitat Wales Scheme 2025.

All habitat is defined as:

Semi-natural grassland: Any vegetation which has a composition of less than 25% sown agricultural species as per the Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) (Wales) (EIA) Regulations 2017.

If land contains less than 25% cover of ryegrass and white clover or other agriculturally sown species, then it is subject to the EIA regulations. Land falling within this definition is classed by the regulations as semi-natural and an EIA Screening Application must be made prior to any improvement works commencing on the land.

Even if you do not claim on an area of habitat, you will still be required to undertake an EIA screening if the land is deemed semi-natural and you wish to improve the land.

You are reminded that if you are planning to undertake or have undertaken a project on semi-natural land or a large-scale restructuring on your holding, then it is necessary to complete an EIA screening application

Woodlands and trees: All woodlands and trees are considered habitat, regardless of whether they are eligible for payments under the scheme.

If you intend to fell more than 5m³ of timber per calendar quarter you must apply for a felling licence under the Forestry Act (1967).

If you intend to carry out a forestry project which exceeds the thresholds set out in the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999, you must seek consent under those regulations to carry out the project.

Rules Applicable to all habitats which you claim on.

Maintain an Activity diary

An activity diary will need to be kept for each parcel of land included in the claim.

Maintain a Grazing diary

A grazing diary will need to be kept for habitat classifications 1, 2 and 6. The grazing diary will need to include a record of all livestock that enter or are removed from the habitat during the year. This grazing diary needs to be available at inspection.

Retain and maintain all existing mature trees, in-field and veteran trees across all areas of the farm unless they are a dangerous tree. You must:

- Retain all in-field and veteran trees.
- Prevent damage to trees from livestock or machinery.
- Retain standing dead trees where safe to do so (where not a demonstrable hazard).
- Ensure pruning or lopping is undertaken appropriately with a clean cut.
- Fallen dead timber should be either retained in situ or removed to a nearby shady location.
- Follow any specific requirements for trees related to a specific habitat type.

Do not:

- Plough/roll under the crown/canopy to protect the root system.
- Fertilise under the crown/canopy.
- Lime under the crown/canopy.
- Spray or allow drift of Plant Protection Products under the crown/canopy.
- Plant additional trees within 5m from the edge of the tree canopy.
- Supplementary feed beneath the canopy of/or near any veteran trees.
- Store machinery or materials beneath in-field veteran trees.

Do not damage habitat land

Damage is defined as causing a loss of the vegetation type typical of that habitat. Examples of actions which could cause damage are over or under grazing, poaching by livestock or rutting by farm machinery or other vehicles or illegal felling.

Do not agriculturally improve habitat land

Agricultural improvement involves management that leads to an increase in agricultural species such as rye grass and white clover. Habitat land must not be agriculturally improved during the life of the Contract, irrespective of whether an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening consent has been received.

Do not plough, cultivate or re-seed habitat land.**Do not roll or chain harrow on habitat land between 15 March and 15 July.**

Details of rolling and chain harrowing on habitat land must be recorded in the Activity Diary.

Do not install new drainage or modify existing drainage on habitat land or within 100m of a wetland habitat where the ditch or drain would intercept water running towards the wetland.

Wetlands are habitats that have water at or close to the surface most of the year. Mole drainage is also not permitted.

Do not clear ditches between 1 March and 31 August on habitat land. Routine maintenance may be carried out on existing drainage as follows:

- Vegetation and silt may be cleared, leaving vegetation along one side of the ditch.
- Deepening, widening of ditches or laying drainage pipes and infilling ditches is not permitted.
- Field drains may be maintained to the original standard as long as this does not damage the habitat.
- Details of ditch clearance on habitat land must be recorded in the Activity Diary.

Do not carry out any earth moving activities on habitat land, including cutting peat and infilling natural hollows.**Do not extract rock, scree, sand, shingle, gravel, clay or peat from habitat land or rivers.**

Do not apply slurry, inorganic fertilisers, organic fertilisers, farmyard manure, basic slag, calcified seaweed, sewage sludge, waste-paper sludge or other off and on-farm wastes (including sheep-dip) on habitat land. Farmyard manure may be spread only where permitted by a specific Habitat Wales Scheme Habitat Classification Management Action.

Do not apply lime on habitat land, except where permitted by a specific Habitat Wales Scheme Habitat Management Classification Action.

Do not store manure, silage or other farm wastes on habitat land, landscape or archaeological features or within 10 metres of any watercourse including field drains.

Do not cause or allow:

1. **any new invasive non-native species (INNS) to establish**
2. **and any new or existing INNS to spread into or within or from the area** (this includes preventing INNS from spreading through inaction), to ensure that the extent of INNS within the habitat does not increase while the area is in the scheme.

Do not use herbicides or insecticides except to:

1. spot treat and control injurious weeds or invasive non-native species such as spear thistle, creeping thistle, curled dock, broad-leaved dock, ragwort, Japanese knotweed, rhododendron, Himalayan balsam, giant hogweed
2. to control invasive vegetation on historic features and traditional buildings and farm structures.

Before carrying out the use of herbicides or insecticides, you must ensure this will not harm or destroy any desirable native species of flora or fauna by checking for records or evidence of them first.

Do not construct tracks, roads, yards, hardstanding or any new structures on habitat land, except where permitted by a specific Habitat Wales Scheme action.

Do not remove existing mature trees, except where they present a danger to the public and prior approval for their removal has been received from the Welsh Government or Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

Do not burn vegetation, grassland or any cut material on habitat land, except as part of an agreed heather burning plan.

Do not supplementary feed on habitat land, except for existing hardstanding feeding areas and the provision of licks or blocks to enable coarse forage to be utilised, or where required specifically for the welfare of livestock. Adverse weather conditions and meeting the nutritional demands of heavily pregnant animals are likely to trigger a need for the provision of supplementary feed. Supplementary feeding must be carried out in such a way that avoids causing damage to the habitat vegetation, soil and watercourses. Damage includes overgrazing, nutrient enrichment, excessive trampling of vegetation, soil poaching by grazing animals, rutting by vehicles used to transport feed, soil erosion and water pollution.

Do not store materials, vehicles, trailers or machinery on habitat land. Exemptions to the above conditions may apply where they are required to deliver towards specific environmental benefits required within the Habitat Wales Scheme.

Breaches for Universal Code			
Description of Breach	Severity	Extent	Permanence
An up-to-date completed activity diary and/or grazing diary is not available for inspection.	<p>Minimum W/L – Minor updating required or where missing information is available from another source.</p> <p>Low – Up to and including 5 activity entries missing.</p> <p>Medium – More than 5 activity entries missing.</p> <p>High – No records available on request.</p>	Extent 1	<p>Rectifiable 1</p> <p>Rectifiable 2</p> <p>Permanent</p>
Evidence that mature, in-field or veteran trees have not been retained / maintained, unless dangerous and present an immediate danger to the public and prior approval for their removal has been received from WG or NRW.	<p>Low – Tree diameter between 4 and 12 inches.</p> <p>Medium – Tree diameter greater than 12 inches and less than 36 inches.</p> <p>High – Tree diameter greater than 36 inches or if a veteran tree.</p>	<p>Extent 1 = 1 tree</p> <p>Extent 2 = 2-3 trees</p> <p>Extent 3 = 4-5 trees</p> <p>Extent 4 = 6+ trees</p>	Permanent
Evidence that habitat land has been damaged i.e. overgrazed, undergrazed, poaching, rutting by farm machinery or other vehicles or felling of trees.	<p>Measurable – Less than or equal to 1ha.</p> <p>High - Greater than 1ha.</p>	Extent 1	<p>Rectifiable 1</p> <p>Rectifiable 2</p> <p>Permanent</p>
Evidence that habitat has been ploughed or cultivated or re-seeded.	<p>Measurable – Damaged area is less than or equal to 1ha.</p> <p>High – Damaged area is greater than 1ha.</p>	Measurable	<p>Rectifiable 2</p> <p>Permanent</p>
Evidence that harrowing or rolling has been carried out on habitat land between 15 th March and 15 th July.	<p>Minimum W/L – Carried out within closed period, where no evidence of damage to flora/fauna.</p> <p>Medium – Carried out during closed period and evidence of damage to flora/fauna.</p>	Extent 1	<p>Rectifiable 2</p> <p>Permanent</p>

Evidence of installation of new drainage or modification of existing drainage on habitat land or within 100m of a wetland habitat where the ditch or drain would intercept water running to the wetland.	<p>Low – Less than or equal to 10m.</p> <p>Medium – Greater than 10m, up to and including 50m.</p> <p>High – Greater than 50m.</p>	Extent 1	<p>Rectifiable 1</p> <p>Rectifiable 2</p> <p>Permanent</p>
Evidence that existing ditches has been cleared between 1 st March and 31 st August on habitat land.	Low	Extent 1	<p>Rectifiable 1</p> <p>Rectifiable 2</p> <p>Permanent</p>
Evidence of earth moving activities on habitat land, including cutting peat and/or infilling natural hollows.	<p>Measurable – Less than or equal to 1ha.</p> <p>High - Greater than 1ha.</p>	Extent 1	<p>Rectifiable 1</p> <p>Rectifiable 2</p> <p>Permanent</p>
Evidence that rock, scree, sand, shingle, gravel, clay or peat has been extracted from habitat land or rivers.	<p>Medium</p> <p>High - destroyed or removed</p>	Measurable	<p>Rectifiable 1</p> <p>Rectifiable 2</p> <p>Permanent</p>
Evidence of application of slurry, inorganic fertilisers, organic fertilisers, farmyard manure, basic slag, calcified seaweed, sewage sludge, waste-paper sludge or other off and on-farm wastes (including sheep-dip) on habitat land.	<p>Measurable – Where applied on an area less than or equal to 1ha.</p> <p>High – Where applied on an area greater than 1ha.</p>	Measurable	<p>Rectifiable 1</p> <p>Rectifiable 2</p> <p>Permanent</p>
Evidence of the application of lime on habitat land.	<p>Measurable – Where applied on an area less than or equal to 1ha.</p> <p>High – Where applied on an area greater than 1ha.</p>	Measurable	<p>Rectifiable 1</p> <p>Rectifiable 2</p> <p>Permanent</p>
Evidence of manure, silage or other farm wastes stored on habitat land, landscape or archaeological features or within 10 metres of any watercourse including field drains.	High	<p>Extent 1</p> <p>Extent 4 (if run-off)</p>	<p>Rectifiable 1</p> <p>Rectifiable 2</p> <p>Permanent (if evidence of run off or potential pollution)</p>
Evidence that existing Invasive Non-Native Species or injurious weeds have been allowed to spread or evidence of establishment of new INNS / injurious weeds.	Low	Extent 1	<p>Rectifiable 1</p> <p>Rectifiable 2</p> <p>Permanent</p>

Evidence of use of herbicides or insecticides except for spot treatment of invasive or injurious weeds or to control invasive vegetation on historic features, traditional buildings or farm structures.	<p>Measurable – Where applied on an area less than or equal to 1ha.</p> <p>High – Where applied on an area greater than 1ha.</p>	Measurable	<p>Rectifiable 1</p> <p>Rectifiable 2</p> <p>Permanent</p>
Evidence of construction of new track, road, yard, hardstandings or any new structures on habitat land.	<p>Measurable – Less than or equal to 1ha.</p> <p>High – Greater than 1ha</p>	Measurable	<p>Rectifiable 2</p> <p>Permanent</p>
Evidence that vegetation, grassland or any cut material has been burnt on habitat land.	<p>Measurable – Evidence of burning on area less than or equal to 1ha.</p> <p>High – Evidence of burning on area which is greater than 1ha.</p>	Measurable	<p>Rectifiable 1</p> <p>Rectifiable 2</p> <p>Permanent</p>
Evidence of supplementary feeding.	<p>Minimum W/L – evidence of supplementary feeding but no damage</p> <p>Medium – evidence of supplementary feeding and damage to habitat land e.g. poaching nitrification of soil</p> <p>High - Unsuitable supplementary feeding where there is damage to habitat land which cannot be restored to its original condition by the end of the growing season.</p>	Extent 1	<p>Rectifiable 1</p> <p>Rectifiable 2</p> <p>Permanent</p>
Evidence of storage of materials, vehicles, trailers or machinery.	Minimum W/L	Extent 1	<p>Rectifiable 1</p> <p>Rectifiable 2</p>

Notifications of changes to contract

Welsh Government must be informed within 30 days of any sale or transfer of land in the Contract or notification of any changes that impact on your contract

Breach	Severity	Extent	Permanence
Failure to notify the Welsh Government of land sales and transfers or any changes that impact on the contract within 30 days.	Low - Notification received, but not within 30 days. Medium - Notification not received.	Extent 1	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent

Designated Sites

Management required on land designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) Ramsar and National Nature Reserves (NNRs) on farms entering the Habitat Wales Scheme 2025 must adhere to **one** of the following three options where it is applicable to your situation on any individual designated site on the holding:

1. If you have **not** had any SSSI consent, a Glastir Advanced contract, a management agreement or management scheme agreed with NRW since 1 January 2020, you must adhere to the management requirements of the Habitat Wales Scheme 2025.
2. If you did **not** participate in the Habitat Wales Scheme 2024, you must choose to:

Either:

Adhere to the management requirements of the Habitat Wales Scheme 2025

Or:

Adhere to any of the management actions within a NRW SSSI consent, management agreement or management scheme you have had since 1 January 2020.

3. If you had a Habitat Wales Scheme grant award in 2024 **and** previously had a consented Glastir Advanced contract, you must continue with the management consented in the Glastir Advanced contract.

If you need to alter your management from the documented contractual or consented actions (SSSI consent since 1 January 2020, NRW management agreement, management scheme, Glastir Advanced contract or Habitat Wales Scheme 2025 Universal Code for All Habitats and the relevant Habitat Classification Management Actions) you must give notice in writing to NRW to seek consent to do so.

Breach	Severity	Extent	Permanence
Failure to adhere to the management consented in the Glastir Advanced contract (where customer had a HWS grant award in 2024).	Medium	Extent 1	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Failure to seek consent from NRW to alter the management to the contractual or consented actions (SSSI consent since 1 January 2020, NRW management agreement, management scheme, Glastir Advanced contract or Habitat Wales Scheme 2025 Universal Code for All Habitats and the relevant Habitat Classification Management Actions)	Medium	Extent 1	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent

HABITAT CLASSIFICATION BREACHES

1. Coastal Saltmarsh			
Specific Requirements for habitat managed as Coastal Saltmarsh:			
<p>Do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid overgrazing / undergrazing. <p>Do not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modify any creeks, pans, hollows or interfere with any natural and dynamic changes such as changes due to storms or windblow. • Cut rushes between 15th March and 15th July or cut or top more than 30% of rush or weed species in any one year. • Plant any new trees. • Allow the area to be poached (gateways, feeding and watering areas are acceptable provided that poached and bare areas are less than 5% cover). • Construct tracks, roads, yards, hard-standings or any new structures on habitat land except simple bridges to allow creek crossing. 			
Overall Breach for Coastal Saltmarsh			
Breach	Severity	Extent	Permanence
Evidence that ALL of the requirements for Coastal Saltmarsh have not been correctly completed.	Low Medium High	Extent 1 Extent 2 Extent 3 Extent 4	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Breaches for Coastal Saltmarsh			
Breach	Severity	Extent	Permanence
Evidence of widespread overgrazing or undergrazing.	Measurable	Extent 1	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence that creeks, pans or hollows have been modified or interfered with.	Low – Less than or equal to 1ha. High – Greater than 1ha.	Extent 1	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence that rushes have been cut between 15 th March and 15 th July or more than 30% of soft rush or undesirable vegetation species has been cut or topped in any one year.	Measurable – Where less than or equal to 1ha has been cut in excess of the permitted level.	Extent 1	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent

	High - Where more than 1ha has been cut in excess of the permitted level.		
Evidence of planting new trees.	Low – Less than or equal to 0.01ha Medium – Less than or equal to 0.50ha High – Greater than 0.50ha	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence of poaching.	Low - Evidence of poaching but no evidence of run-off. High - Evidence of soil run-off into a watercourse due to poaching.	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence of construction of new tracks, roads, yards, hardstandings or any new structures on habitat land, except simple bridges to allow creek crossing.	Measurable – Less than or equal to 1ha. High – Greater than 1ha.	Measurable	Rectifiable 2 Permanent

2. Coastal Sand Dune and Shingle Beach

Specific Management Requirements for habitat managed as Coastal Sand Dune and Shingle Beach:

Do:

- Maintain a sward height with a range of heights, including both short (below 5cm) and tall (above 15cm) areas.

Do not:

- Do not graze shingle beach.
- Plant any trees or shrub species.
- Allow the area to be poached (gateways, feeding and watering areas are acceptable provided poached and bare areas are less than 5% cover).
- Cut or top rushes or weed species.
- Permit scrub to spread.
- Control or attempt to control rabbits **within sand dunes and shingle beaches**.
- Remove sand or any other aggregate material from the sand dunes or shingle.
- Carry out remobilisation work (including re-profiling).
- Re-profile the shingle structure, including any ridges.
- Use or permit vehicles or craft for sporting or recreational activities.
- Create sea defences or coastal protection works.

Overall Breach for Coastal Sand Dune and Shingle Beach

Breach	Severity	Extent	Permanence
Evidence that ALL of the requirements for Coastal Sand Dune and Shingle Beach have not been correctly completed.	Minimum W/L Low Medium High	Extent 1 Extent 2 Extent 3 Extent 4	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent

Breaches for Coastal Sand Dune and Shingle Beach			
Breach	Severity	Extent	Permanence
Evidence that sward height requirements have not been maintained to include both short sward (below 5cm) and tall sward (above 5cm).	Measurable – Less than or equal to 3ha. High – Greater than 3ha	Extent 1	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence that shingle beach has been grazed.	Minimum W/L – Evidence of grazing but no damage caused to the habitat. Low – Evidence of damage caused by livestock grazing within one parcel. Medium – Evidence of damage caused by livestock grazing multiple parcels.	Extent 1 Measurable (if Low or Medium severity)	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence of planting new trees or shrub species.	Low – Less than or equal to 0.01ha. Medium – Up to and including 0.50ha. High – Greater than 0.50ha.	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence of poaching.	Low - Evidence of poaching but no evidence of run-off. High - Evidence of soil run-off into a watercourse due to poaching.	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence of rushes or other undesirable vegetation species been cut or topped.	Measurable – Where less than or equal to 1ha has been cut in excess of the permitted level. High - Where more than 1ha has been cut in excess of the permitted level.	Extent 1	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence that scrub has been allowed to spread.	Medium	Extent 1	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence that rabbits are being controlled or attempt to control within sand dunes and shingle beaches	Medium	Extent 1	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent

Evidence that sand or any other aggregate material has been removed from sand dunes or shingle	Medium – Partially destroyed / removed. High - Destroyed or removed.	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence of dune remobilisation work (including re-profiling).	High	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence that shingle structure / ridges have been re-profiled	Medium	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence that vehicles or craft been used for sporting or recreational activities.	Medium – Single track created. High – Multiple tracks created.	Extent 1	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence of creation of sea defences / coast protection works has been carried out	High	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent

3. Lowland and Coastal Heath			
Specific Requirements for habitat managed as Lowland and Coastal Heath			
<p>Do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove livestock if conditions become too wet in order to prevent poaching and compaction. <p>Do not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant any trees. Permit scrub, brambles or trees to spread (see Undesirable Vegetation Control in the Universal Code for All Habitats). Allow the area to be poached (gateways, feeding and watering areas may be acceptable provided that poached and bare areas are less than 5% cover). Burn areas of flush, maritime or wet heath. 			
Overall Breach for Lowland and Coastal Heath			
Breach	Severity	Extent	Permanence
Evidence that ALL of the requirements for Lowland and Coastal Heath have not been correctly completed.	Minimum W/L Low Medium High	Extent 1 Extent 2 Extent 3 Extent 4	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Breaches for Lowland and Coastal Heath			
Breach	Severity	Extent	Permanence
Evidence of planting new trees.	Low – Less than or equal to 0.01ha Medium – Less than or equal to 0.50ha High – Greater than 0.50ha	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence that scrub, brambles or trees have been allowed to spread.	Medium	Extent 1	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent

Evidence of poaching.	<p>Low - Evidence of poaching but no evidence of run-off.</p> <p>High - Evidence of soil run-off into a watercourse due to poaching.</p>	Measurable	<p>Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent</p>
Evidence that areas of flush, maritime or wet heath has been burnt.	<p>Measurable – Evidence of burning on an area less than or equal to 1ha.</p> <p>High – Evidence of burning on area of 1ha or greater.</p>	Measurable	<p>Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent</p>
Evidence of grazing on wet peatlands between 1 st November and 31 st March	<p>Minimum W/L – Evidence of grazing but no damage caused to the habitat.</p> <p>Low – Evidence of damage caused by livestock grazing within one parcel.</p> <p>Medium – Evidence of damage caused by livestock grazing multiple parcels.</p>	<p>Extent 1</p> <p>Measurable (if Low or Medium severity)</p>	<p>Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent</p>

4. Enclosed Wetland and Marshy Grassland

Specific Requirements for habitat managed as Enclosed Wetland – Bog, Fen, Flush/Mire and Marshy Grassland

Do:

- Remove livestock if conditions become too wet, to prevent poaching and compaction.

Do not:

- Do not plant any trees.
- Do not allow the field to be poached (gateways, feeding and watering areas are acceptable provided that poached and bare areas are less than 10% cover).
- On marshy grassland do not cut or top more than 30% of rush or undesirable vegetation species in any one year (see Undesirable Vegetation Control in the Universal Code for All Habitats).
- Do not permit scrub to spread.
- Do not graze enclosed wet peatlands (Bog, Fen, Flush/Mire) between 1st November and 31st March. ***(Where wet peatlands form part of a mosaic within a larger parcel and livestock cannot be excluded, the overall stocking rate should be reduced to ensure that the wet peatlands are not damaged by overgrazing or poaching)***. Enclosed Marshy Grassland (which includes no Bog, Fen, Flush/Mire) may be grazed throughout the year.

Overall Breach for Enclosed Wetland and Marshy Grassland

Breach	Severity	Extent	Permanence
Evidence that ALL of the requirements for Enclosed Wetland and Marshy Grassland have not been correctly completed.	Low Medium High	Extent 1 Extent 2 Extent 3 Extent 4	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent

Breaches for Enclosed Wetland and Marshy Grassland

Breach	Severity	Extent	Permanence
Evidence of planting new trees.	Low – Less than or equal to 0.01ha Medium – Less than or equal to 0.50ha High – Greater than 0.50ha	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent

Evidence of poaching.	<p>Low - Evidence of poaching but no evidence of run-off.</p> <p>High - Evidence of soil run-off into a watercourse due to poaching.</p>	Extent 1	<p>Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent</p>
Evidence that more than 30% of soft rush or undesirable vegetation species has been cut or topped in any one year on marshy grassland.	<p>Measurable – Where less than or equal to 1ha has been cut in excess of the permitted level.</p> <p>High - Where more than 1ha has been cut in excess of the permitted level.</p>	Extent 1	<p>Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent</p>
Evidence that scrub has been allowed to spread.	Medium	Extent 1	<p>Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent</p>
Evidence that grazing has taken place on enclosed wet peatlands (bog, fen, flush/mire) between 1 November and 31 March where this land is not part of a wider mosaic of habitats within a larger parcel.	<p>Low – Evidence that livestock have grazed enclosed wet peatlands that do not form part of a mosaic within a larger parcel.</p> <p>Medium – Evidence that damage has been caused by livestock grazing enclosed wet peatlands.</p>	Measurable	<p>Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent</p>

5. Enclosed Semi Natural Dry Grassland (Grazed and Haymeadow Management)

Specific Requirements for habitat managed as Grazed Pasture

5a. Managed as Grazed Pasture

Do:

- Remove livestock if conditions become too wet, to prevent poaching and compaction.
- Graze at stocking densities which avoid overgrazing and undergrazing.

Do not:

- Plant any new trees.
- Allow the field to be poached (localised poaching around gateways, feeding and watering areas are acceptable provided that poached and bare areas are less than 5% cover overall).
- Apply lime on acid, calcareous or calaminarian grassland.
- Cut or top more than 30% of soft rush or other undesirable vegetation species in a field parcel in any one year (see Undesirable Vegetation Control in the Universal Code for All Habitats)
- Permit scrub to spread.

Overall Breach for Enclosed Semi Natural Dry Grassland (Acid, Neutral, Calcareous, Calaminarian)

Breach	Severity	Extent	Permanence
Evidence that ALL of the requirements for Enclosed Semi Natural Dry Grassland managed as Grazed Pasture have not been correctly completed.	Low Medium High	Extent 1 Extent 2 Extent 3 Extent 4	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent

Breach for Enclosed Semi Natural Dry Grassland (Acid, Neutral, Calcareous, Calaminarian)			
Breach	Severity	Extent	Permanence
Evidence that habitat has not been appropriately grazed, which has resulted in the habitat being under or overgrazed.	Measurable	Extent 1	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence of planting new trees.	Low – Less than or equal to 0.01ha Medium – Less than or equal to 0.50ha. High – Greater than 0.50ha.	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence of poaching.	Low - Evidence of poaching but no evidence of run-off. High - Evidence of soil run-off into a watercourse due to poaching.	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence of application of lime on acid, calcareous or calaminarian grassland.	Measurable – Where applied on an area less than or equal to 1ha. High – Where applied on an area greater than 1ha.	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence that more than 30% of soft rush or other undesirable vegetation species in a field parcel has been cut in any one year.	Measurable – Where less than or equal to 1ha has been cut in excess of the permitted level. High - Where more than 1ha has been cut in excess of the permitted level.	Extent 1	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence that scrub has been allowed to spread.	Medium	Extent 1	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent

5. Enclosed Semi Natural Dry Grassland (Acid, Neutral, Calcareous, Calaminarian)

Specific Requirements for habitat managed as Hay Meadow

5b. Managed as Hay Meadow

Do:

- Remove livestock by 15 May.
- Cut and remove a hay crop once every year between 7 July and 30 September.
- It is acceptable to make hay or haylage but not silage.
- The cut material must be removed from the meadow, even if spoiled by rain.
- Remove livestock if conditions become too wet, to prevent poaching and compaction.

Do not:

- Do not apply any inorganic or organic fertilisers such as slurry, sewage sludge, chicken manure or fish meal, except a light dressing of farmyard manure (no more than 12t/ha), which can be applied no more often than once every two years.
- Do not plant any new trees.
- Do not cause or allow the spread of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) or injurious weeds.
- Do not allow the field to be poached (localised poaching around gateways, feeding and watering areas is acceptable provided that poached and bare areas make up less than 5% cover overall).
- Do not apply lime on **acid** grassland.
- Do not permit scrub to spread.
- Do not begin grazing the aftermath until at least four weeks after the hay cut.

Overall Breach for Enclosed Semi Natural Dry Grassland (Acid, Neutral, Calcareous, Calaminarian)

Breach	Severity	Extent	Permanence
Evidence that ALL of the requirements for Enclosed Semi Natural Dry Grassland managed as Hay Meadow have not been correctly completed.	Minimum W/L Low Medium High	Extent 1 Extent 2 Extent 3 Extent 4	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent

Breach	Severity	Extent	Permanence
Evidence that livestock were not removed by 15 th May	Low – Livestock removed but not until after 15 th May. Medium – Livestock not removed.	Extent 1	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence that parcel was not cut and/or hay crop removed between 7 th July and 30 th September.	Medium – Cut before 7 July or after 30 September.	Extent 1	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2
Evidence that silage has been made.	Medium – Where silage has been taken.	Extent 1	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2
Evidence the cut material has not been removed from the meadow.	Low	Extent 1	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2
Evidence of poaching.	Low - Evidence of poaching but no evidence of run-off. High - Evidence of soil run-off into a watercourse due to poaching.	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence of application of organic or inorganic fertilisers such as slurry, sewage sludge, chicken manure or fish meal, except a light dressing of FYM (no more than 12t/ha), which can be applied no more often than once every two years.	Measurable – Where applied on an area less than or equal to 1ha. High – Where applied on an area greater than 1ha.	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence of planting new trees.	Low – Less than or equal to 0.01ha Medium – Less than or equal to 0.50ha. High – Greater than 0.50ha.	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence that Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) or injurious weeds have been allowed to spread.	Low	Extent 1	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence of lime applied on acid grassland	Measurable – Where applied on an area less than or equal to 1ha. High – Where applied on an area greater than 1ha.	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent

Evidence that scrub has been allowed to spread	Medium	Extent 1	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence that parcel has been grazed within 4 weeks of hay being cut.	Minimum W/L	Extent 1	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2

6. Upland Open Habitats

Specific Management Requirements for habitat managed as Upland Open Habitats

Do:

- Manage the habitat through appropriate grazing with consideration of the stocking rate recommendations in the Universal Code for All Habitats.

Do not:

- Plant any new trees without prior approval.
- Allow the area to be poached (gateways, feeding and watering areas are acceptable provided that poached and bare areas are less than 5% cover).
- Cut or top more than 30% of rush or weed species in any one year.

Overall Breach for Upland Open Habitats

Breach	Severity	Extent	Permanence
Evidence that ALL of the requirements for Upland Open Habitats have not been correctly completed.	Low Medium High	Extent 1 Extent 2 Extent 3 Extent 4	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent

Breaches for Upland Open Habitats

Breach	Severity	Extent	Permanence
Evidence that habitat has not been appropriately grazed, which has resulted in the habitat being under or overgrazed.	Measurable	Extent 1	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence of planting new trees without prior approval	Low – Less than or equal to 0.01ha. Medium – Less than or equal to 0.50ha. High – Greater than 0.50ha.	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence of poaching	Low - Evidence of poaching but no evidence of run-off. High - Evidence of soil run-off into a watercourse due to poaching.	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent

<p>Evidence that more than 30% of soft rush or other undesirable vegetation species has been cut or topped in any one year.</p>	<p>Measurable - Where less than or equal to 1ha has been cut in excess of the permitted level.</p> <p>High - Where more than 1ha has been cut in excess of the permitted level.</p>	<p>Extent 1</p>	<p>Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent</p>
---	---	------------------------	---

7. Dense Bracken			
Specific Management Requirements for habitat managed as Dense Bracken			
<u>Do not:</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply any herbicides, insecticides or any other pesticides (except for spot/weed wipe treatment of invasive non-native species, injurious weeds or as part of a bracken control programme) – (See Undesirable Vegetation Control in the Universal Code for All Habitats). • Carry out burn management unless to create firebreaks to reduce wildfire risk. • Carry out agricultural improvement 			
Overall Breach for Dense Bracken			
Breach	Severity	Extent	Permanence
Evidence that ALL of the requirements for Dense Bracken have not been correctly completed.	Low Medium High	Extent 1 Extent 2 Extent 3 Extent 4	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Breach for Dense Bracken			
Breach	Severity	Extent	Permanence
Evidence of application herbicides, insecticides or any other pesticides (except for spot/weed wipe treatment of invasive non-native species, injurious weeds or as part of a bracken control programme) (see Undesirable Vegetation Control in the Universal Code for All Habitats).	Measurable – Where applied on an area less than or equal to 1ha. High – Where applied on an area greater than 1ha.	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence of burning.	Measurable – Evidence of burning on area less than or equal to 1ha. High – On area which is greater than 1ha.	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence that the area of dense bracken has been agriculturally improved.	Measurable – Damaged area less than 1ha. High – Damaged area greater than 1ha.	Measurable	Rectifiable 2 Permanent

8a. Woody Habitats – Traditional Orchards.

Specific Management Requirements for habitat managed as Traditional Orchards

Do:

- Retain all the existing fruit trees, unless they are diseased or may cause harm.
- Prevent damage to trees from livestock or machinery.
- Retain all deadwood in the orchard (unless it is diseased).

Do not:

- Prune out mistletoe (sustainable harvesting is acceptable).
- Use any inorganic fertilisers. Where taking a hay cut, well-rotted farmyard manure (stored for at least twelve months) may be applied at a rate of no more than 10 tonnes/ha once every two years. No other organic fertilisers including slurry, sewage sludge, chicken manure and fish meal are acceptable.
- Use tar oil washes, as these reduce the wildlife value of the orchard.

Overall Breach for Traditional Orchards

Breach	Severity	Extent	Permanence
Evidence that ALL of the requirements for Traditional Orchards have not been correctly completed.	Minimum W/L Low Medium High	Extent 1 Extent 2 Extent 3 Extent 4	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent

Breaches for Traditional Orchards

Breach	Severity	Extent	Permanence
Evidence that existing fruit trees have not been retained.	Low – Tree diameter between 4 and 12 inches. Medium – Tree diameter greater than 12 inches and less than 36 inches. High – Tree diameter greater than 36 inches or if a veteran tree.	Extent 1 = 1 tree Extent 2 = 2-3 trees Extent 3 = 4-5 trees Extent 4 = 6+ trees	Permanent

Evidence of damage to trees from livestock and/or machinery.	Low – Up to and including 5 trees. Medium – More than 5 trees.	Extent 1	Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence that all deadwood has not been retained in the orchard (unless it's diseased).	Minimum W/L	Extent 1	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence that mistletoe has been pruned.	Minimum W/L	Extent 1	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2
Evidence of application of organic or inorganic fertilisers such as slurry, sewage sludge, chicken manure or fish meal.	Measurable – Where applied on an area less than or equal to 1ha. High – Where applied on an area greater than 1ha.	Measurable	Rectifiable 1
Evidence that tar oil washes have been used.	Low	Extent 1	Rectifiable 2 Permanent

8b. Woody Habitats - Scrub (including scattered or less dense bracken)			
Specific Management Requirements for habitat managed as Scrub			
<p>Do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain all existing areas of native scrub on coastal slopes, riverbanks, sand dunes, limestone cliffs, valley bottoms and in the uplands. Cutting to prevent the spread of scrub is acceptable. <p>Do not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not apply any herbicides, insecticides or any other pesticides (except for spot/weed wipe treatment of invasive non-native species injurious weeds or as part of a bracken control programme). Do not carry out burn management unless to create firebreaks to reduce wildfire risk 			
Overall Breach for Scrub (including scattered or less dense bracken)			
Evidence that ALL of the requirements for Scrub (including scattered or less dense bracken) have not been correctly completed.	Low Medium High	Extent 1 Extent 2 Extent 3 Extent 4	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Breaches for Scrub (including scattered or less dense bracken)			
Breach	Severity	Extent	Permanence
Evidence that existing areas of scrub has not been retained. (Cutting to prevent spreading is acceptable).	Measurable – Where applied on an area less than or equal to 1ha. High – Where applied on an area greater than 1ha.	Measurable	Permanent
Evidence of use of herbicides, insecticides or any other pesticides (except for spot/weed wipe treatment of invasive non-native species, injurious weeds or as part of a bracken control programme)	Measurable – Where applied on an area less than or equal to 1ha. High – Where applied on an area greater than 1ha.	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence of burning	Measurable – Evidence of burning on area less than or equal to 1ha. High – On area which is greater than 1ha.	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent

8c. Woody Habitat – Wood Pasture

Specific Management Requirements for habitat managed as Wood Pasture

Do:

- Retain existing scattered trees and scrub.
- Retain all deadwood whether standing or on the ground.
- Ensure mature trees are not debarked by livestock and there is limited bare ground.

Do not:

- Allow the field to be poached (localised poaching around gateways, feeding and watering areas is acceptable provided that poached and bare areas are less than 5% cover overall).
- Plant trees to create dense woodland of 30% or more tree cover.

Overall Breach for Wood Pasture			
Breach	Severity	Extent	Permanence
Evidence that ALL of the requirements for Wood Pasture have not been correctly completed.	Minimum W/L Low Medium High	Extent 1 Extent 2 Extent 3 Extent 4	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Breaches for Wood Pasture			
Breach	Severity	Extent	Permanence
Evidence that existing scattered trees and scrub have not been retained.	Low – Tree diameter between 4 and 12 inches. Medium – Tree diameter greater than 12 inches and less than 36 inches. High – Tree diameter greater than 36 inches or if a veteran tree.	Extent 1 = 1 tree Extent 2 = 2-3 trees Extent 3 = 4-5 trees Extent 4 = 6+ trees	Permanent
Evidence that all deadwood whether standing or on the ground has not been retained.	Minimum W/L	Extent 1	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence that mature trees have been debarked.	Low	Extent 1	Permanent

Evidence of poaching.	<p>Low - Evidence of poaching but no evidence of run-off.</p> <p>High - Evidence of soil run-off into a watercourse due to poaching.</p>	Measurable	<p>Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent</p>
Evidence that trees have been planted creating a dense woodland of more than 30% tree cover.	Low	Extent 1	Permanent

9. Existing Woodland (in HWS 2024)

Specific Management Requirements for habitat managed as Existing Woodland

Do:

- Adhere to any UKFS compliant management plan, where applicable
- Retain all trees in woodland unless tree removal is necessary for safety reasons or managed under a Felling Licence or UKFS compliant management plan
- Protect trees from damage due to cultivation, compaction, use of machinery or use of agrochemicals, including fertilisers, under the tree canopy

Do not:

- Remove any deadwood, including standing deadwood, unless necessary for health and safety reasons.
- Knowingly cause or allow the establishment of new, or the spread of existing injurious weeds.
- Supplementary feed within the woodland.
- Use plant protection products, except for the control of invasive species or managing identified tree pests and diseases.
- Carry out unapproved earth moving activities within the woodland.
- Use the woodland for unapproved off-road vehicle activities.
- Construct unauthorised new tracks, roads, yards, loading bays / stacking areas or any new structures within the woodland.

Overall Breach for Existing Woodland

Breach	Severity	Extent	Permanence
Evidence that ALL of the requirements for Existing Woodland have not been correctly completed.	Minimum W/L Low Medium High	Extent 1 Extent 2 Extent 3 Extent 4	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent

Breaches for Existing Woodland

Breach	Severity	Extent	Permanence
Evidence that UKFS management plan has not been adhered to.	Low	Extent 1	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence that trees have not been retained in woodland (unless removal is necessary for safety reasons or managed under Felling Licence or UKFS compliant management plan).	Low – Tree diameter between 4 and 12 inches.	Extent 1 = 1 tree Extent 2 = 2-3 trees Extent 3 = 4-5 trees Extent 4 = 6+ trees	Permanent

	<p>Medium – Tree diameter greater than 12 inches and less than 36 inches.</p> <p>High – Tree diameter greater than 36 inches or if a veteran tree.</p>		
Evidence of cultivation, compaction, use of machinery or use of agrochemicals and/or fertilisers under tree canopy.	<p>Low – Up to and including 5 trees.</p> <p>Medium – More than 5 trees.</p>	Extent 1	Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence of the removal of deadwood, including standing deadwood (unless for Health and Safety reasons).	Minimum W/L	Extent 1	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence that existing injurious weeds have been allowed to spread or evidence of establishment of new injurious weeds.	Low	Extent 1	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence of supplementary feeding within the woodland.	<p>Minimum W/L – Evidence of supplementary feeding but no damage.</p> <p>Medium – Evidence of supplementary feeding and damage caused.</p> <p>High – Unsuitable supplementary feeding where there is damage caused that can't be restored to it's original condition by the end of the growing season.</p>	Extent 1	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence of use of Plant Protection Products except to control invasive species or managing identified tree pests and diseases.	<p>Measurable – Where applied on an area less than or equal to 1ha.</p> <p>High – Where applied on an area greater than 1ha.</p>	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence of unapproved earth moving activities within the woodland.	<p>Measurable – Less than or equal to 1ha.</p> <p>High - Greater than 1ha.</p>	Extent 1	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent

Evidence the woodland is used for unapproved off-road vehicle activities.	Medium – Single Track created. High – Multiple tracks created.	Extent 1	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence of construction of new tracks, roads, yards loading bays / stacking areas or any new structures within the woodland.	Measurable – Less than or equal to 1ha. High – Greater than 1ha.	Measurable	Rectifiable 2 Permanent