



# Entry Level Stewardship

Environmental Stewardship Handbook

Fourth Edition – January 2013

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

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

# The ELS 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 Entry Level Stewardship

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

2

## Section 2 – Environmental objectives

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

3

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

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

4

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

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

5

## Section 5 – Terms and conditions

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

6

## Section 6 – Appendices

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

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

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

**ELS Online:** The simplest and quickest way to complete an ELS application is to do it online by visiting [www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/funding/es/els/online/default.aspx](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/funding/es/els/online/default.aspx).

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

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

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

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

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

ELS 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.

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

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



# Appendix 1

## Contact details

### Natural England offices

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

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

#### East of England

Bedfordshire  
Cambridgeshire  
Essex  
Hertfordshire  
Norfolk  
Suffolk

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

#### East Midlands

Derbyshire  
Leicestershire  
Lincolnshire  
Northamptonshire  
Nottinghamshire  
Rutland

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

#### North East

Durham  
Northumberland  
Tyne and Wear  
Former county of Cleveland

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

#### North West

Cheshire  
Cumbria  
Greater Manchester  
Lancashire  
Merseyside

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

#### South East

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

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

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>South West</b><br>Cornwall<br>Devon<br>Dorset<br>Gloucestershire<br>Somerset<br>Wiltshire<br>Former county of Avon                     | 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  |
| <b>West Midlands</b><br>Herefordshire<br>Shropshire<br>Staffordshire<br>Warwickshire<br>West Midlands<br>Worcestershire                   | 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 |
| <b>Yorkshire and the Humber</b><br>East Riding of Yorkshire<br>North Yorkshire<br>South Yorkshire<br>West Yorkshire<br>North Lincolnshire | 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     |

**Please note:**

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

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

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

# Appendix 2

## Useful web addresses

### Natural England application information:

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

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

For details of ELS online go to:

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

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

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

### Other Natural England sources of information:

Details of ELS advice events can be obtained from:

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

Advice about wildlife management and licensing is available at:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Heather and Grass Burning Code can be downloaded from:

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

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

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

### External sources of information:

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

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

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

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

Code of Good Agricultural Practice can be found at:

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

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

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

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

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

Customer Service Centre

Rural Payments Agency

PO Box 1058

Newcastle upon Tyne

NE99 4YQ

Tel: 0845 603 7777

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

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

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

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

# Appendix 3

## Guidance for calculating nitrogen content of fertilisers and manures

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

### Fertilisers

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

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

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

### Examples

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

### Manures

**Table 12 Typical total nitrogen content of livestock manures**

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

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

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

### Conversion table for frequently used units of measurement

50 kg/ha = 40 units/acre

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

# Appendix 4

**Table 13 Animal numbers converted into Livestock Units (LUs)**

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

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

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

# Appendix 5

## List of recognised hardy native breeds of sheep

**Badger Face Welsh**

**Balwen**

**Beulah Speckled Face**

**Black Welsh Mountain**

**Border Leicester**

**Boreray**

**Castlemilk Moorit**

**Clun Forest**

**Cotswold**

**Derbyshire Gritstone**

**Devon and Cornwall**

**Longwool**

**Devon Closewool**

**Dorset Down**

**Dorset Horn**

**Exmoor Horn**

**Greyface Dartmoor**

**Hampshire Down**

**Hebridean**

**Herdwick**

**Hill Radnor**

**Jacob**

**Kerry Hill**

**Leicester Longwool**

**Lincoln Longwool**

**Llandovery Whiteface Hill**

**Llanwenog**

**Lonk**

**Manx Loaghtan**

**Norfolk Horn**

**North Ronaldsay**

**Oxford Down**

**Portland**

**Romney**

**Ryeland (including Coloured)**

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

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



# Appendix 6

## Glossary and list of abbreviations and acronyms

### Glossary

#### **Agreement land**

All land entered into a single Entry Level Stewardship agreement.

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

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

#### **Arable land**

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

#### **Common land**

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

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

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

#### **Derogation**

Agreed temporary relaxation from the specified prescriptions in an agreement.

#### **Easement**

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

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

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

#### **Environmental Information Map**

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Field Data Sheet**

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

#### **Force majeure**

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

## **Grassland**

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

## **Haylage**

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

## **Leaching**

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

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

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

## **Livestock unit (LU)**

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

## **Moorland Line**

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

## **Non-rotational options**

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

## **Options Map**

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

## **Overgrazing**

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

## **Poaching**

Damage to the sward caused by concentrations of livestock.

## **Points target**

This is the number of points required for an Entry Level Stewardship application to be accepted and is based on the total area of agreement land (for example, outside of the Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDA) the points target = 30 x hectares of agreement land).

## **Profit à prendre**

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

## **Rotational options**

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

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

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

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

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

## **Scheduled Monument**

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

## **Scrub**

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

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

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

## **Shared Grazing**

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

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

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

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

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

## **Undergrazing**

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

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

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

## **Vendor number**

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

## **Watercourse**

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

## List of abbreviations and acronyms

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

## Our promise to you

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

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

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

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:**  
Tree and drystone wall in Swaledale.  
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