

Cattle and Sheep Farm



This fact sheet aims to guide cattle and sheep farmers in the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) who are interested in applying to Entry Level Stewardship (ELS), part of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' (Defra) Environmental Stewardship Scheme. It outlines the environmental features commonly found on small to medium sized cattle and sheep farms in the area and highlights ELS options most appropriate to the Cotswolds AONB. By following this guidance, you will help provide wildlife habitat, contribute to the recovery of farmland birds, conserve archaeological features, reduce diffuse pollution and keep dry stone walls and hedges in good repair and condition.

Does your farm have the following characteristics?

- Primarily a beef and/or sheep farm
- Predominantly down to permanent grassland
- Located on sloping or steeply sloping land

And some or all of the following environmental features?

- Semi-improved or unimproved limestone grassland, particularly on the steeper slopes
- Broad-leaved woodland on or adjoining the farm
- Scattered in-field trees and scrub
- A network of hedges across the farm
- A well treed landscape which is particularly good for bats
- Springs and small streams
- Historic and archaeological features such as hill forts, lynchets, barrows or earthworks
- Public rights of way across the farm

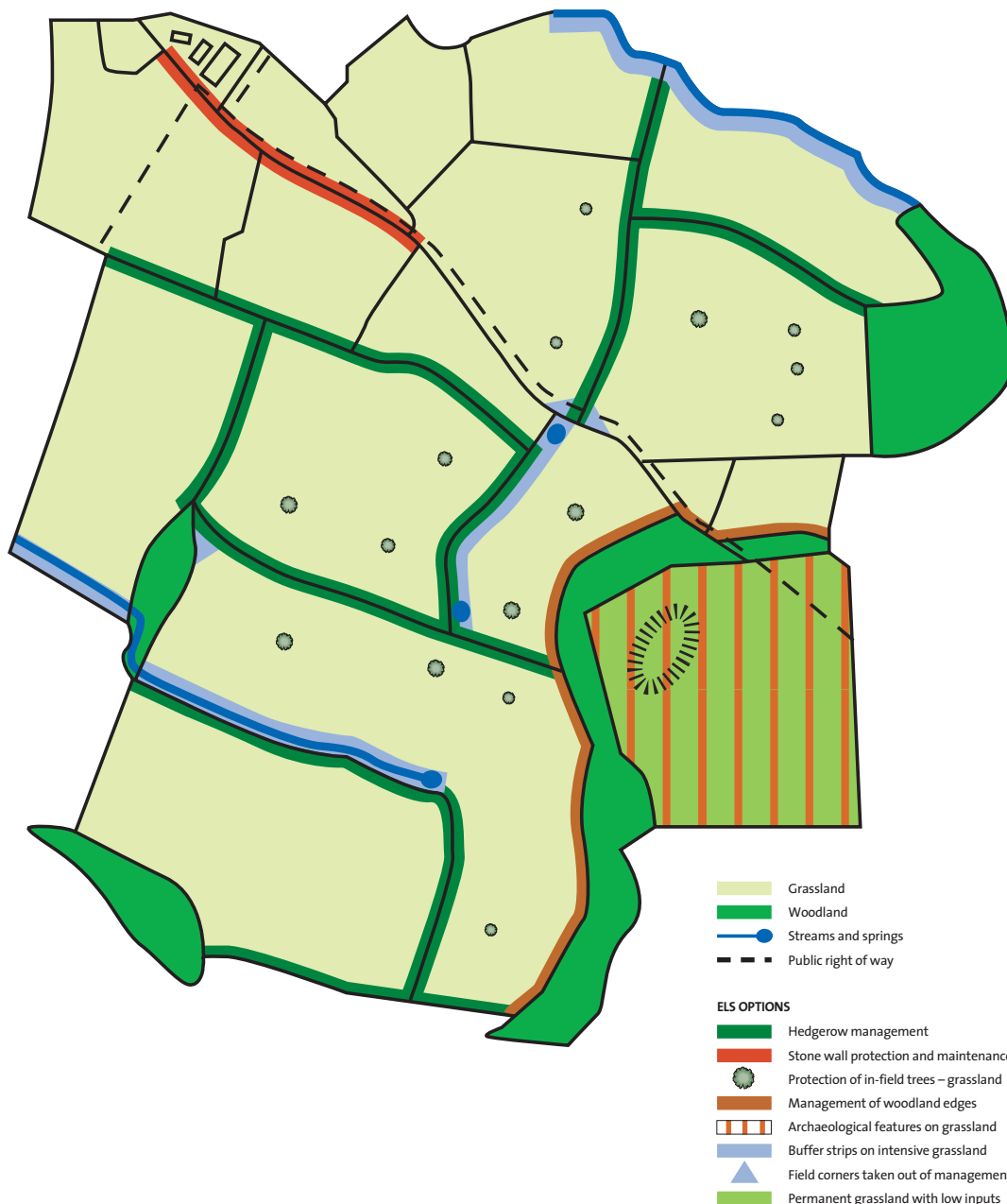
If so, the ELS options shown in the table below are probably appropriate for your farm.

If you have other features on your farm you may find it useful to look at the other fact sheets in the series - Cereal Farm, Dairy Farm and Mixed Arable and Sheep Farm.

When selecting ELS options for your farm, you should consider those options which target environmental features which are of particular importance in the Cotswolds AONB as well as those which are required for general compliance purposes (including management plans and buffer strips) and those which address any recognised environmental problems on your farm. In addition the ELS options chosen should be practical, easy to implement and achieve a minimum of 30 points per hectare across the farm.

ELS code	ELS option	Benefit and application
EA1	Farm Environment Record	Identifies and maps important environmental features on the farm. Must be completed before the application is submitted
EB1, EB2	Hedgerow management on both sides or one side of hedge	Benefits wildlife and maintains landscape
EB11	Stone wall protection and maintenance	Protects and maintains remaining dry stone walls
EC2	Protection of in-field trees - grassland	Protects mature trees which have historic, landscape and wildlife value
EC4	Management of woodland edges	Provides habitat for birds and small mammals
ED5	Archaeological features on grassland	Protects archaeological features such as hill forts, lynchets, barrows and earthworks
EE4, EE5, EE6	Buffer strips on intensive grassland	Provides habitat and food for nesting birds and alongside streams and ditches helps prevent water pollution. Can also be located alongside bridleways and footpaths
EK1	Take field corners out of management	Protects hedgerows and provides insect habitat and seed for birds
EK2, EK3	Permanent grassland with low or very low inputs	Enhances wildlife interest of limestone grassland
EK5	Mixed stocking	Provides diverse vegetation structure for wildlife
EM1, EM2, EM3	Soil, Nutrient and Manure Management Plans	Improves soil, nutrient and manure management to prevent pollution and reduce costs

The map illustrates the application of these ELS options to a typical cattle and sheep farm in the Cotswolds AONB



Contacts

For further information about applying to ELS contact the Defra helpline for your area:

Gloucestershire, Wiltshire & Avon tel: 08456 024098 • Oxfordshire tel: 08456 024092

Warwickshire & Worcestershire tel: 08456 024095 • or visit www.defra.gov.uk

For further guidance on special features of the Cotswolds AONB contact the Cotswolds Conservation Board,

The Old Police Station, Cotswold Heritage Centre, Northleach, Gloucestershire GL54 3JH tel: 01451 862000

www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

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