

This fact sheet aims to guide dairy 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 dairy 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 dairy farm, stocked by milking cows and followers
- Predominantly down to grassland, both permanent and temporary
- Some arable land, part of which is used for whole crop and/or maize silage
- Located on flat or gently sloping ground

And some or all of the following environmental features?

- A network of hedges across the farm, some gappy but most in reasonable condition
- Dry stone walls, some in need of repair
- Streams and ditches around the farm
- Small areas of broad-leaved woodland
- Unimproved grassland with a range of grasses and flowers
- Ridge and furrow, or some other historic or archaeological feature in grassland
- Public rights of way across the farm

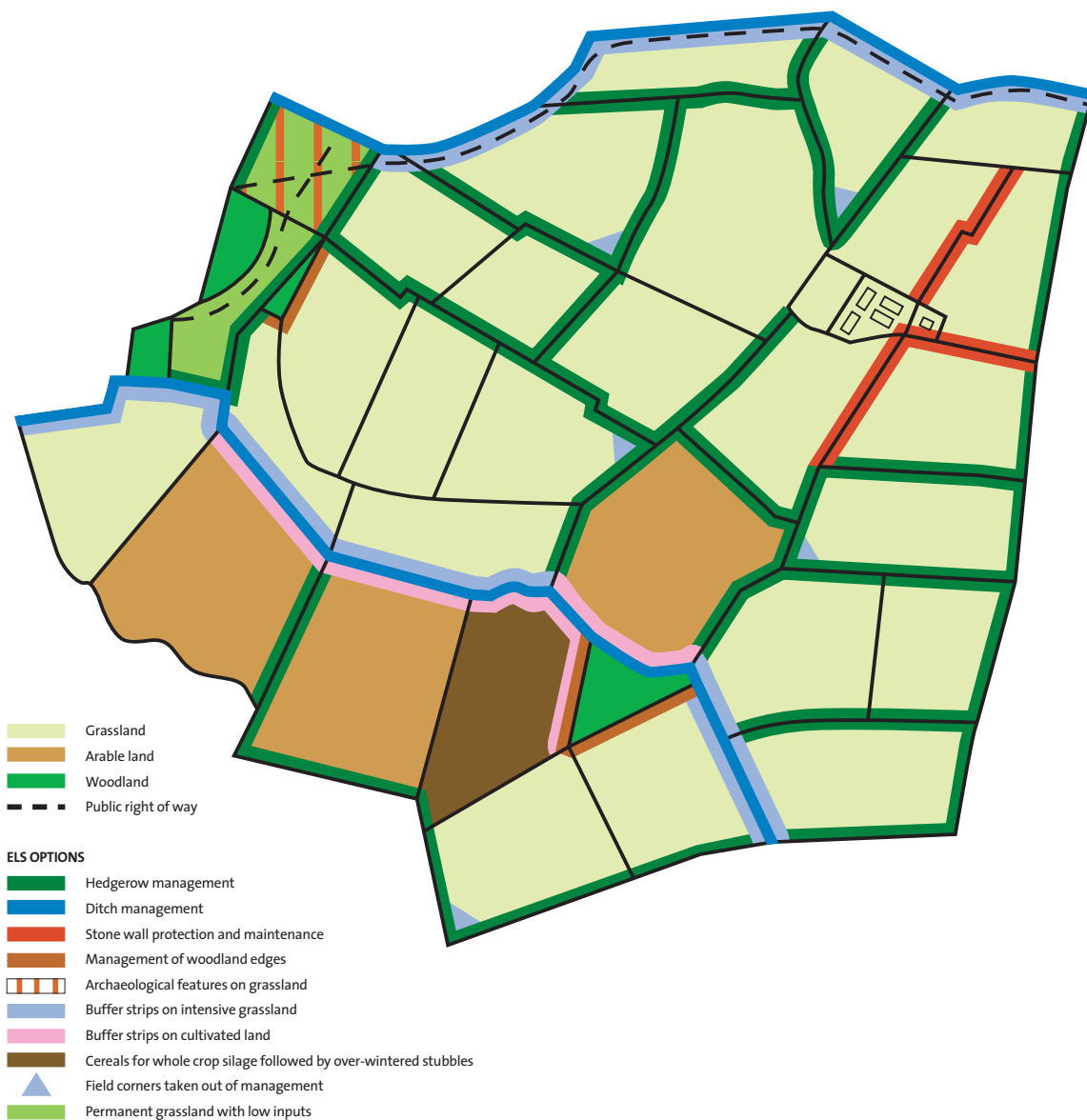
If so, the ELS options shown in the table below are probably appropriate for your farm.

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, Mixed Arable and Sheep Farm and Livestock 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, achieve a minimum of 30 points per hectare across the farm and take account of your set-aside requirement.

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
EB6, EB7 (EB8, EB9)	Ditch management or half ditch management (or combined hedge and ditch management)	Provides diverse bankside and aquatic vegetation
EB11	Stone wall protection and maintenance	Protects and maintains remaining dry stone walls
EC4	Management of woodland edges	Provides habitat for birds and small mammals
ED5	Archaeological features on grassland	Protects and maintains historic features such as ridge and furrow
EE1, EE2, EE3 EE4, EE5, EE6	Buffer strips on intensive grassland and cultivated land	Provides habitat and food for nesting birds and alongside streams and ditches helps prevent water pollution. Can also be located alongside bridleways and footpaths
EG4	Cereals for whole crop silage followed by over-wintered stubbles	Provides seed source for farmland birds such as skylark and grey partridge. Area is rotated
EJ2	Management of maize crops to reduce soil erosion	Reduces potential soil erosion and run-off
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 unimproved or semi-improved grassland
EM1, EM2, EM3, EM4	Soil, Nutrient, Manure and Crop Protection Management Plans	Improves soil, nutrient, manure and crop protection management to prevent pollution and reduce costs

The map illustrates the application of some of these ELS options to a typical dairy 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

133CotsAONB/3.05/1k

