

**FARM ENVIRONMENT TABLE TEMPLATE 2025 onwards**

*You must delete the lines that are not relevant to your farm and complete the table below.*



*You MUST use the habitat descriptors as shown in the list below. For AECS, map all habitats on the farm, even if they only cover part of a field and map all boundary features such as hedges and drystone dykes.*


*If you assign a habitat to all land you are responsible for, including arable and improved grassland fields, this map can be submitted to RPID to meet the [Whole Farm Plan](#) Biodiversity Audit requirements. Exclude seasonal land but include all land not currently mapped and that does not have an LPID (white space).*


*In the table below, show the colour you have used for each habitat and feature and ensure the colours on your Farm Environment map match. Include a legible key with the same habitats and colours on your Farm Environment Map.*


*Submit more than one Farm Environment map if it is difficult to show all the information clearly on a single map at a suitable scale. For example, you can map the in-bye ground separately to the moorland area.*

<b>AECS CASE TITLE:</b>	
<b>Summary of farm type and activity:</b>	<i>Provide a brief summary paragraph describing the farm. Include farm type, agricultural activities, livestock numbers, crops grown, tenure etc.</i>
	<i>Home Farm is a mixed livestock and arable farm between the Rivers Dee and Don close to Milltown. The farm is tenanted and has 200ha of low lying arable and grassland and 500ha of moorland rising to 450m. The farm runs a herd of 60 suckler cows, wintered inside and a flock of 500 blackface ewes. A field of forage brassica is grown each year to fatten lambs and two cut silage is taken off fields in rotation across the farm.</i>
<b>Planning</b>	N/A
<b>BRN</b>	123456
<b>Holding Code(s) within the AECS application</b>	432/0214
<b>Total hectarage of each holding:</b>	700ha
<b>Total in-bye hectarage:</b>	200ha
<b>Total moorland hectarage:</b>	500ha

Map features		Colour used in key on your map	Habitat / feature description	Habitat description and condition for the land in the AECS application. Include information on species present, and any issues, risks, and opportunities
Boundaries	Farm Boundary		Map the boundary of the whole holding, showing all land for which you are responsible for management, including any land which is not currently mapped as an LPID	
Designated and historic sites	Designated site boundary (SSSI, SAC, SPA)		Boundary of any designated sites present on the holding <b>The FEA map must show the designated site boundary in relation to the farm boundary, as noted in the guidance</b> . Provide the correct name of the site(s).	Greys Fen SSSI (6ha) is notified for fen and willow carr habitat. The whole area will be managed in AECS.
Cropped Land	Arable		All land used for arable crop production, horticulture, fallow, and temporary grass leys (TGRS).	Two fields of temporary grass (TGRS) were reseeded this year. In general, a silage field is reseeded every 5 years. This year, 15ha of forage brassica will be grown and strip grazed with sheep over the winter months.
	Managed crops for nature		Cultivated land specifically planted with the intention of benefitting native species, increasing biodiversity, and stabilising soil e.g. Wild Bird Seed, Pollinator mix, Soil health (green manure, tillage radish, deep-rooted species to prevent compaction)	Two plots of wild bird cover will be created through AECS to provide a seed source and cover for farmland birds. Both plots will be situated near existing woodlands/hedges on the farm to provide cover. Bird species including, linnet, sparrow, thrush, blackbird, fieldfare and various finches have been seen on the farm.
Grasslands	Improved Grassland		Productive grassland (for grazing or forage) subject to regular reseeding and inputs of fertiliser and lime.	The farm has 30ha of improved grassland. Nutrient budgeting is followed with targeted inputs of FYM and Slurry applied to the land
	Semi-improved Grassland		Cover of agricultural grass varieties such as ryegrass, timothy, clover will be less than 30%	There is a field of older permanent grassland with pockets of flowering plants on dry knolls below the in-bye boundary.

			<i>of the field. There may be some wildflower presence. May occur where unimproved grasslands have undergone some modification through the use of fertilisers, lime, herbicides etc. or where formerly improved grasslands are being less intensively managed. These habitats have a reduced range of plant species compared to unimproved grassland but a wider diversity than improved grassland.</i>	
	Unimproved Grassland including Species-rich (SRG) grassland		<i>Grassland that has not been ploughed, reseeded, or fertilised including species rich grassland; or species rich grassland created in a previous AECS contract on previously improved grassland or arable. Map all areas and provide a brief description of the different areas you've mapped. Unimproved grasslands beyond the hill dyke should be mapped as <b>Upland grassland</b>.</i>	The main area of this habitat is a mix of species-rich and unimproved grassland containing species-rich neutral grassland. The grassland close to the hill fence is shorter and species-rich with pockets of calcareous grassland. The sward is kept short by both cattle and sheep. There are orchid species in damper areas. All SRG on the farm (17ha) will be managed in AECS.
	Rush pasture		<i>Grassland pasture dominated by soft rush. These areas may support breeding waders.</i>	There is a strip of patchy rushes within the grassland in one of the fields adjacent to the River Dee which offers habitat for waders.
Linear features	Hedgerows		<i>A boundary line of shrubs (generally dominated by hawthorn and blackthorn) which can include some trees at full height and may not be continuous.</i>	There are two hawthorn hedges on the farm. One was planted in 2006 and is well established and is trimmed every third year. The other hedge is much older and has become gappy, with some old hawthorn beginning to die off. Both hedges will be entered into management.
	Drystone Dykes		<i>A drystone or flagstone dyke field boundary, which may be intact or not.</i>	There are many dykes across the farm. Several are no longer stock proof so are backed up by fences. The dyke around one of the species-rich grassland fields being managed will be repaired.

	Rivers and streams		<p><i>Any length of watercourse which runs water for most of the year, including ditches that seasonally dry out.</i></p> <p><b>All surface water must be marked on your Farm Environment map to assess the Diffuse Pollution Risks.</b></p>	The River Dee traverses the farm. The entire length will be managed in AECS. There are some minor ditches across the farm as shown on the map. Several are currently unfenced, allowing some stock access to drink.
	Wetlands		<p><i>A wide and sometimes overlapping group of very wet habitats, of high conservation value. Usually too wet for stock. Includes:</i></p> <p><b>Fen:</b> <i>A peat-accumulating wetland, fed by mineral-rich ground or surface water, often forming in shallow valleys and loch basins.</i></p> <p><b>Marsh:</b> <i>a wetland on mineral soil dominated by herbaceous plants, often forming a transition between aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.</i></p> <p><b>Transition mire:</b> <i>a wetland transitional between acidic bog and alkaline fen.</i></p> <p><b>Reed bed:</b> <i>a transitional wetland found between aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. Usually dominated by the common reed. Can form extensive areas in lowland floodplains or fringe streams, rivers, ditches, lochans, lochs and ponds.</i></p>	There are extensive wetlands on the farm. Those in the eastern half of the farm are more diverse and species rich. This includes Greys Fen SSSI which will be entered into Wetland Management. The mix of wetland, open water and rush pasture make this ideal wading bird habitat. Snipe breed in this area.
	Wet marshy grassland		<p><i>Wet or marshy ground used for grazing, with flowering species, not dominated by soft rush. Variety of flowering plants amongst sedges and rushes (sharp-flowered and jointed rush are often common).</i></p>	10ha of grassland will be managed as Wader grazed grassland, with some rush cutting and wader scrapes undertaken. Lapwing, curlew, and oystercatcher breed in this area.
	Water margins		<p><i>An area of uncultivated land next to a ditch, burn, river, pond, loch, lochan etc. May be managed as grassland or may contain other habitats such as shrubs, trees, or wetland.</i></p>	The River Dee traverses the farm. It is fenced off along the full western margin with an 8m margin. The neighbours' margin on the opposite bank is also fenced. The entire length of the margin (1.8ha) will be managed in AECS. One length of currently unfenced ditch will be fenced off and a water trough installed

	Natural woodland		<i>Woodland where the majority of trees are broadleaf species, such as Birch, Oak, Ash, Rowan, or Scots pine.</i>	The wooded areas are predominately birch and are grazed by cattle in the spring and autumn. Trees are mature and the wood is open with no regeneration.
	Mixed woodland		<i>Woodland with a mix of broadleaved and/or Scots pine trees and conifers like Spruce and Larch. Includes newly planted and coppiced woodland.</i>	Two small shelterbelts were planted about 30 years ago. These are dominated by conifers with some birch and rowan at the edges.
	Native Scrub		<i>Areas of scrub dominated by species such as broom, gorse, hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, elder and bramble. This refers to specific areas where scrub dominates, not scattered scrub on other habitats. Also includes areas of scrub above the natural treeline, which may include montane willows, dwarf juniper and dwarf birch</i>	The small areas of scrub are mainly composed of hawthorn, blackthorn, and willow. Some pockets of juniper bushes are found close to the edge of the hill.
<b>Uplands and Peatlands</b>	Upland mixed habitats		<i>If the moorland on your holding is a mosaic of any of the following: heath, bog, upland grassland, map the whole area the same colour and describe the habitats here. Defined areas of the component habitats can be mapped if obvious and distinct. Large peatland areas must be mapped If you apply for moorland management a detailed map showing the extent of the individual moorland habitat types is required in addition to the FEA map.</i>	Lower areas of the hill are dominated by heather and higher areas are a mosaic of heather, wet heath, and unimproved grassland. The heather close to the farm is heavily grazed and short but is in better condition on the upper slopes. There are pockets of native woodland and scrub on the hill. Black grouse are regularly on the hill with at least one lek site present. 500ha of hill ground will be entered into Moorland Management with some fencing, away-wintering, and bracken control. Full details are provided in the Moorland Management Plan
Other Habitats	INNS (Invasive non-native species)		<i>INNS species to record are; Rhododendron ponticum, Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed, American skunk cabbage and giant rhubarb. Place a dot roughly central to the area of spread. Specify which of the species the points refer to in the description.</i>	There are no INNS on the unit.

	Bracken		<p><i>Individual (not cumulative) areas of dense bracken, defined as having no forage at the base (within a land parcel).</i></p> <p><i>Small pockets of bracken of less than 0.5ha do not need to be mapped, but if you wish to include these, they can be mapped as a point feature.</i></p>	There are pockets of bracken on the hill. 5ha of bracken control will be undertaken on the lower slopes of the hill ground. Full details are in the Bracken Control Plan.
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Diffuse pollution risks		Number on map	Diffuse pollution risk identified Please note if any were addressed under a previous AECS contract
			If no diffuse pollution risks have been found, state “No diffuse pollution risks identified.”

Note: Diffuse pollution risks can be recorded in a separate table if preferred.

Have you recorded Diffuse pollution risks in a separate table?	Yes
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