

Habitat Mosaic Management

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To see recent changes to this guidance, check the bottom of this page.

Aim

The aim of this option is to maintain and improve areas of farmland that are made up of a patchwork or mosaic of traditional semi-natural habitats that need to be managed as a single unit.

Habitat mosaics may include wetland, wet grassland, species-rich grassland, tall-herb communities, scrub, heathland and scattered pockets of woodland or wood pasture amongst others. They often support a range of important wildlife.

Eligibility

Land that contains a mosaic of habitat types is eligible.

You should not include areas of land covering rocks, scree, water, dense bracken etc. We will check this using the same approach we use to check land for the Basic Payment Scheme.

[Assessing your land eligibility](#)

Spatial targeting

This option is available throughout Scotland.

Application requirements

You must identify on a map the locations of the habitat mosaic to be managed. Where the land proposed for management is hill and upland rough grazing you must seek endorsement from Scottish Natural Heritage before you apply. This will require you to provide evidence that target habitats are present by submitting either:

- a Phase 1 habitat survey that demonstrates the presence of the target habitats, or
- an existing National Vegetation Classification survey demonstrating the site contains the target species

Management requirements



[Grazing Management Plan \(MS Word, Size: 135.6 kB\)](#)

doc_external_url: <https://www.ruralpaymentsandservices.org/media/resources/Grazing-Management-Plan-AECS-December-2015.docx> [Plan template]

- do not apply fertiliser, slurry or farmyard manure
- do not apply lime, unless you have prior approval
- do not allow the land to become poached or vehicle tracked
- do not carry out supplementary livestock feeding unless with prior written approval
- do not spray, except for the spot-treatment of injurious weeds (requires prior written notification) or treatment of invasive species (requires prior written approval)
- you must maintain a diary

Payment

You can claim £104.63 per hectare per year.

Inspections

The inspectors will check:

- you have adhered to your approved grazing regime which defines the livestock units and dates of grazing
- you have not applied fertiliser, slurry or farmyard manure
- you have not applied lime, unless you have prior approval
- you have not allowed the land to become poached or vehicle tracked
- you have not carried out supplementary livestock feeding unless with prior written approval
- you have not sprayed, unless with prior written notification or approval as appropriate
- you have maintained a diary

Additional guidance

[Supporting guidance is available for this option.](#)

Recent changes

Section	Change	Previous text	New text
Aim	Removal of 'unimproved grassland, semi-improved grassland' from aim.	Habitat mosaics may include wetland, wet grassland, species-rich grassland, unimproved grassland, semi-improved grassland, tall-herb communities, scrub, heathland and scattered pockets of woodland or wood pasture amongst others. They often support a range of important wildlife.	Habitat mosaics may include wetland, wet grassland, species-rich grassland, tall-herb communities, scrub, heathland and scattered pockets of woodland or wood pasture amongst others. They often support a range of important wildlife.
Application requirements	Amendments to the application requirements.	<p>You must identify on a map the locations of the habitat mosaic to be managed.</p> <p>You must manage the same location and extent each year for the duration of your contract.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you must adhere to an approved grazing regime defining the livestock units and dates 	<p>You must identify on a map the locations of the habitat mosaic to be managed. Where the land proposed for management is hill and upland rough grazing you must seek endorsement from Scottish Natural Heritage before you apply. This will require you to provide evidence that target habitats are present by submitting either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Phase 1 habitat survey that demonstrates the presence of the target habitats, or • an existing National Vegetation Classification survey demonstrating the site contains the target species
Management requirements	Grazing Management Plan (updated Word template)		

Previous versions

[Previous versions of this page](#)

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