FARM ENVIRONMENT TABLE – HOME FARM AECS PLAN 2016

Summary of farm type, activity etc.

Home Farm is a mixed livestock and arable farm between the rivers Ebb and Flow close to Milltown. The farm has 200ha of low lying arable and grassland and 500ha of heather 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 brassicas is grown each year to fatten lambs and two cuts of silage are taken off some fields to maintain the cattle.

Total hectarage of whole farm (ha):	: 700 To	tal inbye (ha): 200	Total moorland (ha): 500
Map features	Colour Key o		t or feature description, condition and species present. Issues, risks and opportunities
Farm Boundary			
Flood Plain Boundary		The land here floo	ods for some days most winters.
Watercourses and water bodies			
Hedgerows		established and is	norn hedges on the farm. One was planted in 2006 and is well trimmed every third year. The other hedge is much older and has th some old hawthorn beginning to die off
Dykes		None of the dykes nearest the farm	s are fully stock proof and are backed up by fences. The dyke could be repaired.
Habitats			
Unimproved Grassland or Species-Rich Grassland		Grassland close to and supports som the hill fence is sh	this habitat is mix of species-rich and unimproved grassland. the areas of wetland is tall and rough with some rush content e areas of species-rich neutral grassland. The grassland close to orter and species-rich with pockets of calcareous grassland. The rt by both cattle and sheep. There are orchid species in the

		Please refer to separate Diffuse Pollution risks table and map.
Diffuse pollution risks	Number on map	Diffuse pollution risk identified
Native or Semi-natural Woodland		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.
Scrub		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.
Wetland		There are extensive wetlands on the farm. The areas of wetland in the western half are dominated by rushes (particularly soft rush) with a limited range of flowering plants present. Those in the eastern half of the farm are more diverse and species- rich. Pockets of fen wetland here are particularly notable. The mix of wetland, open water and rush pasture make this ideal wading bird habitat. Both snipe and curlew breed in this area with lapwing and oystercatcher breeding in the adjoining fields.
Heath/Moorland		damper areas. 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 including an area of Rhododendron. Black grouse are regularly on the hill with at least one lek site present. Full details are provided in the Moorland Management Plan.