







FARM ENVIRONMENT TABLE – EXAMPLE

FARM ENVIRONMENT TABLE – HOME FARM AECS PLAN 2017		
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 fields in rotation to maintain the cattle.		
Total hectarage of whole farm (ha): 700		Total inbye (ha): 200
		Total moorland (ha): 500
Map features	Colour Key on Map	Habitat or feature description, condition and species present. Issues, risks and opportunities
Farm Boundary		
Flood Plain Boundary		The land here floods for some days most winters.
Watercourses and water bodies		The River Ebb traverses the farm. It is fenced off along the full western margin with an 8m margin. The neighbours margin is also fenced off. The whole length of the margin (1.8ha) will be managed in AECS. The River Flow is unfenced in sections along the parts that cross the farm allowing some stock access to drink. These areas will be fenced off and water troughs installed.
Hedgerows		There are 2 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.
Dykes		None of the dykes are fully stock proof and are backed up by fences. The dyke nearest the farm could be repaired.
Designated site		Greys Fen SSSI (6ha) will be entered into Wetland Management. It is notified for Fen and Willow carr habitat. The whole area will be managed in AECS.

Habitats		
Unimproved Grassland or Species-Rich Grassland		<p>The main area of this habitat is mix of species-rich and unimproved grassland. Grassland close to the areas of wetland is tall and rough with some rush content and supports some areas of 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 the damper areas.</p> <p>All SRG on the farm (7ha) will be managed in AECS.</p>
Heath/Moorland		<p>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. 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.</p>
Wetland		<p>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. Greys Fen SSSI will be entered into Wetland Management. 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. 10ha of grassland will be managed as Wader grazed grassland, with some rush cutting and wader scrapes undertaken.</p>
Scrub		<p>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.</p>
Native or Semi-natural Woodland		<p>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.</p>
Diffuse pollution risks	Number on map	Diffuse pollution risk identified
		Please refer to separate Diffuse Pollution risks table and map.