

Wader Grazed Grassland

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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 benefit ground nesting birds, particularly waders such as lapwing, redshank, snipe and curlew.

Excluding or reducing the number of livestock in fields where birds are nesting will reduce the risk of damage to their eggs and fledglings from trampling or field operations.

Eligibility

Grassland that 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



[Map of target area – Wader Grazed Grassland \(PDF, Size: 982.4 kB\)](#)

doc_external_url: https://www.ruralpayments.org/media/resources/11_Wader_Grazed_Grassland.pdf

This option is available within the target area shown on this map.

You can check if this option is available on your holding [here](#).

Application requirements

You must identify on a map the locations of the area to be managed, and note the wader species you are looking to benefit.

If each block that you wish to manage covers more than one field parcel, you need only identify each block with a single map letter.

Where the option is undertaken to benefit lapwing or curlew, each block must extend to at least one hectare.

Management requirements

You must manage the same location and extent each year for the duration of your contract.

You must either:

- exclude livestock from 1 April to 12 May inclusive, followed by a period of grazing, or
- exclude livestock from 15 April to 26 May inclusive, followed by a period of grazing, or
- restrict livestock by stocking with up to one LU/hectare from 15 March to 15 June inclusive

and:

- do not harrow, roll or top grass from 15 March until 30 June inclusive
- do not apply lime, fertiliser, slurry or farmyard manure from 15 March to 15 May inclusive

- you must graze the sward down to remove annual growth to avoid a build-up of matted dead plant material. The sward may contain occasional tussocks of taller vegetation
- 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 not establish new drainage
- if you wish to undertake drainage maintenance, you must have prior written approval
- you must maintain a diary

Payment

You can claim £114.29 per hectare per year.

The following capital items are available to support waders:

- [Creation of Wader Scrapes](#)
- [Wetland Creation – Field Drain Breaking](#)
- [Wetland Creation – Pipe Sluices](#)

Inspections

The inspectors will check:

- you have managed the same location and extent each year for the duration of your contract

You have either:

- excluded livestock from 1 April to 12 May inclusive, followed by a period of grazing, or
- excluded livestock from 15 April to 26 May inclusive, followed by a period of grazing, or
- restricted livestock by stocking with up to one LU/hectare from 15 March to 15 June inclusive

and:

- you have not harrowed, rolled or topped grass from 15 March until 30 June inclusive
- you have not applied lime, fertiliser, slurry or farmyard manure from 15 March to 15 May inclusive
- you have grazed the sward down to remove annual growth to avoid a build-up of matted dead plant material
- you have not sprayed, unless with prior written notification or approval as appropriate
- you have not established new drainage
- if you have undertaken drainage maintenance, you have prior written approval
- you have maintained a diary

Additional guidance

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

Recent changes

Section	Change	Previous text	New text
Application requirements	Minimum hectareage reduced for lapwing and curlew.	Where the option is undertaken to benefit lapwing or curlew, each block must extend to at least three hectares.	Where the option is undertaken to benefit lapwing or curlew, each block must extend to at least one hectare.

Previous versions

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