

Glastir Commons Verifiable Standards including Advanced Management Plans (AMPs)

Verifiable standards and guidelines for classification of failures of
Glastir Commons

Version 2.0 2016



Requirement - General

Take management responsibility and control for the entire contract land to enable the obligations of the contract to be fulfilled. The Contract boundary must be physically delineated.

Maintain a minimum of 80% active graziers on the contract land throughout the contract period.

Options:

1) Management of Stocking Levels – Must maintain a daily stocking diary (on a spreadsheet) of livestock movements on and off the contract land.

2) Closed Winter Period – Must maintain a stocking diary (on a spreadsheet) detailing livestock movements off the contract land for the start of the closed winter period and when the livestock have been moved back onto the contract land.

Maintain a record (on a spreadsheet) of members' details and other active graziers on the contract land.

Description of Breach	Severity	Extent	Duration
Where no physical boundary exists and the boundary has not been marked appropriately.	Low	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
A minimum of 80% active graziers has not been maintained throughout the contract period.	<p>Low - less than 80% but more than 75%.</p> <p>Medium - less than, or equal to 75% but more than 50%.</p> <p>High - less than or equal to 50%</p> <p>Where the 80% active grazier requirement has not been achieved since the beginning of the contract, the contract will be terminated.</p>	Extent 4	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent

<p>Management of Stocking Level Options – Inadequate stocking diary maintained.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Closed Winter Period Option – Inadequate stocking diary maintained.</p>	<p>Low – failure to accurately record details of one movement of animals.</p> <p>Medium – failure to accurately record more than one movement of animals.</p> <p>High – No records or not made available on request.</p>	<p>Extent 1 Extent 4</p>	<p>Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent</p>
<p>A record of members' details and other active graziers has not been maintained.</p>	<p>Low – A record of all members and active graziers has been kept but discrepancies found.(at the time of inspection).</p> <p>Medium – Records available but does not have details of all members and active graziers.</p> <p>High – No records or not made available on request.</p>	<p>Extent 1 Extent 4</p>	<p>Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent</p>

Requirement – Common Land Code

Retain all existing traditional boundaries including earth banks, dry stonewalls, hedges and slate fencing.

Retain all archaeological and historical features including earth works, standing stones, hill forts, burial mounds, hut circles, sheepfolds and grouse butts.

Retain all geological sites and rock features including cliff, rock outcrops, scree and shingle.

Do not install any new drainage or ditching or modify/reopen any existing drainage or ditching.

Do not cut or remove any peat or sediment unless the applicant has the rights to do so.

Do not cause rutting of the land through the inappropriate use of machinery.

Burning is only permitted in accordance with Heather & Grass burning regulations. Do not burn blanket bog. Consent is required from the Countryside Council for Wales before undertaking any burning on SSSIs, SACs or SPAs.

Maintain all existing native woodland and scrub, ponds, scrapes, rivers and streams.

Ploughing, cultivation or reseedling is not permitted except on existing improved grazing or cultivated land.

Applications of lime, inorganic and organic fertiliser (including manure or slag) are not permitted except on existing improved grazing or cultivated land.

Comply with legal requirements relating to existing public rights of way that are on the land, including avoiding obstructing them. Access must be allowed on foot to all land identified as available for such access on the maps prepared under the Countryside Rights of Way Act, 2000.

Comply with the requirements on supplementary feeding on all contract land.

Certain sections of these verifiable standards are also subject to specific cross compliance requirements. Reference to these requirements will be listed against the breaches

Description of Breach	Severity	Extent	Duration
Evidence that existing traditional boundaries have not been retained.	Covered by Cross Compliance requirements		
Evidence that archaeological and historical features including earth works, standing stones, hill forts, burial mounds, hut circles, sheepfolds and grouse butts have not been retained. Note: Potential Cross Compliance breach GAEC F: Historical Features.	Medium – where damage has occurred does not affect the integrity of the feature. High – destroyed, removed or damage affecting the integrity of the feature.	Extent 4	Permanent Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2

Evidence that geological sites and rock features including cliff, rock outcrops, scree and shingle have not been retained.	Medium – where damage has occurred does not affect the integrity of the feature. High – destroyed, removed or damage affecting the integrity of the feature.	Extent 4	Permanent Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2
Evidence that new drainage or ditching has been installed or existing drainage or ditching modified. Note: Potential Cross Compliance breach GAEC I: Environmental Impact Assessment.	Low – Up to 50m Medium – 50-100m High – 100m +	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence that peat or sediment has been removed where the applicant does not have rights to do so.	High	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence of rutting caused by inappropriate use of machinery Note: Potential Cross Compliance breach GAEC A: Soils.	Low – Up to 1ha Medium – 1-3ha High – 3ha +	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence that native woodland and scrub, ponds, scrapes, rivers and streams have not been maintained. Note: Potential Cross Compliance breach GAEC N: Landscape Features.	Low Medium High	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence that inappropriate ploughing, cultivation and/or reseedling has been carried out. Note: Potential Cross Compliance breach GAEC I: Environmental Impact Assessment.	Low – Up to 1ha Medium – 1-3ha High – 3ha +	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence that lime, inorganic or organic fertiliser has been applied to contract land Note: Potential Cross Compliance breach GAEC O: Buffer Strips	Low – Up to 1ha Medium – 1-3ha High – 3ha +	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence that legal requirements relating to existing PRow under the provisions of the CRow Act 2000, are not being complied with	High	Extent 4	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2

Requirement – Management of Stocking Levels Option

STANDARD STOCKING LEVEL APPROACH

The maximum stocking levels will be calculated on a quarterly basis and will be provided in Livestock Units (LUs) in Section 4 of the Glastir Commons application form. The Grazing Association will commit to keeping on or below the quarterly maximum stocking levels on every day during the quarter. These stocking levels are not an average, but a maximum ceiling, which cannot be exceeded on any day. The quarterly periods are as follows:

1 January to 31 March

1 April to 30 June

1 July to 30 September

1 October to 31 December

FLEXIBLE STOCKING LEVEL APPROACH

In order to demonstrate that the flexible stocking requirements are met, the Grazing Association must complete a forward stocking schedule. The Grazing Association must commit to not exceeding the maximum number of LUs stated in the forward stocking schedule on any day on that contract land.

Description of Breach	Severity	Extent	Duration
Evidence that the maximum stocking levels have been exceeded.	<p>Low – either, less than 3% of prescribed total LUs or up to 5 LUs (whichever is the lowest number of LUs).</p> <p>Medium – either, greater than 3% and less than 5% of total prescribed LUs or greater than 5 and less than 15 LUs (whichever is the lowest number of LUs).</p> <p>High – either, more than 5% of total prescribed LUs or more than 15 LUs (whichever is the lowest number of LUs).</p>	Extent 4	<p>Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent</p>

Requirement – Closed Winter Period Option

The Grazing Association must undertake to ensure the removal of all livestock from the contract land for a pre-specified continuous 90 day period between 1 November and 31 March each year. The Grazing Association will nominate the chosen 90 day period on the Glastir Commons application form. In the event that the Grazing Association wishes to change the closed period start date in subsequent years then they must notify the Welsh Government of the new date in writing at least 30 days before the stock free period is due to begin.

Description of Breach	Severity	Extent	Duration
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Evidence that all stock were not removed from the contract land during the contractual 90 day Closed Winter Period.	<p>Low – up to 5 LUs.</p> <p>Medium – greater than 5 and less than 15 LUs</p> <p>High – more than 15 LUs</p>	Extent 4	<p>Rectifiable 1</p> <p>Rectifiable 2</p> <p>Permanent</p>
Evidence that the Welsh Government were not notified at least 30 days prior to any changes to the agreed stock free period.	Medium	Extent 4	<p>Rectifiable 1– less than 30 days but notification before the start of the stock free period.</p> <p>Rectifiable 2– notification during the agreed stock free period.</p> <p>Permanent– not received, received after the agreed stock free period finishes or identified by Welsh Government before any notification has been made.</p>

Requirement – Notifications of potential changes to contract			
Welsh Government must be informed within 30 days of any sale or transfer of land in a Glastir Contract or where the Grazing Association no longer meet the 80% Active Grazier requirement.			
Description of Breach	Severity	Extent	Duration

Contract requires sales and transfers to be notified within 30 days.	Low - Notification received, but not within 30 days. Medium – Notification not received.	Extent 1	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Failure to notify the Welsh Government of changes to the Grazing Association membership within 30 days of falling below this level.	Low	Extent 4	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent

Additional Management Payments

400 Additional Management Payment – Stock Management			
Comply with a stock management plan agreed with your contract manager			
Description of Breach	Severity	Extent	Duration
Evidence the stock management plan has not been complied with	Medium	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent

401 Additional Management Payment – Mixed Grazing			
A minimum of 30% of the livestock units (LUs) must be grazing cattle in each calendar year			
A minimum of 15% of the livestock units (LUs) must be grazing sheep in each calendar			
Description of Breach	Severity	Extent	Duration

Evidence the minimum livestock units have not been adhered to	<p>Low – either, less than 3% of prescribed total LUs or up to 5 LUs (whichever is the lowest number of LUs).</p> <p>Medium – either, greater than 3% and less than 5% of total prescribed LUs or greater than 5 and less than 15 LUs (whichever is the lowest number of LUs).</p> <p>High – either, more than 5% of total prescribed LUs or more than 15 LUs (whichever is the lowest number of LUs).</p>	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
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402 Additional Management Payment – Control Burning			
<p>Comply with a burning management plan agreed with your contract manager.</p> <p>Comply with the burning regulations.</p> <p>Firebreaks must be cut around the proposed burning sites.</p>			
Description of Breach	Severity	Extent	Duration
Evidence the burning management plan has not been complied with	Breach of Cross Compliance Regulations		
Evidence the burning regulations have not been complied with			
Evidence that firebreaks have not been cut around the proposed burning sites			
Not burnt	Medium	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent

403 Additional Management Payment – Re-Wetting
Comply with a re-wetting plan agreed with your contract manager

Description of Breach	Severity	Extent	Duration
Evidence the re-wetting plan has not been complied with	Medium	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent

404 Additional Management Payment – Re-Wetting (Improved Land)			
Comply with a re-wetting plan agreed with your contract manager			
Description of Breach	Severity	Extent	Duration
Evidence the re-wetting plan has not been complied with	Medium	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent

405 Additional Management Payment – Grazing Management for Dung Invertebrates			
Manage by grazing with cattle, ponies or horses only, between 1 March and 31 July each year			
Do not graze with livestock that have been treated with Avermectin products between 1 March and 31 July or within the 6 week period prior to grazing commencing			
Do not graze with livestock that have been treated with a bolus containing Avermectin during the current grazing season			
Keep a stocking diary to identify which individual animals have grazed the area between 1 March and 31 July and for how long			
Description of Breach	Severity	Extent	Duration
Evidence the area has not been managed by grazing	Medium	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Evidence that livestock treated with Avermectin have been grazing	Medium	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent
Is an up-to-date completed stocking diary available for inspection?	Low – Up to 20 animal entries missing Medium – More than 20 animal entries missing High – No records	Extent 1	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent

411 Additional Management Payment – Reduce Stocking			
Comply with the grazing plan detailing the additional stock reduction required			
Description of Breach	Severity	Extent	Duration
Evidence the grazing plan has not been complied with	Medium	Measurable	Rectifiable 1 Rectifiable 2 Permanent