



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Sustainable Farming Scheme – Universal Layer

UA11: Historic Environment Technical Guidance

April 2026



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1. Introduction

This technical guidance has been prepared to provide additional guidance and help to support you in carrying out works for the SFS Universal Layer, UA11: Historic Environment.

This technical guidance covers Scheduled Monuments and Traditional Buildings specifically; it does not cover Registered Parks and Gardens or Historic Environment Features.

The full requirements for UA11: Historic Environment are set out at Section J11 of the [Sustainable Farming Scheme \(2026\): universal layer: rules booklet | GOV.WALES](#)

Your SFS Map available on your RPW Online account will identify all Historic Environment Features, relevant to this Universal Action. Guidance on how to use the SFS Map is available on the Welsh Government website [Sustainable Farming Scheme: how to use my SFS map | GOV.WALES](#).

The Historic Environment layer on the SFS Map has been created using information from Cadw and Heneb. To get more information on these features you will need to speak to the relevant competent authority.

For Scheduled Monuments (SM) and Registered Historic Parks and Gardens (RHPG) you can contact Cadw either through their website www.cadw.gov.wales or via email to ScheduledMonuments@gov.wales

For Historic Environment Features (HEF) you can contact Heneb through their website www.heneb.org.uk or via email to her@heneb.org.uk.

For Traditional Buildings you should provide details directly to Rural Payments Wales.

If it is confirmed that these features are not on your holding, you can highlight this on the Single Application Form (SAF) against the unresolved data issues question.

You will also have the opportunity on the SFS Universal Dashboard once you have claimed SFS Universal layer to identify any features that you believe not to be present.

Any updates to maps would require the permission of the relevant authority and if approved may take some time for the features to be removed from your SFS map.

Please note, the Universal Action requirement is to maintain the current condition of the feature and to not cause any damage. Based on the type of feature, if there is any specific aspect of the management requirements that you cannot meet, a derogation can be requested using the SFS Derogation or Enquiry form available on your RPW Online account.

Tenancies

If you claim for SFS – Universal Layer on tenanted land on which there are Scheduled Monuments, Historic Environment Features, Registered Historic Parks and Gardens or traditional farm buildings that the landlord has reserved from the tenancy agreement, the requirements will not apply as these features do not form part of your tenancy agreement, and you do not have management control over them.

However, where any or all of these features have not been reserved by the landlord, your responsibility to these features will be determined by the maintenance, repair and replacement clauses of your tenancy agreement.

For tenancies regulated by the Agricultural Holdings Act 1986 you may also need to refer to the relevant regulatory model repairing clauses. These are deemed to be incorporated into your tenancy agreement where the tenancy agreement is otherwise silent or incomplete in respect of repairing obligations as between the landlord and the tenant.

2. Scheduled Monuments:

Monuments of national importance are classed as Scheduled Monuments. They are legally protected from damage, disturbance and unauthorised works under the Historic Environment (Wales) Act, 2023 (on legislation.gov.uk).

- Please note: Other than scrub removal and basic erosion repair no work to a Scheduled Monument may be carried out without written scheduled monument consent from Cadw.
- If you require further information or advice relating to the management of Scheduled Monuments on your land, please contact Cadw - scheduled.monument@gov.wales.
- The management of Scheduled Monuments, which are also designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) should be completed in accordance with the UA7: Designated Site Management Plan, once approved. Cadw will be consulted on the management plans developed by Natural Resources Wales (NRW).
- Before your management plan is in place follow the appropriate guidance in 2.1 (erosion scars on improved land), 2.2 (erosion scars on habitats and designated sites) and 2.3 (scrub cutting and removal, including on registered parkland).

2.1 Repair of Small-Scale Erosion Scars on Scheduled Monuments on improved land

Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023

Section 51(5)(a) of the Act provides Scheduled Monument consent to undertake minor works, such as erosion repair and scrub control to Scheduled Monuments, provided that the works are undertaken as per the guidance specified by Cadw.

The guidance below must be followed for the works to be legally compliant:

Please note: A condition of this consent is that photographs must be taken before works are undertaken and upon completion. These photographs should be forwarded to Cadw via this link [Help Cadw to monitor the condition of scheduled monuments in Wales | DataMapWales \(gov.wales\)](#) or email: scheduled.monument@gov.wales

In the event that any archaeological artefacts or remains are exposed, work on that part of the site must stop immediately and Cadw must be contacted for further advice.

- Earthwork repairs are required when areas of historic earthworks have eroded because of livestock wear, poaching, paths, etc.
- The eroded area should be in-filled with soil that is derived from outside of the scheduled or protected area and the surface re-seeded with an appropriate seed mix.
- Given that these works are designed to address small scale erosion scars it is not anticipated that it will be necessary to employ mechanised machinery for these works, hand tools (shovel, wheelbarrows etc) should suffice. Should machinery be necessary please contact Cadw for advice before undertaking the works.
- With small scrapes, an alternative is to in-fill using whole turf derived from outside the scheduled or protected area which negates the need for reseeding.
- Stock should be temporarily excluded from the repaired area until the vegetation has re-established and stabilised. Alternatively, where sheep are grazing the field, chicken mesh can be fixed/pegged into place protecting the repaired area.
- Where erosion has developed around a focus point it is sometimes necessary to also remove the 'cause', for example individual hawthorn / blackthorn trees or small stands often act as shelter on vulnerable areas. By removing the tree/s and undertaking erosion repair the problem should not reoccur.
- Please note that with tree removal, the stump should be left in the ground to avoid damaging the underlying archaeological deposits, although chemical treatment of the stump is permissible.
- Feeders can also result in large areas of surface wear and therefore feeders should not be sited on or near Scheduled Monuments.
- Where there are 'pinch points' along pathways, it will be necessary to repair the damaged area and then open up the path by removing some of the surrounding vegetation (scrub, bramble, weeds etc).

2.2 Repair of Small-Scale Erosion Scars on Scheduled Monuments on Designated Sites and Habitats

On Designated Sites the following are permitted:

- Stock should be temporarily excluded from the repaired area until the vegetation has re-established and stabilised. Alternatively, where sheep are grazing the field, chicken mesh can be fixed/pegged into place protecting the repaired area.

- For management of pinch points etc, please ensure it is addressed in your designated site management plan.
- Feeders can also result in large areas of surface wear and therefore feeders should not be sited on or near Scheduled Monuments.

On habitats outside Designated Sites the following are also permitted:

- Where erosion has developed around a focus point it is sometimes necessary to also remove the 'cause', for example individual hawthorn / blackthorn trees or small stands often act as shelter on vulnerable areas. By removing the tree/s and undertaking erosion repair the problem should not reoccur.
- Where there are 'pinch points' along pathways, it will be necessary to repair the damaged area and then open up the path by removing some of the surrounding vegetation (scrub, bramble, weeds etc).
- Please note that with tree removal, the stump should be left in the ground to avoid damaging the underlying archaeological deposits, although chemical treatment of the stump is permissible.

2.3 Cutting and Removal of scrub on Scheduled Monuments (also permitted within Registered Parkland)

The cutting and removal of scrub on Scheduled Monument which are also designated as SSSI should be completed in accordance with the UA7 Designated Site Management Plan. Cadw will be consulted on the management plans developed by NRW.

- Archaeological features such as barrows, forts, deserted medieval villages or even simple boundary banks are often best preserved under a cover of grass or heath. A light grazing or mowing regime is all that is required to maintain this cover. You should ensure that earthworks are not disturbed and that a cover of grass or heath is maintained.
- Scrub consists of woody shrubs or trees such as hawthorn, willow, gorse and birch which are pioneer or opportunist species.
- Cut scrub at ground level leaving no protruding stumps. Alternatively remove small seedlings by hand pulling. Removal of large stumps using machinery is not acceptable.
- Cut material must not be burnt within the scheduled area, unless that has been agreed with Cadw and the burning of standing scrub is only to be attempted following agreement from Cadw.

- Cut material should be removed from the site unless Cadw agree otherwise, or the work is being undertaken to manage a woodland. In such circumstances, cut material should be stacked carefully under the remaining scrub patches where it can be left to decay and provide additional cover/habitat for wildlife.
- To protect nesting birds, you must not clear scrub in the bird nesting season 1 March to 31 August. You must seek advice from NRW if protected species such as badgers are likely to be present.

Use of Herbicides

- After cutting, many species will respond by sending out new shoots rather than being killed outright. This growth may be controlled by grazing or by mowing, but it may be necessary to treat either the cut stump or the bushy re-growth with a suitable herbicide.
- Any chemical used must have a label recommendation for treating scrub (either re-growth or cut stumps) and for the intended method of application. All manufacturers label recommendations regarding application of the herbicide should be strictly adhered to.

3. Traditional Farm Buildings

Traditional farm buildings were usually constructed before 1919, with solid walls and built using locally sourced materials including slate, stone or wood. They are generally functional and rugged and many still retain original external features.

These requirements only apply to intact traditional farm buildings. Ruinous or remnant structures and buildings must be retained but do not require active repair and maintenance.

Please note: The requirements do not prevent you adapting or converting any farm building, however, it is your responsibility to ensure you have all consents and licences from the relevant authorities. The requirements below involve basic maintenance and repair and therefore do not require Listed Building Consent.

You must retain all traditional buildings and remnant structures on your land, regardless of condition, unless they cause a demonstrable health and safety hazard.

Lime mortar works should be undertaken between 1 April and 30 September to prevent the risk of frost damage to the new mortar.

3.1 Minor pointing and re-bedding works:

- You should re-bed isolated loose stones and replace small areas of missing pointing or render, matching with the existing lime mortar or render.
- Re-pointing and re-bedding shall be carried out using a 3.5 Natural Hydraulic Lime (NHL) mortar. The strength of the lime mortar mix should be sympathetic to the strength of the stone but as a general guide - repointing should utilise a lime mortar mix of 1:2.5 (1 part NHL lime to 2.5 parts – coarse washed concreting sand – colour and aggregate size to match original).
- Pointing of both face and core-work should match the texture, colour and general appearance of old work.
- Joints should be raked out to a minimum depth of 40mm or twice the thickness of the joint (whichever is greater), in order to remove all dirt, root growth and loose or friable mortar.
- The joints should then be thoroughly wetted prior to repointing or re-bedding.
- Mortar should be packed well into all joints and finished slightly recessed, so that the edges of the stone are visible. No voids should remain and no holes or cracks where water can collect should be left in the finished pointing, as the water will freeze and expand in very cold weather and loosen stonework.
- The pointing should be finished so that the aggregate within the mortar is exposed. This can be achieved by brushing back with a stiff brush the newly

pointed mortar once it has begun to go-off/set. This also assists in tightening the joint and fills hairline cracks left through shrinkage.

- Pointing work should not be undertaken when aggregate is frozen or when the temperature is 5 degrees C or below or is likely to fall below 5 degrees before the mortar has set. A suitable insulated covering should be used to protect lime mortar repairs and pointing from cold temperatures.
- Care should be taken to ensure that the pointing does not dry out too quickly and new pointing must be kept damp during hot weather. This can be done by using dampened hessian matting (or similar) draped over the newly pointed area.
- On completion, all stones are to be left free from mortar staining using proprietary cleaning fluids if necessary.
- Rendering should match the traditional mixes, materials, finishes, detailing and decoration. Bell casts at window heads, plinths etc must be avoided.
- Re-bedding should be done using the original stone. If additional or replacement stone is required, it should match the original.
- You must remove new vegetation from walls before it takes hold. Invasive growth that cannot be removed by hand without damaging masonry or pointing should be treated with a systemic herbicide, by stem injection, and left in place to die and fall away.
- You should remove vegetation growing against external walls, where doing so does not reduce the structural integrity of the remaining walls, and ensure that soil does not build up at the base of walls or above the level of underfloor ventilation grilles or air bricks. Check drainage channels and gullies for cracks and open joints and seal if necessary. Avoid storing materials outside the building close to the walls.

3.2 Rainwater Goods (Guttering and downpipes)

- Replacement rainwater goods should match the traditional in terms of materials, profile, fixings etc including spiked brackets where appropriate.
- You should clear gutters of leaves and debris, especially during autumn and winter. Replacing defective or broken sections.
- When re-fixing downpipes, you should install wooden spacers behind the brackets to improve ventilation and access for redecoration. Where present, ensure that grilles and mesh covers are in place. Rod drains, if necessary.