

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP 2013/14 PROGRAMME

Timetable of activities for agreements to commence between 1 April and 31 December 2013

IDENTIFY WHETHER HOLDING IS SUITABLE FOR ELS OR HLS		
Date	Steps to be taken by <u>land agents / farmers and land managers</u>	Steps to be taken by <u>Natural England</u>
Dec 2011 to 8 March 2012	HLS 3-Tier Clinics Identify holdings possibly suitable for HLS 2013/14 start dates. Contact NE to discuss and to book place at HLS clinic. Send in <i>HLS Clinic Agent Authorisation</i> and <i>Holding Details</i> .	HLS 3-Tier Clinics List clinics dates & venues on Natural England website. Issue press release to raise awareness. Send clinic invitations to registered ES agents.
Mid March 2012	Await outcome of clinic	Finalise HLS 2013/14 Programme Consider clinic results to determine which to include in 2013/14 HLS Programme. Notify stakeholders of proposed number of agreements, budget and balance of outcomes at meeting in late March.
April and May 2012	Receive outcome from clinic	Confirmation of HLS 2013/14 Programme Send letters to agents/farmers to confirm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Clinic outcome: suitable for HLS or ELS? o If HLS then letter will confirm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Tier allocation o Authorisation to FEP (if appropriate) o Deadline for submitting FEP & HLS application & planned HLS start date.

HOLDINGS INVITED TO APPLY FOR HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP (HLS)						
Date	Steps to be taken by <u>land agents / farmers and land managers</u> for HLS Standard or Complex Tier holdings with ...				Steps to be taken by <u>Natural England</u> for HLS ...	
	ESA agreement expiring April 2013	ESA agreement expiring Aug 2013	CSS agreement expiring Sep 2013	No previous ESA or CSS agreement	Standard / Complex Tier holdings	Fast Track Tier holdings
May 2012	Carry out FEP and prepare application. <i>Some will have been approved in 2012/13 HLS Clinic so application can be worked up early.</i> Submit FEP & application by date agreed with Natural England. <i>NB: Applications received after the agreed date may be rejected.</i>	Carry out FEP and prepare application. Submit FEP & application by date agreed with Natural England. <i>NB: Applications received after the agreed date may be rejected.</i>	Carry out FEP and prepare application. Submit FEP & application by date agreed with Natural England. <i>NB: Applications received after the agreed date may be rejected.</i>	Carry out FEP and prepare application. Submit FEP & application by date agreed between farmer/agent and Natural England.	Liaise with agents and/or farmers to deal with any queries regarding the FEPs and applications. Consider FEPs & applications; issue offer letters to farmer.	Carry out FEPs and prepare applications.
Jun 2012						
July 2012						
Aug 2012						
Sept 2012						
Oct 2012						
Nov 2012						
Dec 2012						
Jan 2013	1 st Jan 2013: New agreements which start on or after this date will be subject to changes to the current RDPE introduced through the Making Environmental Stewardship More Effective (MESME) programme.					
Feb 2013	Final chance to sign and return offer letter for guaranteed 1 st May start date.			NB: These follow the same path as those with expiring ESA/CSS agreements. However, there is some flexibility on the start date as it is not dependent on the end date of any previous agreement.		
Mar 2013						
Apr 2013						
May 2013	HLS agreement begins on 1 st May.	Final chance to sign and return offer letter for guaranteed 1 st September start date.	Final chance to sign and return offer letter for guaranteed 1 st Oct start date.	Final chance to sign and return offer letters for 2013 start date.	April 2013 ESA expiries: Last chance to finalise HLS applications to secure 1 st May start dates.	
Jun 2013						
Jul 2013						
Aug 2013						
Aug 2013	HLS agreement begins 1 st Sept.			Final chance to sign and return offer letters for 2013 start date.	Aug 2013 ESA expiries: Last chance to finalise HLS applications to secure 1 st Sept start dates.	Sept 2013 CSS expiries: Last chance to finalise HLS applications to secure 1 st Oct start dates.
Sep 2013						
Oct 2013						
Nov 2013	HLS agreement begins on 1 st Oct.			All 2013/14 HLS agreements must be fully processed by 30/11/13 for 1 st December start dates.	All offers need to have been processed and finalised by 30/11/13. Last start date for this delivery year is 1 st December 2013.	
Dec 2013						

HOLDINGS SUITABLE FOR ENTRY LEVEL STEWARDSHIP (ELS)					
Date	Steps to be taken by <u>land agents / farmers and land managers</u> for holdings with ...				Steps to be taken by <u>Natural England</u>
	ESA agreements expiring April 2013	ESA agreements expiring Aug 2013	CSS agreements expiring Sep 2013	No previous ESA or CSS agreements	
April 2012	Attend ETIP farm event or 1:1 farm visit (if required). Decide which options are most suitable for holding.	Attend ETIP farm event or take up offer of free 1:1 farm visit Decide which options are most suitable for holding.	Attend ETIP farm event or take up offer of free 1:1 farm visit. Decide which options are most suitable for holding.	Activities are as per those with expiring ESA / CSS – dates will depend on ELS expiry date.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 months before ESA & CSS agreements expire and 6 months before ELS agreements expire: Contact customer to confirm the end date of the existing agreement, invite renewal/transfer to ELS and offer free advice. • 10 to 6 months before agreements expire: Provide advice to customer (if required) to identify best options for ELS application and help them through the process. • Process applications. • Send copy of agreement to customer and return option maps to agreement holder.
May 2012					
Jun 2012					
Jul 2012					
Aug 2012					
Sep 2012	Complete and submit ELS application form at least 3 months before intended start date.				
Oct 2012					
Nov 2012					
Dec 2012					
Jan 2013	1 st Jan 2013: New agreements which start on or after this date will be subject to changes to the current RDPE introduced through the Making Environmental Stewardship More Effective (MESME) programme.				
Feb 2013					
Mar 2013					
Apr 2013	ELS agreement commences.	Complete and submit ELS application form at least 3 months before intended start date.	Complete and submit ELS application form at least 3 months before intended start date.		
May 2013					
Jun 2013					
Jul 2013					
Aug 2013					
Sept 2013					
		ELS agreement commences.	ELS agreement commences.		

Further information on Environmental Stewardship is available on the Natural England website at www.naturalengland.org.uk/es, including a simple [Payment timing tool: \(358kb\)](#) to help you work out the timings of Environmental Stewardship revenue payments for existing and new agreements.