

Circular 05/2016

21st March 2016

To: GLAS Advisors

Re: Modification of Tranche 1 Specification for Wild Bird Cover, Hen Harrier, Commonage Management Plans (CMPs) and Commonage Farm Plans (CFPs)

Dear Advisor,

This Circular updates the Specification for the following Green, Low-carbon, Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS) Tranche 1 actions;

1. Wild Bird Cover – wheat and barley may be used as a cereal crop;
2. Hen Harrier – requirement 6 is changed, removing the following text:

“Parcels with rush cover are valuable to the Hen Harrier. Therefore where rushes are present within a Hen Harrier parcel and grazing does not prevent them exceeding approximately 70% of the area of the parcel, they must be cut rotationally by cutting no more than 50% of the area of rushes in a parcel on an annual basis.”

The text is replaced with:

“Parcels with rush cover are valuable to the Hen Harrier. Grazing can maintain a suitable mosaic of rush and open area. Mechanical control may be required from time to time to prevent rushes becoming excessive. Where mechanical control is to be undertaken, the rush cutting regime set out in Appendix 16 should be followed. If topping is not possible due to ground conditions, rushes can be weed licked. The frequency of rush control should be based on the vigour/cover of rushes on a field-by-field basis, but there should be no more than one round of cutting per year – Appendix 16 is set out overleaf.”

3. Commonage Management Plan (CMP) and Commonage Farm Plan (CFP) – requirement 11, removing the following text:

“The Maximum Eligible Area (MEA) of the commonage as declared on the 2015 BPS application must not decrease over the course of the GLAS contract.”

GLAS
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Appendix 16: Alternate linear strip cutting or weed licking of rushes for Hen Harrier parcels

Note: Where grazing can control and maintain a suitable mosaic of rush and open area, control of rushes through cutting or weed licking is not required.

If required, the alternate linear strip mowing of rushes (below) is designed to create and maximise structural diversity which is important for the Hen Harrier. The objective is to create linear strips of rushes that are tall and are adjacent to linear strips with shorter rushes. This is to be achieved as follows:

Round A: Uncut	Round A: Cut	Round A: Uncut	Round A: Cut	Round A: Uncut	Round A: Cut
Round B: Cut	Round B: Uncut	Round B: Cut	Round B: Uncut	Round B: Cut	Round B: Uncut

- Round A = First round of rush control
- Round B = Second round of rush control

Note: The frequency of rush control should be based on the vigour/cover of rushes on a field-by-field basis, but there should be no more than one round of cutting per year; i.e. Round B cannot be undertaken in the same year as Round A.