

Western mixed: 139 MARSHWOOD AND POWERSTOCK VALES

Landscape effects of ES: Assessment

Objective	Indicator	Uptake	Stock	Threshold	Result	Are the ES options with the greatest potential benefit being taken up?
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Woodland/tree cover

Score: 0.5

Key characteristics:

Distinctive scattering of mature hedgerow oak trees
 Narrow ribbons of woodland along the many streams
 Elsewhere woodlands and copses confined to steeper slopes
 Larger conifer plantations on the north west borders of the area, where it merges with the Blackmore Vale

A1	Active woodland management	% of woodland managed under ES	120	ha	1068.4	5	%	11.2	Yes	This is a relatively high level of uptake compared to the other NCAs
A5	Protection of in-field trees	Number of in-field trees protected under ES	331	Tree		1500	per NCA		Yes	It is suspected that this uptake relates to the protection of hedgerow trees
A7	Renewal of hedgerow trees	Number of hedgerow trees established under ES				500	per NCA		No	It would be beneficial if there was some uptake of this option
A8	Management of riverside / bankside trees	Number of bankside trees coppiced	379	Number		500	per NCA		Yes	
A9	Management and extension of traditional orchards	% of traditional orchards managed under ES	4	ha	37.7	5	%	10.6	Yes	The small total uptake relates to the maintenance, restoration and creation of traditional orchards

Field patterns and boundary types

Score: 0.5

Key characteristics:

4

Rhythmic pattern of this landscape defined by its strong but varied network of hedgerows
 Hedgerows typically low and well trimmed on the Greensand ridges, overgrown on the steeper slopes and dense but well managed in the vale.

B1	Management and restoration of hedgerows	% of hedgerows managed under ES	228.6	km	654	20	%	35	Yes	26% of uptake is for enhanced hedgerow management (EB3) and the management of hedgerows of very high environmental quality (HB11/12)
B2	Creation of new hedgerow lengths	Length of new hedgerows planted	1.1	km		10	km per NCA		Yes	

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Agricultural land use

Score: 0.5

Key characteristics:

Pasture predominates in Marshwood Vale, on the Powerstock Hills and on the steeper slopes of the Greensand ridges and hills
Arable cultivation predominates in the broad Brit valley

C2	Retention of mixed/pastoral character	% of improved grassland managed as low input grassland under ES	1364	ha	6749	20	%	20.2	Yes	48% of uptake is for the more beneficial very low input grassland
C4	Retention and management of rough pasture	% of rough grassland managed as semi-improved/rough grassland under ES	254	ha	1406.9	20	%	18.1	Yes	

Traditional farm buildings

Score: 0

Key characteristics:

4

Older traditional buildings built of limestone or Ham Hill Stone

D1	Retention of historic farm buildings	% of historic buildings maintained under ES	29.7	Approx number	1166	10	%	2.5	Yes	
D2	Restoration of historic farm buildings	Number of agreements with historic building restoration							No	Some uptake would be beneficial

Historic environment

Score: 0

Key characteristics:

Barrows forming prominent skyline features on the Greensand hills
Iron Age hillforts like Lambert's Castle, Coney's Castle and Pilsdon Pen
Prehistoric settlement sites in the valleys

E3	Retention and management of archaeology on grass	% of archaeological resource on grassland under relevant ES archaeology options for grassland	80	ha	265.3	50	%	30.2	Yes	Greater uptake would be beneficial
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Semi-natural habitats

Score: 1

Key characteristics:

4

Unimproved grasslands, wet flushes and marshy areas found along the springlines at the valley sides
Prominent patches of heathland within mosaics of bracken, gorse and acid grassland on the ridges and steeper Greensand slopes

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F1 Management/restoration/creation of lowland species-rich grassland	% of acid, calcareous and neutral grassland managed as species-rich grassland under ES	736 ha	356	20 %	206.7	Yes BAP Priority Habitats: 155ha lowland meadows, 43ha lowland calcareous grassland. Uptake predominantly for the restoration of species-rich grassland
F4 Management of lowland hay meadows	% of acid, calcareous, neutral and wet grassland managed as hay meadows	60 ha	356	10 %	16.9	Yes This is a high level of uptake compared to other NCAs
F5 Management/restoration/creation of lowland heathland	% of lowland heathland managed as such under ES	15 ha	40.4	20 %	37.2	Yes BAP Priority Habitats: 73ha lowland dry acid grassland; 15ha Lowland heathland. Uptake is for the restoration of lowland heathland
F6 Management/restoration/creation of fen, lowland raised bog and reedbed	% of fen marsh and swamp managed as wetland under ES		179	20 %		No