

provision. There are significant opportunities to provide additional **permissive routes** that link and extend the existing **Public Rights of Way network**, link with **coastal /open access areas** and the provision of **educational access**.

What do I need to do to get an agreement?

Applications must perform **ONE*** or more of the following land management activities:

- Maintain/Restore/Create important areas of the following habitats: **grazing marshes** and associated ditches, **intertidal habitats** (such as coastal saltmarsh and coastal sand dunes); **reedbeds, fens, old meadows and pastures** (lowland meadows), **heathlands, wet woodland, wood pasture** and **ancient semi-natural woodlands**¹

- Provide habitat for the following range restricted farmland birds:

Arable Birds: Provision of nesting habitats, summer food and winter food wherever three or more of the following arable birds species occur – **lapwing (breeding), grey partridge, yellow wagtail, tree sparrow, turtle dove & corn bunting** or (with strong supporting evidence) the holding is known to support important regional breeding populations for any of these species²

AND/OR

Wet Grassland Birds: Provision of nesting habitats and summer food where three or more the following wet grassland species breed – **lapwing, snipe, redshank, curlew, yellow wagtail** or (with strong supporting evidence) the holding is known to support important regional breeding populations for any of these species²

- Provide a suite of management options that can deliver the most appropriate management for **rare invertebrates, rare species of bat** and/or **rare arable plants**
- Positive management of **visible and below ground archaeological and historic features** that are assessed as a priority in the region³
- Protect, maintain and restore **historic landscapes and their features**, such as parkland, where they are assessed as a priority in the region⁴
- Maintain or restore **historic buildings** that are assessed as a priority in the region⁵
- Implement land management practices and capital works to minimise soil erosion from **land at risk of generating diffuse pollution in catchments** such as the **Bure, Ant and Muckfleet, Yare, Waveney** and **Wensum**⁶
- Restore **important characteristic field boundary patterns** such as **pre-enclosure and parish boundaries**
- **Provide permissive access** where there is identified demand or need in order to link people with places, enhance existing networks, particularly where providing circular access routes and/or providing links to **Coastal Access routes** and **open access** areas and/or provide opportunity to improve people's understanding of the farmed environment through **educational access**

If you think that you can help Natural England achieve any of the above objectives please contact your local office using the number below. Natural England currently hold additional information about environment features on your holding which will be used to identify priority holdings, as a result of this, please note that you may be contacted directly by us.

Please note: * applications seeking to maintain or restore field boundaries must be accompanied by another land management activity from the list provided

Footnotes:

¹Creation of the habitats listed above will be considered where there are significant opportunities to extend, link or buffer important areas of existing habitat to reduce the impacts of fragmentation. Creation of intertidal habitats on land that is currently of low value for wildlife, for example arable land will also be considered.

²Provision of nesting habitats, summer food and winter food (for arable birds) will typically include a combination of the following management: field corner management; provision of beetle banks, wildlife seed mixtures (both wild bird food and pollen & nectar mixes), fallow nesting plots; conservation headlands; uncropped/cultivated margins, sowing of low-input spring cereals and hedgerow management. Provision of nesting habitats and summer food (for wetland birds) will typically require specific management/restoration of existing wet grassland and management of water levels which would provide the right sward height and conditions for this assemblage of species. Maps showing the location of key areas believed to support the species listed above are available at <http://www.natureonthemap.org.uk>.

³This statement refers to both designated (Scheduled Monuments) and undesignated historic environment features that have been prioritised in accordance with advice from Natural England, English Heritage and local authority archaeologists. It aims to ensure positive management of visible features such as earthworks, standing stones and structures, and action for the most vulnerable archaeological sites that are currently in cultivation, for example by reducing the depth of damaging cultivations through minimum tillage or direct drilling where this offers a suitable level of protection. It also includes the maintenance of below-ground archaeology under permanent uncultivated vegetation and maintaining sufficient waterlogged conditions to preserve organic archaeological material in wetlands.

⁴ This statement refers to both designated (Registered Parks and Gardens, World Heritage Sites and Registered Battlefields) and undesignated historic environment features that have been prioritised in accordance with advice from Natural England, English Heritage and local authority archaeologists. It aims to significantly address the condition of historic landscapes through the proactive maintenance or restoration of structures or features that make a major contribution to the design intentions, character or feel of the area, as well as providing for their biodiversity and amenity value.

⁵Natural England has a method of prioritising historic buildings by assessing them for their significance, vulnerability and value for money. To check the eligibility of your building, and to find out if your building is a priority for action, please contact Natural England.

⁶Options or capital items that improve infiltration and reduce runoff may also provide benefits for flood management.

For more information on Higher Level Stewardship please see our website: www.naturalengland.org.uk

Before applying for HLS you are required to discuss your proposals with a Natural England adviser.

To contact an adviser please telephone 0300 060 1114