

**PROPOSED ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY (BODIAM TO ROBERTSBRIDGE
JUNCTION) ORDER**

TRANSPORT AND WORKS ACT 1992

Ref: DPI/U1430 /18/21 (TWA/18/APP/02)

**SUMMARY NOTE
OF THE HIGHER LEVEL SCHEME AGREEMENT
RELATING TO MOAT FARM
ANDREW HIGHWOOD LLM FRICS FAAV
ON BEHALF OF THE HOAD FAMILY OF PARSONAGE FARM
AND THE TRUSTEES AND EXECUTORS OF
THE NOEL DE QUINCEY ESTATE AND MRS EMMA AINSLIE OF MOAT FARM**

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ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY

The Hoad family of Parsonage Farm, and the Trustees and Executors of the Noel de Quincey Estate and Mrs Emma Ainslie of Moat Farm



This note has been prepared in response to the Inspector's questions to me regarding paragraph 7.12 of my Proof of Evidence and to provide confirmation of the areas of land within Moat Farm that are in the higher level of financial payment within the HLS Agreement.

Moat Farm has entered into a Higher Tier Land Stewardship Agreement with Natural England. The Agreement has been in place for 5 years and was renewed in January this year (Agreement number 1014615).

The Agreement categorises different parts of Moat Farm into different areas. Each defined area has identified characteristics, management objectives and payment tiers.

The objectives of the various areas are noted in the agreement as follows:

GS 2: Grassland with very low inputs:

'To provide a varied sward structure and more flowering grasses and wildflowers, in order to increase the habitat and food available for invertebrates, birds and other animals'.

GS 6 Management of species rich grassland:

'To maintain & enhance Priority Grasslands (as defined by section 41 of the NERC Act 2006). The option can also contribute to protecting valued landscapes and archaeology and the promotion of good soil conditions'

GS 15 Haymaking supplement:

'To retain and restore high botanical value meadow grassland, help reduce and diffuse pollution and benefit landscape character.'

BE4: Management of traditional orchards:

'To maintain and restore existing traditional orchards'.

WT12: Wetland grazing supplement:

'To support appropriate grazing management of wetland habitats'.

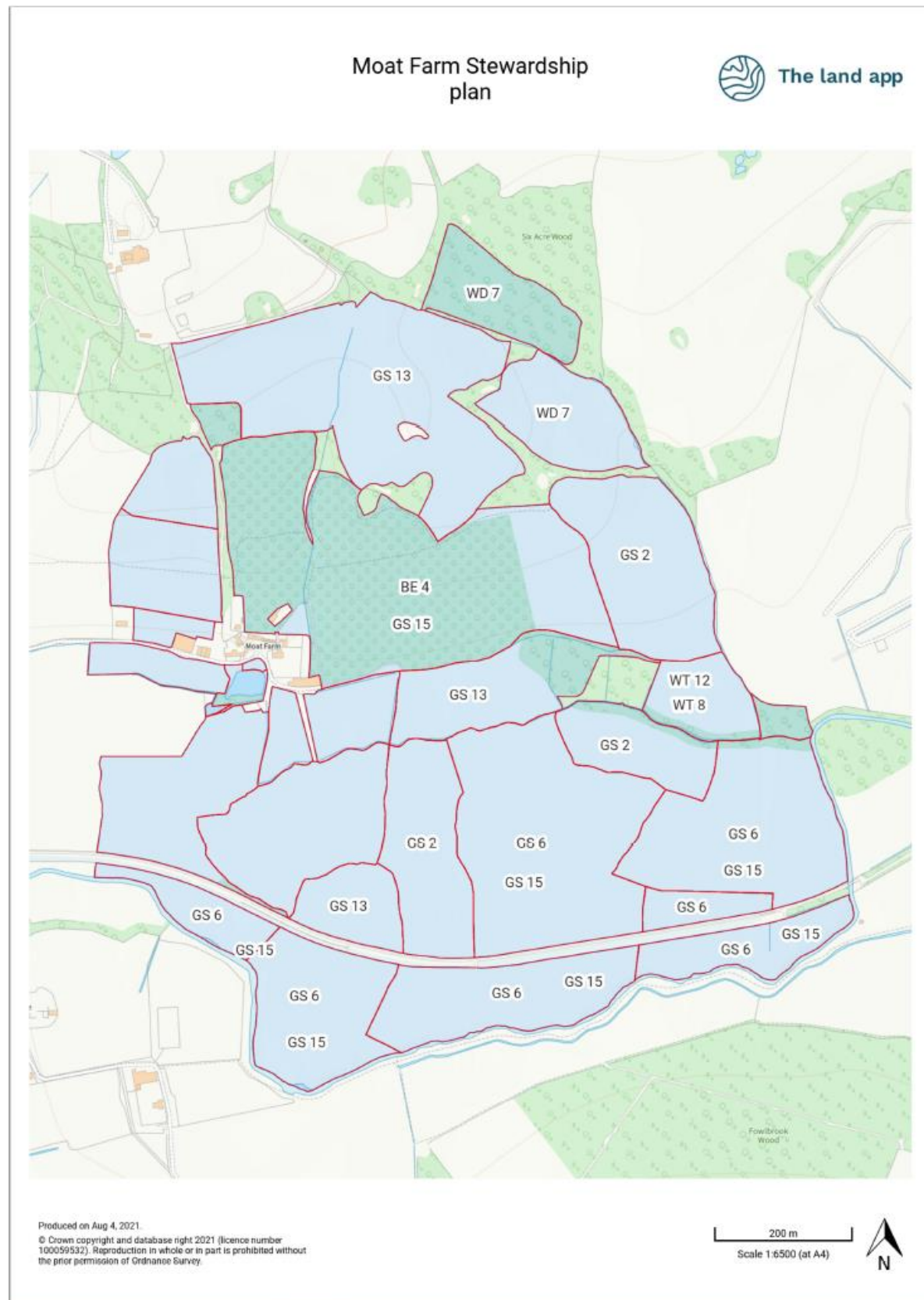
WD7: Management of successional areas and scrub:

'To enhance habitats for specific target species, to improve the quality of the woodland edge environment, to protect soils and watercourses and to provide habitat structure'.

The plan below forms part of the HLS Agreement for Moat Farm. The line of the proposed railway falls outside the areas covered by the HLS agreement. The plan identifies each area covered by the Agreement by reference to a code. An extract from the Agreement follows the plan and that provides further details relating to GS6 which is the designation applied to the land forming plot 98 extending to 7,194 square metres and plot 103 extending to 1,409 square metres. All of the areas shown on the plan are within the higher levels of financial payments within the HLS scheme.

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Countryside Stewardship Agreement Document

Option Code	GS6		Management of species-rich grassland	
Parcel Information	Name:	CHURCHIL	Parcel Area:	7.9896 ha
	Parcel No.:	TQ7624 1911	Option Quantity:	7.9896 ha
Aim (not binding)	To maintain and enhance Priority Grasslands (as defined by Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006). The option can also contribute to protecting valued landscapes and archaeology, and the promotion of good soil conditions.			
Eligibility Rules				
	E174	Only available on Section 41 Grassland Priority Habitat, as defined in BEHTA Manual Keys 2a and 2b.		
	E41	For Higher Tier only, you must submit a standard soil analysis on request - see Soil sampling for habitat recreation and restoration.		
Prescriptions				
	P10	Only use pesticides, including herbicides, to spot-treat or weed-wipe for the control of injurious weeds , invasive non-natives, nettles, rushes or bracken.		
	P121	Maintain a continuous grass sward/vegetation cover over historic and archaeological features so that bare patches and erosion do not cover more than 5% of the features.		
	P135	Only top between 1 August and 30 September except in patches to control injurious weeds, invasive non-native species, bracken or areas dominated by rushes. Do not top more than 30% of the total area		
	P138	Retain well-established scrub to a maximum of 10% of the parcel area. It must be retained as discrete small patches, lines and occasional individual bushes scattered across the site. Do not cut more than half of the scrub in any one year except on historic and archaeological features.		
	P2	Do not apply any fertilisers or manures.		
	P31	Do not harrow or roll on historic or archaeological features.		
	P400	Only plough, cultivate or re-seed as part of an agreed sward enhancement programme.		
	P42	Control/Manage scrub so that cover is no more than 5%. Remove all cut material.		
	P428	Cut and remove hay every year. Do not cut/top before 20th July. Leave at least 5% uncut. This need not be the same 5%each year. All cuttings must be removed. Exclude livestock for a minimum of 7 weeks before cutting and/or by 15 May at the latest. In years when hay is taken, graze the aftermath.		
	P438	Do not work on ditches/surface water features between 1 April and 31 August.		
	P441	Only carry out mechanical operations or allow other activities that may cause disturbance to breeding birds between 1 July and 31 October. .		
	P450	The Soil Phosphate Index must not increase from the application level 0.		
	P470	By year 3, at least 2 indicator species for G06 - Lowland Meadows, must be frequent and 2 indicator species occasional as defined in the BEHTA Handbook in flower between May and July. .		
	P520	Do not supplementary feed .		

Date Agreement Document Generated: 09/02/2021

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	P530	Do not manage all the ditches covered by this option in the same year
	P667	From year 1 onwards, manage by grazing and/or cutting for hay to maintain a sward with a range of flowering plants and heights to provide nectar and shelter for insects. Maintain non hay fields swards during the growing season so that at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% more than 7 cm. You do not need to maintain this height variation when the field is closed for hay. Following hay cuts, aftermath graze to achieve a sward height of between 2 cm and 10 cm by November.
	P673	Agree all drainage works, including modification to existing drainage, in writing with Natural England before undertaking any works.
	P706	Keep a monthly record of stock numbers grazing on each field parcels. Make the record available on request.
Indicators of Success (not binding)		
	IOS1	By year 2, there should be between 1% and 5% cover of bare ground, unless the field has been re-seeded with a wildflower mix or green hay. Some bare ground, particularly on the naturally eroding river bank is important for insects
	IOS2	
	IOS27	By year 5, there should be at least 2 species from the G06 BEHTA species table present at frequent levels and 2 species present at occasional levels throughout the field .
	IOS34	
	IOS68	
	IOS83	In all years, there should be less than 5% cover of undesirable species such as creeping thistles, spear thistles, curled dock, broad-leaved dock, common ragwort and nettles.
	IOS9	
	IOS97	By year 5, there should be between 20% and 90% cover of wildflowers in the sward excluding injurious weeds but including rushes and sedges. At least 40% of wild flowers should be flowering during May to July.

Signed.....

ANDREW HIGHWOOD LLM FRICS FAAV

DIRECTOR

Dated4th August 2021.....

