



# GAP Information leaflet

## *Grazing stock on sites with public access*

### General tips

- When looking to introduce grazing to a public site:
  - **PLAN!: Work with stakeholders to compile a list of possible conflict issues and mitigation measures;** if you don't have the time or expertise to do this, employ specialist consultants to do it for you
  - Consult widely - local people, stakeholders, other site managers, GAP etc
  - Publicise widely – site notices, leaflets, word of mouth, staff and volunteers, local press, email and internet!
  - Talk to as many people with an interest in it as possible – spend lots of time getting to know people and having face to face meetings with them
  - Research the site [its current and historical interest, (especially photos of past grazing), uses and 'values', i.e. these values will depend on what individuals interest in the site is]
  - Put on special interest meetings / training days, e.g. dog walkers, horse riders etc
  - Always respond to complaints and talk to complainants, ideally face to face but as a minimum on the phone – never let these complaints 'fester'; often people just need to have their opinions listened to, they don't necessarily want you to agree with them
  - Work with local parish councils as key local administrative bodies
  - Encourage local people to get involved with management, perhaps as volunteer stock lookers
  - Anticipate all the difficult questions that people are likely to ask and prepare for them, including preparing paperwork (for example risk assessments) in consultation with specialists like the HSE
  - Analyse how the public use the site and why – this will help you come up with management measures to reduce conflict
- Set up site 'friends of' groups with biannual forums, both indoor and outside on site
- A voluntary warden can be a good first step – they may be well known locally and can liaise with the public
- Use the skills, (e.g. professional, legal, fundraising or accounting skills), dedication and enthusiasm of site volunteers – many of them will be professional people who will still be walking their dogs on site after you and I are long gone!
- User groups include formal and professional groups, e.g. statutory agencies and conservation NGOs, and informal groups, e.g. horse riders, dog walkers, amateur naturalists; they all have one thing in common - they use the site and they care about its future!
- Site managers who own dog (s) or use a horse / pony on site will immediately be more accepted by dog walkers and horse riders
- Make all infrastructure robust and vandal proof as possible, e.g. hiding fences in thorny scrub, using stronger materials and or around entrance points, putting, making top rails of handling pens triangular to stop kids sitting on them etc
- Report back on any positive impacts of grazing on key species and habitats

**Case study:** *The Beds wildlife trust has a small grassland reserve on the edge of some new housing in Dunstable. We have recently had some Dartmoor ponies grazing for about three months. The grazier told me one local was sad they were coming off as they had had a great affect in bringing the new community together. Folk gathered to watch the ponies and lean on the gate, kids met each other and began playing and adults spoke to each other'*

Graham Bellamy

## Case study

'We have been planning for cattle grazing on 92 ha of moor (SSSI / SPA / SAC) on the edge of Sheffield for 5 years or so, and finally got them on this year. There has been some controversy over the last few years and so we've done a lot in relation to recreation impacts specifically as it's well used by dog walkers, riders etc and there's an extensive network of paths and bridleways, plus a sense of 'ownership' by our very vocal locals. Dog walkers don't tend to walk dogs on leads (though obviously we ask them to). The road to the cattle grazing has been more than rocky and was always anticipated as being so, so ways of reducing / managing risks and being accommodating to users as follows:

- We don't have cows and calves and no bulls. The grazier would not want his calves there anyway due to the safety of his animals and obviously cows can tend to be protective so it suits both parties not to have calves. The grazier is very tolerant so far - he is used to the public and dogs though mainly with sheep. On speaking to dog walkers this year (it's the first year of cattle grazing) it seems that the majority of concerns are about their own dogs chasing / barking at / frightening the cattle rather than the other way round. So they take responsibility and accept that (mostly)
- The heath is fenced from the woods (huge controversy) so walkers & their dogs can walk in areas 'free of cattle' throughout the year. When the cattle are off the heath (they're only on for 5 or so months) the gates are all locked open which keeps the riders (and dog walkers) sweet. There was a choice of having smaller enclosures or a 'super enclosure' and local people chose to go for the latter based on landscape reasons and retaining the feel of being a wild area
- As to the cattle (Highlands) themselves, they are young (9 to 36 months) and therefore were a bit skittish and nervy. To reduce the risk of them reacting to dogs on our site, I took my dogs to where they were grazing elsewhere (before they were put onto our site) to get them familiarised - after all the controversy it would have been unfortunate to have an incident on the site, and it was good for peace of mind and to do everything possible to reduce risk. When I first met them they ran at me & dogs...but now they are very docile. I am confident that this was the right thing to do before they came to the public site as they were by then much more chilled out and not particularly inquisitive. We have not had one incident (that I know of and I am sure I would if something had happened) between a dog and cattle. OK it's still early days but I am confident that this is the right thing to do even though it does take lots of time, it's definitely worth it
- We also provide information / advice leaflets & posters at entrances explaining the rationale behind the grazing, advice in the event of coming across cattle (including how to shoo a cow away!! - mainly because I got phone calls from people genuinely not knowing what to do if they came across them on a path or at a gate where they could not walk round them), and a map within the leaflet showing the location of the grazing enclosure so people had the choice to walk within or outside the enclosure or at least knowing whether they may come across them or not. It helped that we did all these things in preparation as the grazier was then aware that we'd done everything we could so he wouldn't get flack from the public as he knew the whole thing is controversial
- I had a grazing impact assessment done by an independent person (late on in the process so probably should have had it done earlier but at least it backed up and expanded on what we'd said previously). The report is worth its weight in gold
- The main issues have been with horse riders as they aren't used to cattle and nor are their horses. The footpath / bridleway network is extensive both in and out of the enclosure. We're working on ameliorating the situation as far as reasonable and practical - clearing key sightlines, offering riders the chance to 'meet the cattle' at the start of the season and other things
- We also obviously did risk assessments (in relation to cattle, zoonoses, fencing, recreational uses, public, horse riders, staff etc). I have had some members of the public claim that we're not taking safety seriously enough and HSE even got involved but at least the documentation was there to prove that it is taken seriously - some people have actually asked for copies of risk assessments
- We even did a recreation impact assessment, taking into consideration the different impacts of cattle and fencing on the different users. In general, I think the issue of putting fencing up is often more controversial than the grazing itself but it obviously depends on the context

A lot of time and thought was put into all of this and at times seemed a bit ridiculous, but it was all worthwhile considering the long term benefits, despite it initially seeming a bit over the top. Because of the sense of ownership felt by local people we're under an awful lot of scrutiny so having everything already thought out and assessments etc in place has helped hugely - much of it was done as a response to concerns expressed.

We also had to be robust and stick to our guns because some of it was getting ridiculous I do believe that taking a firm stance (following consultation and reasonable actions to deal with issues) is essential. Any hint of weakness or uncertainty just gets jumped upon.

I have found that despite claims made by some users before the cattle came onto the moor, now that they're on people actually really love to see the cattle as Highlands are so beautiful (especially ours!) and unusual in the area (even though the same people are initially a little nervous) and what a shame not to take the opportunity to link people's everyday lives with farming.

Annabelle Kennedy (Sheffield Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves Manager): [a.kennedy@wildsheffield.com](mailto:a.kennedy@wildsheffield.com)

## Action Plans / Stock Checking Procedure for livestock

- Please refer to flow chart in Appendix 1 and Lookers Report form in Appendix 2
- Action plans are essential, whether you are carrying out the daily checks or whether you use volunteers
- Stock lookers should ensure that they protect their own health when checking stock, e.g. assessing site conditions, weather, possible problems with the public, and have adequate equipment and guidance, e.g. personal protective equipment, mobile phone, lone working policy etc
- Any problem that is picked up during looking needs to be noted and acted upon in order to comply with the Health and Welfare Regulations and in order to demonstrate best practice in animal welfare
- Some problems can be dealt with there and then, for example closing a gate. Some may need the help of others, for example, fixing a broken fence, or dealing with a lame animal. Some constitute emergencies and need to be dealt with immediately, for example a seriously wounded animal. The plan therefore needs to identify the people responsible for helping in these situations and their contact details – vet, animal health office, fire brigade, police, disposal authority
- The grazing license (see below) should make clear who (owner and grazier) is responsible for what, and this should be reflected in your plan
- When looking carry a copy of the action plan with you and a mobile phone or radio
- **GAP offers one day Livestock Checkers training courses** – [www.grazingadvicepartnership.org.uk](http://www.grazingadvicepartnership.org.uk)

**Site risk assessment for stock and people** - Please refer to example in Appendix 3

### Legal

- Section 3 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 requires employers and employees to ensure, so far as is reasonably practical, that their work activities do not put other people or themselves at risk
- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 require that employers assess the risks from their work activities to which employees or others are exposed

- **Key reference: Keeping cattle in fields with public access - HSE AIS no. 17**
- From April 1990 to March 1995, 14 major incidents, (including 5 that resulted in death), involving cattle were investigated by the HSE; many incidents are not reported
- Stress on animals and maternal instincts can alter temperament in animals; even gentle knocks from large animals can result in injuries
- **Prior to introducing grazing, site managers should carry out a risk assessment identifying potential risks to people from grazing animals on the site;** this must include identification of any potential hazards to staff and members of the public, their likelihood of occurrence and level of severity and any *reasonably practical* works required to minimise the combined risk level
- This risk assessment will help to assuage public concerns and answer their questions
- A written record should be kept in the reserves file, BUT make sure it is regularly reviewed and especially in response to any incidents; make sure you make and keep good notes of any incidents so that any trends or particular issues can be identified and dealt with
- Seek advice from GAP and other conservation managers experienced with grazing
- Estimate best class of stock, (species, breed, management status, i.e. breeding/non-breeding, age, sex composition and ratio/hierarchy), and stocking density to achieve conservation objectives, and identify any works necessary before grazing can commence
- Also assess the level and type of public use and adjust your grazing regime or manage that use accordingly, perhaps by zoning use and grazing, creating new permissive access routes to avoid stock, or implementing rotational grazing in smaller sub-divisions of the site so that there are always areas where no stock are present
- Suitable signs should be erected on all access points to the site, notifying the public of the need for conservation grazing, that livestock are present, giving emergency contact details for the grazier and/or the site manager and stating that dogs must be kept on leads or under close control in areas where livestock are grazing

### Grazing stock on sites with public access

- No animals known to be dangerous should be allowed on sites; entire rams over 12 months or beef bulls over 5 months of age must be accompanied by ewes or heifers / cows
- It is illegal to keep dairy bulls where public access is present (Section 59 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and section 44 of the Countryside (Scotland) Act 1967)



#### Dairy bulls:

Holstein, British Friesian, Ayrshire, Dairy Shorthorn, Guernsey, Jersey, Kerry

#### Signs for bulls:

1. It is good practice to put up signs if bulls are being used on sites
2. These should conform to British Standard 5378 or European Equivalents – **Farm signs: 0800 458 5660**
3. For example triangular with yellow background and black band on outside, with bull shown with supplementary text (both black on the yellow), e.g. 'bull in field'
4. Supplementary text shouldn't suggest the bull is aggressive, threatening or dangerous, i.e. do not say '*Beware of the bull*'
5. Take signs down when bull not present
6. Misleading signs which deter the public from using the public right of way are illegal and should never be used

- Train stock before they come on site – confront them with all the things they are likely to come across on site, e.g. dogs
- When stock first arrive on site and have settled in....hold 'meet the cattle' days to show people around with their dogs or on horseback to defuse worries
- Sometimes there will be individual animals within a group that can a 'problem' with the public and their dogs; these should be removed from the site
- Groups of steers and bulling heifers can be boisterous and inquisitive – their use should be assessed carefully
- No calving cows or cows with young calves (under 12 weeks of age) should be allowed on well used sites, though they can be used on sites with public access *if the risk is assessed and judged acceptable*
- Do not calve or lamb on sites with anything other than low public access
- There is a low risk to the public of zoonotic infection arising from contact with animal faeces, (*for more guidance see below*)
- Electric fencing if used must be fitted with suitable warning signs at the appropriate intervals
- Ensure gates, fences and access furniture are safe and fit for purpose
- Implement a stock checking system, including emergency action plan, i.e. what to do and who to contact if something goes wrong (*see below*)
- Ensure that cattle handling facilities are available, as a minimum have simple, permanent pens on site; in the right circumstances, (with adequate food, water and shelter), ill animals can be 'penned' in these and treated outside. Alternatively use mobile penning systems
- Site troughs/fences/pens and handling areas to aid stockmanship and avoid conflict with public
- If you are using 'new' animals, keep them for a few days in a field with no access before they go on site so that you can judge their temperament; in the same way, inspect grazier stock before they come on site, or if possible use them on non-access fields owned/managed by the site manager before exposing to the public

#### Zoonoses

- **Key references:**
  - **Common zoonoses in agriculture - HSE AIS no. 2, (rev2)**
  - **Avoiding ill health at open farms – advice to farmers (with teachers supplement) – HSE AIS no. 23, (rev1)**

Produced (November 2007) by GAP.

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Website: [www.grazingadvicepartnership.org.uk](http://www.grazingadvicepartnership.org.uk)

Email: [enquiries@grazingadvicepartnership.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@grazingadvicepartnership.org.uk)

## Grazing stock on sites with public access

- **Agriculture – Your health carry card, IACL102**
- All farm animals naturally carry a range of diseases some of which can also infect humans, known as zoonoses; Good occupational hygiene practices will help protect against them
- The elderly, children and those with impaired immune systems are more vulnerable to zoonoses
- If you think you are ill because you have contracted a disease from an animal, contact your doctor immediately, and tell him you work in agriculture with livestock
- Consider carrying HSE agriculture – your health carry card

### COSHH

- Organisms that cause zoonoses are subject to the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH), 1999; COSHH requires employers and self-employed to:
  - Assess the risks to health from work activities which involve a hazardous substance (e.g. a micro-organism)
  - Prevent, or where this is not *reasonably practical*, adequately control exposure to the hazardous substance
  - Introduce and maintain control measures
  - Inform, instruct and train employees about the risks and precautions to be taken
  - Regularly review risk assessments and the effectiveness of control measures
  - Involve employees in risk assessments

- Precautions:
  - If no hand washing facilities are available on site, the public will need to be advised on suitable signs to avoid contact with grazing livestock and faeces
  - It may be worthwhile creating stock-free picnicking areas
  - Animals should be regularly tested for Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) and Brucellosis
  - Screen new animals for disease (E.coli, Salmonella, Enzootic abortion & Leptospirosis) – seek veterinary advice
  - Control diseases in animals, e.g. by vaccination against *Leptospira hardjo* – seek veterinary advice
  - Prevent infections establishing and spreading by good stockmanship, e.g. have regular veterinary stock checks, reduce stress, avoid contamination of feed or drinking water with faeces or urine etc
  - Wear suitable Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that is properly maintained, cleaned after use, stored in a clean area and CE marked – overalls, waterproof jacket and leggings, gloves
  - If there is a risk of splashing to the face, use a face shield and/or face mask to BS EN 166:2002
  - Cover cuts and abrasions when working with animals
  - Provide hand washing facilities and wash hands after handling animals and before eating, drinking or smoking
  - Use warning signs to keep all staff and visitors informed
  - Dispose of contaminated materials and bedding properly
  - Leave work wear at work, have a shower and change in to clean clothes before going home
  - No pregnant or potentially pregnant women to be involved with pregnant ewes

## Insurance

- Any grazier must agree to insure to an adequate level of cover against liability to third parties for loss, injury or damage arising in relation to the grazing livestock with an Insurance Company approved by the site owner, and to produce to them the policy of insurance and the receipt for the last premium payable for it before a grazing license is issued
- The site owner should maintain insurance cover for their own livestock against liability to third parties for loss, injury or damage arising in relation to the livestock, and also against injury to or loss of the said livestock arising from grazing on owned land

## Grazing Licenses

- Where the site is to be grazed by animals belonging to a private individual ('Grazier'), a grazing license or approved agreement should be issued to the individual by the Grazing Manager/Reserves Manager for the period requiring grazing, signed and agreed by both parties beforehand

### Stock welfare risk assessment

- **Key reference: 'A guide to animal welfare in nature conservation grazing'**, produced by GAP, that incorporates the Farm Animal Welfare Council's Five Freedoms within a Risk Assessment approach
- Over the past few years there have been occasional incidents of poor animal husbandry on conservation sites, some of which have resulted in the involvement of animal welfare organisations
- Wildlife managers must give time and attention to the planning and preparation of grazing schemes to minimise the risk of suffering, especially as much nature conservation land is open to access by the public
- **Prior to introducing grazing animals to a site, owners, managers (with grazier consulted as a minimum) must carry out a risk assessment for the welfare of those grazing animals**
- Assessment should identify any potential welfare hazards to livestock, their likelihood of occurrence and level of severity, and any *reasonably practical* works required to minimise the combined risk level
- This welfare assessment will help to assuage public concerns and answer their questions
- Seek advice from GAP, other conservation managers experienced with grazing, graziers, vets, local farmers (who may know of local health issues, e.g. copper deficiency), your local trading standards department (County or Borough Council) and RSPCA inspector
- A written record of this risk assessment should be kept in the reserves file



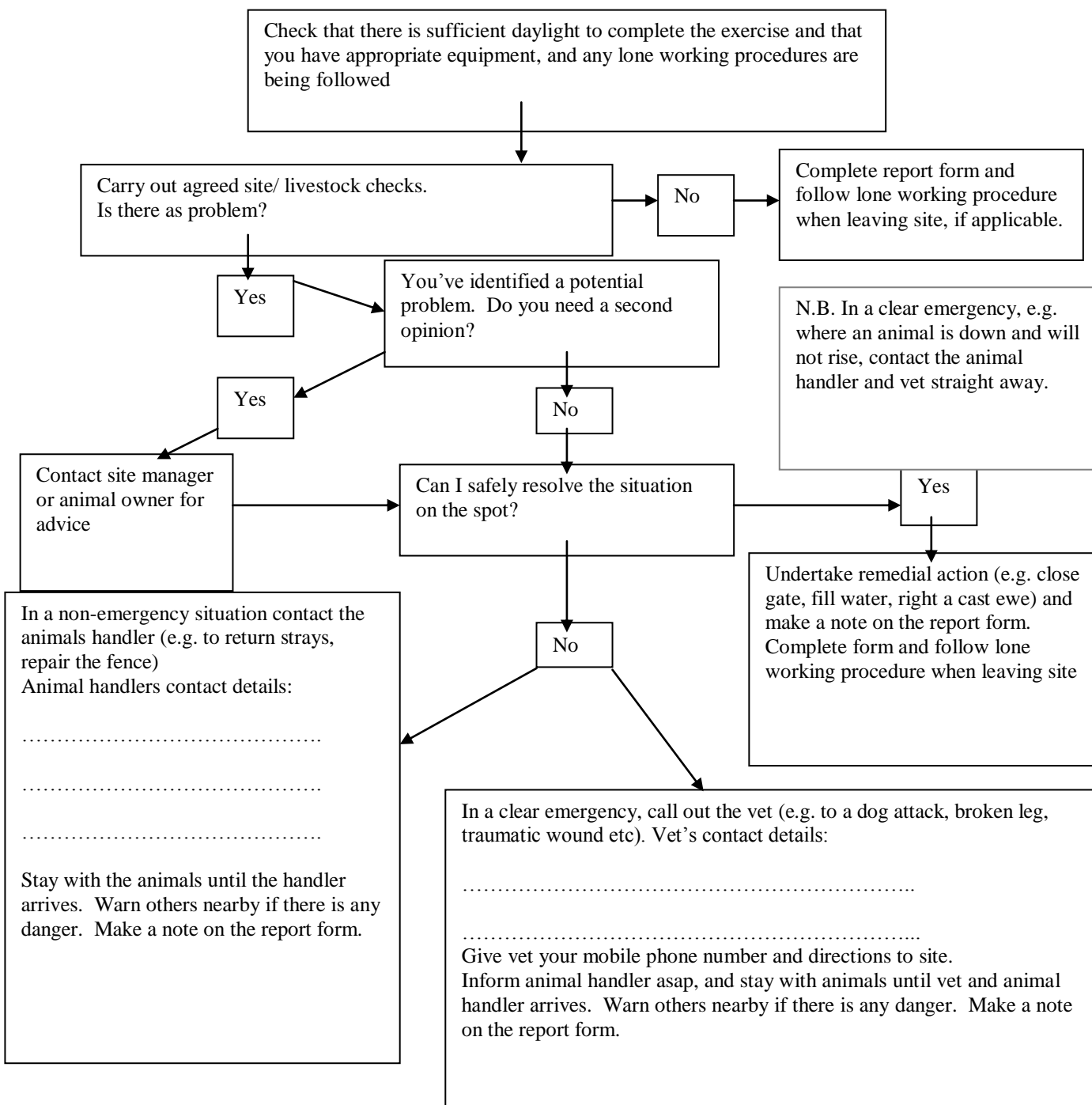
**CYCLE GRIDS AT BURNHAM BEECHES (MARK CLEAVER, CITY OF LONDON)**

## References

- HSE helpline for advice: 0845 345 0055; [hse.infoline@natbrit.com](mailto:hse.infoline@natbrit.com)
- HSE books, PO Box 1999, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 2WA; Tel: 01787 881165;  
[www.hsebooks.com/Books/](http://www.hsebooks.com/Books/) HSE books helpline: 01787 884148
- Free self-assessment software for agriculture: [www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/assessment/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/assessment/index.htm)
- HSE agriculture: [www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/](http://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/)
- HSE agriculture publications: [www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/agindex.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/agindex.htm)
  - Keeping cattle in fields with public access - HSE Agricultural info sheet no. 17 pdf – [www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/ais17ew.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/ais17ew.pdf)
  - Common zoonoses in agriculture - HSE Agricultural info sheet no. 2, (rev2) pdf - [www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/ais2.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/ais2.pdf)
  - Handling and housing cattle, HSE Agricultural info sheet no. 35, pdf - [www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/ais35.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/ais35.pdf)
  - Leptospirosis - HSE – ID (G) C300
  - Avoiding ill health at open farms – advice to farmers (with teachers supplement) - HSE Agricultural info sheet no. 23, (rev1) pdf - [www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/ais23.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/ais23.pdf)
  - Agriculture – Your health carry card, IACL102 pdf - [www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/iacl102.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/iacl102.pdf)
  - Farmwise: your essential guide to health and safety in agriculture, Misc 165, 01/02, C55, pdf - [www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/misc165.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/misc165.pdf)
  - Reporting incidents of exposure to pesticides and veterinary medicines, INDG 141 (rev1), 2/99, C1000, pdf - [www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg141.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg141.pdf)
  - Veterinary medicines: Safe use by farmers and other animal handlers, AS31, 1/98, C500, pdf - [www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/as31.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/as31.pdf)
- 'A guide to animal welfare in nature conservation grazing';  
Available to download from GAP website: [www.grazingadvicepartnership.org.uk](http://www.grazingadvicepartnership.org.uk)
- The Countryside Code: [www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk](http://www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk)
- You, your dog and the countryside (leaflet) – download from:  
[www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk/things\\_to\\_do/dog\\_walking](http://www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk/things_to_do/dog_walking)
- GAP Information Leaflet: Dogs and grazing available from the GAP website:  
[www.grazingadvicepartnership.org.uk](http://www.grazingadvicepartnership.org.uk)
- Managing public access – a guide for land managers, available to download from Natural England:  
[www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)

Appendix 1

## Action Plan / Stock Checking Procedure



N.B. In a clear emergency, e.g. where an animal is down and will not rise, contact the animal handler and vet straight away.

Note here any other contact details e.g. Police/ fire brigade/ disposal authority.



**Grazing stock on sites with public access**

**Appendix 2 – Stock checkers report form**

Refer to the stock checking procedure and table of signs of healthy/ unhealthy animals before completing

Name of Stock Checker:

Site/ Compartment:

Date:

Time:

Weather:

<i>Are all the animals there?</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Are gates and fences secure</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Are all the animals in the right place?</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Is adequate good quality water accessible</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Have any strays come in?</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Is there adequate mineral block/ supplements?</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Are the animals behaving normally?</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Is the site free of hazards?</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Are all the animals healthy?</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Is access clear?</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Do all animals have their identification markers?</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Are signs legible?</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Is adequate food accessible</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>			

*If you have marked 'no' for any of above, make a note of the reasons here;*

Appendix 3 - Risk Assessment form for stock and people – steps and example form

**1. Proposed Grazing System**

You should complete as much of the information in this section as possible. Err on the side of caution. For example, if you think you may have 30-40 grazing animals on site, assess the risks as if there were 40 animals within the grazing unit.

**2. Look for the Hazards**

The risk assessment form is a guide only. Walk around the area to be grazed and look for what could reasonably be expected to cause problems to the public

**3. Decide who is at risk and how**

For example, which site users, staff as well? All hazards which can be foreseen with thorough prior thought, by considering current knowledge and noting experience from both within your own organization and other related bodies, must be included.

**4a Probability of hazard**

This reflects the probability that problem will actually result from the identified hazard during the grazing season.

Probability of problem	Description	Ranking
Improbable	Physically possible, but never known to happen, therefore very surprised	1
Possible	Occasional instances known or heard of, therefore little surprised	2
Likely	Known of with some frequency or might well happen	3
Very Likely	A common occurrence or surprised if didn't happen	4

**4b Severity of problem**

This reflects how many people will be affected and to what degree during the grazing season.

Severity of problem	Ranking
Minor suffering to one or more people	1
Major suffering to one person	2
Major suffering to several people	3
Death of one person	4
Death of several people	5

**5. Evaluate the Level of Risk**

Risk is the likelihood (high or low) that the hazard will result in problem. Once the hazards are identified, evaluate the level of risk in terms of likelihood, severity and numbers of people affected. Use the tables below to make and record your initial assessment of risk (score between 1 and 20) – the assessment should relate to the hazard before appropriate precautions are applied to reduce the risk.

EXAMPLE The probability of harm from cows with calves on site may be possible, 2, and could lead to the death of one person, 4, giving a risk level of 8 out of a possible 20. A score of 10 or more requires immediate action before grazing is introduced.

**6. Identify actions that are reasonably practicable**

Practicable means those actions that are possible in the light of current knowledge and available technology. Reasonable concerns the balance of resources (time, effort, cost) committed to reducing a risk compared to the level of that risk.

Ask yourself:

- How can I remove the hazard altogether?
- If not; how can I reduce the hazard so that problem is reduced?

Where actions are required/proposed a date for the action should also be given.

EXAMPLE To remove the risk from interaction between cows with calves and people with dogs, cows with calves will not be used on site. This may not be practicable, therefore, possible actions would look to reduce the risks by specifying that cows with calves <12 weeks old will not be used

**7. Re-evaluate the level of risk**

Once all actions are in place, re-assess the remaining risk. Is the remaining risk high, medium or low – use this to feedback into procedures such as the frequency of checking

Grazing System Risk Assessment							
<i>Proposed Grazing System</i>	<i>Date</i>		<i>Level of public use (low, medium, high)</i>				
	<i>Assessor</i>		<i>Main type of visitor (nature enthusiast, dog walkers, families etc)</i>				
	<i>Site (map)</i>		<i>Number of footpaths/access points</i>				
	<i>Stock type &amp; breeding or not</i>		<i>Perimeter fencing (identify any works necessary)</i>				
	<i>Number, age, breed</i>		<i>Interior fencing (identify any works necessary)</i>				
	<i>Grazing area</i>		<i>Water supply</i>				
	<i>Stocking density</i>		<i>Poisonous plants (identify any controls necessary)</i>				
	<i>Timing or duration of grazing</i>		<i>Handling facilities</i>				
	<i>Perimeter security</i>		<i>Class of stock and reason for decision (cattle, sheep, goats, ponies etc)</i>				
	<i>Water supply</i>		<i>Breed, age, breeding or non-breeding and reason for decision</i>				
	<i>Stock checking proposals</i>		<i>Stocking density (estimated)</i>				
	<i>Handling facilities</i>		<i>Timing and duration of grazing</i>				
<i>Access</i>		<i>Emergency procedure</i>					
<i>Emergency (bad weather, ill-health)</i>		<i>Livestock access points</i>					
Type of hazard	Written assessment of hazard & Persons at risk	Assessment of risk (score 1-20)			Location(s) on map (✓)	Actions	Re-assessment of Risk
		Probability x	Severity =	Risk Level			
<b>Physical hazards arising</b>	Severe injuries – trampling, goring, crush injuries, fractures, death	2	4	8		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Warning signs with contact phone number(s) at all access points</li> <li>Advisable not to use cows with calves &lt; 12 weeks old, ewes and lambs, bulling heifers (?)</li> <li>No bulls over 5 months unless recognised beef breed with females, never dairy bulls</li> <li>Assess all stock for suitability – breed, individual, sex, species, management status</li> <li>Consider temporary/permanent fencing to exclude stock from footpaths, picnic areas etc - ZONING</li> <li>Check stock, fences and access points daily</li> <li>Ensure penning and handling facilities are available</li> <li>Ensure gates are locked or properly closed</li> <li>Site troughs/fences/pens and handling areas to aid stockmanship and avoid conflict with public</li> <li>Identify emergency contacts and procedures</li> </ul>	4
<b>Health hazards arising</b>	Zoonotic infections: E.coli, Salmonellosis, enzootic abortion in ewes, Toxoplasmosis, Orf Leptospirosis, Ringworm,	2	3	6		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain healthy stock – annual health plan, blood/dung samples and vaccines where applicable</li> <li>Screen new animals for disease – seek veterinary advice</li> <li>Control diseases in animals - seek veterinary advice</li> <li>Prevent infections establishing and spreading by good stockmanship</li> <li>Wear suitable Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</li> <li>Cover cuts and abrasions</li> <li>Provide washing facilities &amp; wash hands after handling animals &amp; before eating, drinking or smoking</li> <li>Use warning signs to keep all staff and visitors informed</li> <li>Control rats</li> <li>Dispose of contaminated materials, bedding etc</li> <li>If there is a risk of splashing to the face, use a face shield and/or face mask</li> <li>Leave work wear at work, have a shower and change in to clean clothes before going home</li> <li>No pregnant women to be involved with pregnant ewes</li> </ul>	3

## Appendix 4 – likely public concerns when introducing grazing

<b>Fear of animals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use breeds and animals that tend to be more docile in temperament. This will be coupled with on-site information and advice to reassure people</li> <li>• Put together a publicity strategy: Use site information to advise people how to behave around the livestock, i.e. keep dogs on a lead, stay calm; develop leaflets and information for a special shepherding website, information centres, local papers and parish magazines, present to local meetings, focused workshops</li> <li>• Avoid using cows and calves, bulls or rams and remove any animals that are not good with people and other users of xxxxxx</li> <li>• Chose livestock that are familiar with people, dogs and other likely stimuli they will encounter on xxxxx</li> <li>• Avoid siting water troughs, mineral licks and feed blocks in areas where this will cause 'conflict' with other recreational users</li> <li>• Develop an answering machine information line so that people can phone in and receive information on where stock will be at any one time so that they can avoid them if they want to; this can be linked to the shepherding website via GPS. Other measures can also be used, for example a kite flown by the shepherd!</li> <li>• Events should be held on the site either specifically about grazing or other themes, to increase people's confidence – so called 'meet the stock and shepherd' days</li> <li>• Involving local people as volunteers will help dispel fears</li> <li>• Visitor surveys will reveal changes (or otherwise) in attitudes and perceptions</li> </ul>
<b>Zoonoses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While the risk of contracting any disease is low, control of disease in herds / flocks relies on regular husbandry as part of an Animal Health Plan. Information could be provided to inform the public of any prevention measures that need to be taken, i.e. hygiene procedures such as hand washing after contact with faeces. However, it is expected that people are able to make their own judgement and common sense should prevail</li> <li>• Careful consideration needs to be given as to if and how lambing days (and other events where people can interact with the stock) should be organised</li> <li>• Volunteers must be given training on all aspects of stock management as part of the two day GAP course: introduction to stock management. This includes advice on zoonoses</li> <li>• If ticks are proven to be a problem on the reserve as a result of grazing then further action may be required. However, this is not anticipated</li> <li>• Maintain healthy stock – annual health plan, blood / dung samples and vaccines where applicable</li> <li>• Screen new animals for disease – seek veterinary advice</li> <li>• Control diseases in animals - seek veterinary advice</li> <li>• Prevent infections establishing and spreading by good stockmanship</li> <li>• Wear suitable Personal Protective Equipment when handling animals (PPE)</li> <li>• Cover cuts and abrasions when handling animals</li> <li>• Provide washing facilities &amp; wash hands after handling animals &amp; before eating, drinking or smoking</li> <li>• Use warning signs to keep all staff and visitors informed</li> <li>• Control rats</li> <li>• Dispose of contaminated materials, bedding etc</li> <li>• If there is a risk of splashing to the face, use a face shield and/or face mask</li> <li>• Leave work wear at work, have a shower and change in to clean clothes before going home</li> <li>• No pregnant women to be involved with pregnant ewes</li> </ul>
<b>Physical danger</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warning signs with contact phone number(s) at all access points</li> <li>• Advisable not to use cows with calves &lt; 12 weeks old, ewes and young lambs, rams, bulling heifers (?)</li> <li>• No bulls over 5 months unless recognised beef breed with females, never dairy bulls</li> <li>• Assess all stock for suitability – breed, individual, sex, species, management status</li> <li>• Consider temporary / permanent stock exclusion areas: footpaths, picnic areas etc - ZONING</li> <li>• Check stock, fences and access points daily</li> <li>• Ensure penning and handling facilities are available</li> <li>• Ensure gates are locked or properly closed</li> <li>• Site troughs / fences / pens and handling areas to aid stockmanship and avoid conflict with public</li> <li>• Identify emergency contacts and procedures</li> </ul>

<p><b>Lack of knowledge of grazing and its need</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>On site information will be provided at key entrances, outlining the rationale for grazing</i></li> <li>• <i>Press releases to be prepared before and during grazing</i></li> <li>• <i>Articles in local and press publications and regular updates</i></li> <li>• <i>Written or verbal correspondence or meet the shepherd / stock sessions for individuals expressing concern may also be needed</i></li> <li>• <i>Results of monitoring to be publicised at a point where trends have been identified. Survey information shall also be provided (where confidentiality is required for the protection of certain species this is not possible).</i></li> <li>• <i>Links with other grazing systems in the region and nationally should be made and communicated as a tried and tested method for conservation management</i></li> <li>• <i>Visitor surveys will reveal changes (or otherwise) in attitudes and perceptions</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Effects on paths – poaching and / or faeces</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>This is unlikely to be a serious problem due to the low numbers of stock grazing and the fact that their grazing is controlled</i></li> <li>• <i>Maintenance and repairs to take place if the damage caused</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Impeded access</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>All public rights of way will still be accessible with suitable infrastructure, though the shepherd may close temporarily (i.e. on a daily basis) individual paths whilst stock graze</i></li> <li>• <i>The majority of the site will remain as Access Land</i></li> <li>• <i>Significant proportions of Xxxxx will remain 'stock - free' as they are unsuitable for shepherded grazing and animals will be focused on small areas at any one time. This means that people will always be able to avoid the stock if they wish</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Damage to key features of xxxxx</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Particular species and habitats on site (key features) are valued for particular reasons</i></li> <li>• <i>A monitoring system for these key features will be developed</i></li> <li>• <i>A holistic grazing management plan will be developed. This will be informed and reviewed in light of results from the monitoring system</i></li> <li>• <i>The grazing will start with small numbers of animals, as this is more practical and will be less harmful to the ecological interests of Xxxxx</i></li> </ul>

### Appendix 5: Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust - Top tips for walking with livestock

#### Here are some tips to help you enjoy your walk:

- Do not feed or touch the animals
- Make sure that the animals know that you are there
- If an animal is startled do not run!
- Avoid getting between cows and their calves and / or splitting the herd
- Keep small children close to you
- Do not leave bags or pushchairs unattended
- Keep dogs under control

*Grazing sites for wildlife is a sustainable way of managing the land. Grazing increases the diversity of plants and animals, it reveals and protects the landscape, which is rich in archaeological features and gives you increased freedom to explore. Gates and stiles provide access to all grazed areas on Wildlife Trust land, which remains available for your enjoyment.*

#### Do not feed or touch cattle or ponies

- They are not pets! – feeding and touching will encourage animals to come up to people and this can lead to problems
- If you stop and look at the ponies and cattle and open bags close to them, they may think you are going to feed them – better to do this out of view or from the other side of the fence

#### Make sure that the animals know you are there

- If you are coming up from behind the animals and they haven't noticed you, calmly whistle or talk to them to let them know that you are there
- If cattle or ponies are blocking your way - clap your hands firmly and they should move out of your way. If necessary leave the path and go around the animals.

#### If an animal is startled do not run!

- If you startle an animal do not run. The animals may think that this is a wonderful idea and may decide to join you – cattle and ponies are more likely to ignore you if you walk quietly past them or away from them
- Large groups of people - animals may feel excited or threatened by large groups of people. Try to keep the group quiet when passing close to animals

#### Avoid getting between the cows and their calves and / or splitting the herd

- Do not try to pet young animals no matter how cute and cuddly they look; the mother may disapprove and feel threatened and walk round groups of animals

#### Keep small children close to you

- Children may unintentionally startle an animal. Do not leave bags or pushchairs unattended
- Animals are naturally inquisitive and may rummage in a bag or pushchair. This may cause injury to an animal or scare a child. There is also a risk that an unattended pushchair is knocked over

#### Keep dogs under control

- Dogs do not need to be on a lead if properly controlled but please do not allow your dog to chase livestock. This causes distress to livestock and may result in injuries. If you and your dog receive unwanted attention from the animals it is best to let your dog run away and re-join you further on, the animals will be more interested in your dog than you
- For further information please pick up a copy of 'You and Your dog in the Countryside' leaflet which is full of useful information. If you are unable to obtain a copy please contact The Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust office. Copies can also be downloaded from the Natural England website [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk) and follow links to publications, landscapes and leisure

#### Please follow the Countryside Code

- Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

The Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust looks after 60% of Scilly, from the beaches, uninhabited islands and the coastal fringes - to the exposed heathland and include Lower Moors and Higher Moors nature trails, which run through wetland, woodland and meadows. Please support our work by becoming a member or making a donation. For further information about the Trust's work please visit our visitor centre, situated on the Quay, St. Mary's or contact us at The Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust, Carn Thomas, St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly TR21 0PT. Tel: 01720 422153 or [enquiries@ios-wildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ios-wildlifetrust.org.uk)