

Standards for WES Accreditation Status



The following guidelines are provided to WES accredited landholdings to assist them in:

1. Maintaining standards during the period of accreditation; and
2. Renewal of certification at the end of the period of accreditation

General requirements

- Undertake habitat and wildlife management with regard to a long-term integrated plan.
- Maintain records and monitor delivery of habitat and wildlife management objectives.
- Ensure all commercial activities are sustainable with regard to the environment.
- Comply with all legal requirements and relevant codes of practice, including animal welfare standards.

Specific requirements:

The general requirements noted above should be reflected in positive, sustained outcomes in relation to the following specific areas, as appropriate to the land under management.

Species records and habitat information

Allowing for weather-related and other natural events, the influence of management on species numbers and habitats should be monitored over time.

Conservation projects

During the period of accreditation, we expect that existing conservation work outlined in your application will continue. We will look in particular for:

- Consistency of conservation work;
- Introduction of new projects that either supplement or replace existing initiatives; and
- Habitat management plans.

Designated sites

Where any part of the land is covered by a statutory designation (such as SSSI, SPA or SAC), practical steps to maintain or improve the status of such sites and, where appropriate, dialogue with Nature Scot should be undertaken. In cases where designations cover more than one landholding, evidence of a collaborative approach to site management will be expected.

Collaboration

During the period of accreditation, we expect efforts to be made to collaborate with neighbouring land managers with regard to:

- Wildlife and habitat enhancement and conservation initiatives.
- Wildlife and habitat assessment and management

Integrating habitat management with commercial activities

We will look for evidence that during the period of accreditation, managers continue to ensure wildlife and habitat management is integrated with commercial activities.

Community engagement

During the period of accreditation, we expect to see ongoing evidence of engagement with the local and wider community with relevance to wildlife and habitat management work, for instance in relation to:

- Employment
- Education (research, schools visits, Ranger or Keeper-led information and tours)
- Communication (web-based, interpretation signs, leaflets)
- Responsible access

Notification:

It is extremely important that you notify Wildlife Estates Scotland as soon as possible about any change in management, ownership or incident in relation to the management of habitat and wildlife on the land that may impact upon accreditation.