



## Wildlife Farms & Estates England & Wales

WFE England & Wales is the national version of the European Wildlife Estates label (WE). WE is represented in 19 countries across Europe, in all biogeographic regions. It comprises a network of landowners and land managers who in all aspects of managing their land are committed to giving every opportunity for wildlife and biodiversity to flourish and grow. This network is a service of the European Landowners Organisation (ELO) in its promotion of responsible land management in Europe.

The WE label has two levels, referred to as Level One and Level Two. Level One is a Charter of ten commitments that promote sound management of wildlife across all aspects of an estate's land and activity. Accreditation at the higher Level Two marks out an estate, farm, farm cluster or any landholding as being exemplary in its holistic management of wildlife and biodiversity in line with the principles of species and habitat conservation. It is assessed independently and is backed by objective scientific review. Estates accredited at Level Two currently account for over 1.9m hectares of land across Europe.



# The Wildlife Estates Level One Charter

Level One of the Wildlife Farms & Estates scheme implies recognition and acceptance of Ten Commitments that the landowner/manager must adhere to, in all countries:

1. Identifying a manager and supervisor of the estate concerned
2. Undertaking active wildlife management following a long-term integrated wildlife management plan
3. Maintaining records and monitoring the implementation of the wildlife management plan
4. Undertaking sustainable shooting, stalking and/or fishing according to the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity or the equivalent in national legislations
5. Managing for a sustainable balance of game and wildlife and their shared habitats
6. Improving, whenever possible, biodiversity and species – notably those favourable to pollinators
7. Compliance with all legal requirements, relevant national codes of practice and European environmental legislation (e.g. Natura 2000) or the equivalent in national legislations
8. Adhering to the requirements of the agreement between Birdlife International and FACE on Directive 79/409/EEC, the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity, and the EU Commission's Guide on Hunting under the Birds Directive or the equivalent in national legislations
9. Maintaining active engagement with local communities and undertaking education/awareness raising activities
10. Making the required effort to prepare to apply for Level Two accreditation as soon as the estate has in place its strategy, management plans and baseline data (such as referred to in 2 and 3 above), and within a reasonable period (no longer than 5 years).



## Accreditation at Level Two

### 1. Basis of assessment:

The standards of WE accreditation at Level Two focus on establishing whether a farm or estate:

- Can demonstrate that it goes above and beyond the commitments of Level One in the way that it exercises its responsibilities and duty of care, managing its land actively and in a sustainable manner so that wildlife and biodiversity are correctly prioritised and enhanced
- Can satisfy an independent evaluator of this.

Evaluation is based on evidence provided by the applicant in the key aspects of wildlife and biodiversity. The evaluation will also take into account other indicators including:

- Collaborative work to reverse biodiversity loss or to consolidate fragmented habitat.
- Investment in biodiversity projects.
- Mitigation of threats to biodiversity.

It offers robust evidence that the farm or estate holding can be considered a leader in this sector.

At present, evidence of carbon accounting is included as an option. It will however become a fixed feature of the process as systems develop.

For a farm or estate to secure accreditation, it must achieve a minimum number of points in its evaluation, thereby demonstrating through an independent assessor its exemplary role in the management of wildlife and biodiversity. The evaluator will visit the estate to verify features of the application. A panel of independent scientists can support the adjudication of queries arising from the application or site visit.



## 2. Evaluation and assessment process:

The evaluation of the applicant farm or estate is carried out by a qualified and independent assessor who is backed by ISO certification. On receipt of an initial application, the WFE National Committee will, so long as it considers the application to be genuine and reasonable, invite the estate to complete a detailed questionnaire, to which supporting documents such as plans and policies can be attached. It will then pass these to the evaluator appointed. The evaluator will consider the material supplied and will arrange a site visit to the estate. WFE will charge an evaluation fee which will be paid by the applicant estate to WFE. The evaluator will charge their expenses (mileage, food and accommodation) directly to the estate for settlement. Fee details are included in the membership prospectus.

The evaluator will report their assessment to the WFE National Committee in the first instance, noting the scores achieved and indicating whether in their opinion the estate demonstrates the high standards that warrant accreditation. Where a score is marginally below the pass-mark and/or where the evaluator feels that improvements can be readily made, the terms of any subsequent dialogue between the farm or estate and the evaluator (advice, guidance or second assessment) will be a matter for the parties to agree.

Where an estate is deemed by the evaluator to have reached the pass-mark, the WFE National Committee will forward a summary of its features to the WE European Steering Committee with a recommendation that the estate should be awarded accreditation at Level Two of the Wildlife Estates scheme. Once this final approval has been secured, the estate will be presented with a certificate of accreditation, which is valid for five years. On



3. How to apply:

A. Full details of the Wildlife Farms & Estates for England & Wales are available at:

<https://wildlifeestates.org.uk/>

B. Please read the Wildlife Estates Charter. The Charter, on page two of this form or available [here](#), is a list of ten commitments to which all landowners within the ELO WE scheme must adhere, in all countries. It represents Level One of the WFE scheme.

If you agree with these commitments, please sign a copy of the Charter on the separate form included with this document pack or available [here](#) to download and print.

This is a prerequisite for applying for accreditation at Level Two. Supporting the principles of WE through Level One is common to all landowners in the network but does not confer any rights to use the WE label.

To start an application for accreditation at Level Two:

C. Please read the Standards included with this document pack that are applied in the accreditation process. Although at first sight these might appear complex, they allow you to consider the type of questions that will show that your farm or estate is indeed an exemplar. The likelihood that every applicant will feel comfortable with or able to satisfy all the requirements is relatively low, for many reasons. Nevertheless, it will be a thought-provoking exercise (perhaps at times challenging) which will help to shape and accredit your 'journey' as owner/manager of a Wildlife Farm or Estate.

D. Please then complete the initial application form below. This asks for basic data about your estate. It also asks you to write a brief statement about your achievements to date, your plans and targets for the estate, and how these will be implemented and judged. This shows 'Your Journey'.

# APPLICATION: PART 1

## CONFIDENTIALITY

The information provided in this questionnaire is and remains confidential; therefore, any reader agrees not to disclose it without the express written permission of the applicant. Data is given solely for the purposes of this application to Wildlife Farms & Estates for accreditation at Level Two of the scheme.

Your Farm (F) or Estate (E):

1. Name of F/E:

Name:	
Address 1	
Address 2	
Post Town	
Postcode	
Email:	
Contact Number:	

2. Name of owner:

Name:	
Address 1	
Address 2	
Post Town	
Postcode	
E-mail:	
Contact Number:	

3. Name of manager or person with day-to-day responsibility (*if different to the owner*):

Name:	
Address 1	
Address 2	
Post Town	
Postcode	
E-mail:	
Contact Number:	

4. Area of the F/E (in hectares.):

5. The F/E is under: (Please tick one option)

Private ownership

Public ownership

Third sector / charity / NGO ownership

Other (please specify)

6. How is the F/E (including its forestry and sporting) managed? Please show the mix: (continued on the following page).

In-hand	<input type="text"/>	ha
Tenanted	<input type="text"/>	ha
Contract farm	<input type="text"/>	ha
Managed as a cluster	<input type="text"/>	ha

7. How much of the F/E is under your  control\* (ha).

\*Under your control' means:

- Land where you are the owner-occupier farming the land
- Land which you are paying to be farmed under contract
- Land from which you derive income directly
- Land on which you are responsible for meeting cross-compliance rules
- Land for which you are the licensor; the licensee only having access to graze or mow the land.
- Land included in a Farm Cluster, for which an appointed manager is completing this section

The land is not under your control if there is a tenant who has a Farm Business Tenancy under the Agricultural Tenancies Act 1995 or an Agricultural Holdings Act 1986 tenancy.

### **Land Type**

8. Please use the table below to give the broad composition of the main land types and usage on your F/E:

<b>Land description</b>	<b>Hectares</b>	<b>Approx % of E/H land area</b>
Open hill / Moorland / Heathland / Duneland		
Peatland		
Wetlands (coastal saltmarsh, inland marshland, water meadows)		
Woodlands		
Wood pasture		
Permanent pasture (in-by, enclosed)		
Arable, incl. improved or temporary grassland		



## **Water Assets**

9. Please indicate the extent of water assets on the F/E. For still water areas, please indicate the number and area. For running waters (rivers and streams), please indicate the approximate length:

<b>Description</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Approx. area (ha.)</b>
Lakes		
Ponds		
Reservoirs		
	<b>Approx. length (km)</b>	
Rivers		--
Streams		--
Ditches, dykes		--

## **Habitats**

10. From the extensive tables on the following two pages, please show the range of habitats on the F/E. This will contribute to an understanding of the E/H's Natural Capital assets:

Habitat Category	Habitat Type	Ha. (or Km if linear, or number if individual)	General condition
Rivers and Streams	Active shingle rivers		
	Chalk rivers		
	Riverine water bodies with high hydromorphological/ecological status		
	SSSI designated for riverine species/features/geomorphology		
Standing Water	Aquifer-fed naturally fluctuating water bodies		
	Eutrophic standing water		
	Mesotrophic lake		
	Oligotrophic & dystrophic lakes		
	Ponds		
Arable & Horticultural	Cereal field margins		
Boundary & Linear Features	Hedgerows (ancient and/or species-rich hedgerows)		
Woodland & Scrub	Ancient Woodland		
	Dense/continuous scrub		
	Ghyll woodland		
	Lowland beech and yew woodland		
	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (ancient semi-natural)		
	Plantation woodland		
	Recently felled woodland		
	Traditional orchard		
	Upland mixed ashwoods		
	Upland oak woodland		
	Wet woodland/floodplain forest		
	Wood-pasture and parkland		
Grassland	Coastal & floodplain grazing marsh		
	Lowland calcareous grassland		
	Lowland dry acid grassland		
	Lowland meadows		

Tall Herb & Fern	Continuous bracken		
	All other tall fern habitats		
Heathland	Lowland heathland		
	Upland heathland		
Fen, Marsh & Swamp	Upland flushes, fens & swamps		
	Lowland fens		
	Purple moor grass and rush pastures		
	Reedbed		
Bogs	Blanket bog		
	Lowland raised bog		
Coastal	Coastal salt marsh		
	Coastal sand dunes		
	Coastal vegetated shingle		
	Intertidal mudflats		
	Saline lagoon		
Montane Habitats	Mountain heaths and willow scrub		
Inland Rock	Calaminarian grasslands		
	Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats		
	Limestone pavements		
	Maritime cliff and slopes		
	Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land		
Ditches	Ditch: dry		
	Ditch: permanently wet		
	Ditch: seasonally wet		
Trees and Margins	Veteran trees		
	Wildflower strips/grass margins		
	Woodland edge		
Manmade Features	Dry-stone walls		
	Permanent fallow		
	Stone curlew/lapwing plots		
	Wader scrapes		

	Other (please specify)		
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11. Please identify any designated areas : (AONB, SSSI, County Sites Important for Nature Conservation, Ramsar, etc.)

Designation	Site Name	Area (ha)	Main Feature	Condition

12. Please indicate any agri-environment schemes currently in place on the F/E:

Scheme	Tick if Yes	Area (ha)	Description of work
ELS			
HLS			
Countryside Stewardship			
Other (please specify)			

13. Is the F/E currently participating in any assurance or certification schemes that is of particular relevance to wildlife and biodiversity? Please specify:

14. Is there common grazing?  Yes  No:  ha.

15. Please show the extent of statutory public access:  
 Rights of way (public footpaths and bridleways, byways) (km)   
 CRoW land (free public access) (ha)

16. How many kilometres of public road (public highway) cross the estate?

17. How large is the population living within a 60-minute drivetime radius\*?

Guidance on surrounding populations can be found at: [www.freemaptools.com](http://www.freemaptools.com).

18. Please attach an outline (500-1000 words) that describes your achievements to date and/ or your plans and aspirations for the estate. This should outline 'the journey' that you want to make. The key questions are: What do I/we have on the farm/estate and what is our starting point? Where do we want to go? How do we think we are going to get there?

19. Finally, please give a rough indication of how ready you are to undertake the accreditation process: (This involves completing a detailed questionnaire and on-site visit from an

assessor).

Please submit this application form and your outline by one of the following methods:

By e-mail to:

[info@wildlifeestates.org.uk](mailto:info@wildlifeestates.org.uk)

By post to:

Wildlife Farms & Estate  
Holkham Estate Office  
Holkham Estate  
Wells-Next-The-Sea  
Norfolk  
NR23 1AB

Please remember to attach any relevant supporting documents.

Our secretariat will be in contact once your form has been reviewed.

