

**Option Name:** Lowland meadow remedial management – all year grazing

**Option Code:** LMA

**Option Payment:** Year 1 - 5: £230.00 per ha

**Option Aim(s):** To maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of grazed lowland meadow habitats through appropriate management regimes.

**Scheme Applicability:** Wider – EFS(W)  Higher – EFS(H)  Group – EFS(G)

**This option is made up of:** Annual Management requirements  NPI (capital items)

**This option is:** Permanent  Rotational

**Option Description and Outcome:** This Option is an annual management Option and has no essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works).  
Grazing suppresses coarse grasses and woody plants, preventing the transition from grassland to scrub and woodland. Rare and delicate species benefit from variations in the vegetation created by grazing. Furthermore, the ‘gaps’ created in the sward by animal hooves encourage seed germination.  
Remedial management will address undergrazing, overgrazing, damage associated with supplementary feeding sites and lack of active management on lowland meadow habitats.  
In particular, appropriate grazing will benefit ground nesting birds and the marsh fritillary butterfly.

**Choice of site:** Only EFS(H) and EFS(G) are eligible. Local site conditions need to be taken into account through the creation of a site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP) and associated Management Map. The area and location of ‘Lowland meadow remedial management - all year grazing’ will be detailed on the ssRMP map.

**Essential capital works:** None

**Additional optional capital works available for this:** Stock-proof fencing  
Gate and two gate posts – stock-proof fence

**Option:**

Bat box

Bird box

Solitary bee box

Where an ssRMP applies, other additional optional capital works may be included.

**Area Permitted:**

**Minimum** 0.1ha      **Maximum** Not Applicable\*

\*DAERA reserves the right to limit a Higher Level agreement value where it considers appropriate to ensure value for money.

**Requirements and Controls:**

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type <sup>1</sup>		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
<b>LMA1M</b>	Maintain and manage to enhance the same area and location of 'Lowland meadow remedial management - all year grazing' for the duration of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement.			✓
<b>LMA2M</b>	Implement the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the field(s) where it has been approved.	✓		✓
<b>LMA3M</b>	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.	✓		✓

<sup>1</sup> The possible control types for each requirement may be:  
 'Admin' – administrative checks, 'CwRS' – Control with Remote Sensing, 'OTSC' – On-the-Spot Check

**Further Advice:**

Reference should be made to the ssRMP which will list the relevant further advice relating to the Option.

Observe all relevant Health and Safety guidelines when operating machinery or using hand tools when completing management requirements under this Option. For further information on Health and Safety guidelines, please check the attached link to the Health and Safety Executive NI:

<http://www.hseni.gov.uk/guidance/industries/agriculture-3-column.htm>