



# Chailey Grazing Plan



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## Summary

- East Sussex County Council hopes to introduce cattle grazing to the Chailey commons in spring 2011. To achieve the best result it is important that the grazing regime is carefully planned. This report sets out the main considerations and discusses options for achieving effective grazing tailored to the site.
- Grazing options could include year round pony grazing with summer cattle grazing to target grasses, sheep grazing to help control scrub re-growth and diversify the heather swards. Grazing by pigs is a possible way to remove excessive amounts of acorns, which can be toxic to other livestock if over-consumed. Information is provided on sourcing appropriate livestock. Specific breeds suggested include Sussex and British White cattle, Exmoor ponies and Hebridean sheep. However, it is stressed that background and experience of livestock may over-ride breed considerations provided a hardy breed is used. Livestock already familiar with extensive grazing on semi-natural habitats, particularly heathland, would be ideal.
- An initial grazing density of around 0.1 livestock units per hectare per year is suggested as a starting point. This will need to be amended according to the observed impact of grazing over time and the amount of forage available. A possible grazing schedule is set out for the three grazing units, ensuring that at any one time one unit remains ungrazed for the use of those visitors who prefer to avoid grazing livestock. Vegetation monitoring will be essential to assess the impacts of the grazing regime and adjust it as necessary.
- The respective responsibilities of the site manager and registered livestock keeper are outlined, together with information on welfare legislation. The use of livestock risk assessment s is recommended, together with animal health plans for all stock used. Planning for contingencies is also recommended.
- Grazing agreement options are discussed and a template provided. At Chailey it seems probable that it will be necessary to pay graziers using Higher Level Stewardship funding. However the possibility of claiming Single Payment Scheme subsidies on the commons warrants further exploration.
- The importance of community engagement in the grazing project is discussed and options for maximising this suggested.

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## 1. Introduction

### Overview

- 1.1 Almost all heathland and grassland commons with registered rights will be subject to rights of grazing. This was the traditional way such commons were managed and Chailey is no exception. There are still those who can remember cows being turned out on the Common every day, and although not exercised so far as is known since before World War II, there are also still properties around the common with valid commoner's rights for grazing horses, ponies, pigs and sheep. These rights of common date back centuries and although seldom exercised on smaller commons today, they form a link between the history of the commons and the local communities that used and valued them. At Chailey, the re-introduction of open grazing will not only benefit the wildlife and scenery of the common but will re-establish a link between the common and local graziers that has been missing for upwards of 50 years. Extensive public consultations took place before a scheme for fencing and grazing the common was approved. However it is understandable that some visitors to the common still have concerns about the presence of livestock. This report not only gives advice on the types and numbers of livestock needed to achieve the management aims for the common, but also considers the welfare of the animals and ways of meeting legitimate concerns by other users of the common.

### Aim of this report

- 1.2 Previous reports (Underhill-Day 2006, Underhill-Day 2007) have outlined the conservation benefits to reintroducing grazing at Chailey Common. This report sets out information about the most suitable livestock to use, appropriate stocking levels and timing, suggestions for sourcing stock, and information on responsibilities, welfare and setting up grazing agreements.

## 2. Suitable livestock species and breeds

- 2.1 Over their history, grazing by different animals – wild, feral and domesticated - has affected the vegetation of the commons at Chailey. Domestic livestock are likely to have included sheep, goats, cattle, horses, ponies and donkeys, pigs and geese; additionally grazing by deer and rabbits will have played its part. Discussion here is not about re-establishing all the elements of a traditional grazing system which of course was driven by the economic needs of those who depended the commons, rather it will focus on what species or combination of species can best manage the vegetation in the short- and longer term. The likely candidates now are sheep, goats, horses/ponies and cattle (pigs will also be given brief consideration). Regardless of breed and background (which are also important considerations – see below), it is possible to draw out differences between these species in the way they graze and browse, what they require to maintain them and how they are likely to interact with other uses of the commons.
- 2.2 Though these species have characteristic grazing preferences, what actually gets grazed depends on the mix of vegetation available to them and the relative palatability of the plants that make it up and this will vary between sites and from season to season. Seasonality is extremely important in the grazing management of purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* – an important component of heathland at Chailey. This is highly palatable when it begins to grow in mid April, producing abundant growth which declines in palatability over the summer to leave a thatch of dead leaves in winter. When it is

abundant and palatable in late spring/ early summer it is often preferred by grazing animals to the exclusion of other components of the vegetation. It is at this time it needs to be grazed to reduce its competitiveness and diversify the heathland.

### Sheep

- 2.3 Sheep graze by rapid nibbling of small pieces of vegetation in a highly targeted manner. Given freedom to choose, they may concentrate on areas of shorter grassland and are often cited as being especially partial to flower heads and so damaging to sources of nectar for insects. Though there appear to be breed differences, they are generally not effective at grazing areas of tall or coarse grass and on Chailey Commons would not be first choice for reducing the dominance of purple moor-grass. This is especially the case in the wetter areas of mire and wet heath where susceptibility to foot-rot can be a serious concern. Like most grazing animals, sheep tend to avoid grazing cross-leaved heath and bell heather but heather (ling) *Calluna vulgaris* is readily grazed, especially in the winter. At controlled levels, this can be beneficial in promoting structure and maintaining vigour in heather stands but can be damaging if grazing is over-intense and may result in replacement of heather by grasses.
- 2.4 Some of the more primitive breeds of sheep will take significant amounts of scrub – they will browse gorse, pine and birch and have shown themselves effective at killing out cut birch by repeatedly grazing off re-growth. Additionally, sheep can easily be controlled by electric fencing, allowing their use to be controlled and targeted when this is appropriate. Hebridean sheep are already used on Chailey Common.
- 2.5 Sheep are of course vulnerable to attack by uncontrolled dogs but can receive a measure of protection from electric fencing. On soft ground hooves will grow fast and will need frequent attention.

### Goats

- 2.6 Though goats, like sheep, will graze short grass swards, they will also seek out taller, coarser vegetation and indeed their metabolism requires quantities of bulky fibrous forage. Consequently, they have a value in managing taller vegetation including scrub and may be particularly valuable in reclaiming neglected heathland. Gorse, pine and a variety of broadleaved trees including birch, oak and willow will be browsed and frequently their bark will be removed but goats seem to be less useful than primitive sheep breeds in removing young birch re-growth. Goats will graze tall purple moor-grass and are capable of penetrating areas of wet heath and mire. They will also avidly consume heather so their browsing may need to be limited to maintain vigorous stands of mature heather. Goats are difficult to confine in permanent stock fencing and though, like sheep, they can be trained to regular electric fencing, they may eventually learn that they can jump it and can make unpopular visits to neighbouring land. Even hardy breeds of goat need to be provided with shelter and this can be difficult to provide and may be unsightly. Also, like sheep, they are prone to attack by dogs and their hooves need regular attention.

### Horses and ponies

- 2.7 Equines - horses, ponies and donkeys - have similar grazing habits but, of these, it is likely that hardy ponies would have the durability and background to be most suitable for heathland grazing. They are selective grazers which tend to concentrate almost exclusively on grass when palatable and

available. This is especially useful where purple moor-grass dominates because this sort of grazing will reduce the vigour of the grass and favour other plants, including heathers, which otherwise would be unable to compete with it. Consequently, repeated summer grazing by ponies of areas with dense and deep purple moor-grass can lead to remarkably fast diversification in their botanical composition as well as the structure of the vegetation.

- 2.8 Ponies will readily graze mires where there is abundant purple moor-grass and can play an important role in providing bare ground in these areas through their trampling. This will favour plants such as sundews in the short term and possibly also marsh gentian over a longer time period.
- 2.9 In winter, when grasses are less available, other items become important in the diet. Gorse is browsed to some degree throughout the year but takes on much more importance in winter when it provides nutritious forage. Indeed, the presence of adequate gorse on a site is often a determining factor as to whether ponies can be maintained there throughout the winter. Regular browsing by ponies reduces the frequency gorse needs to be managed by rotational cutting or burning and produces a tighter growth habit that favours nesting and foraging birds, including Dartford warblers. Ponies can slow down or even prevent establishment of gorse that is developing from seed or as regrowth after cutting. This can be useful but grazing pressure may need to be adjusted to maintain sufficient gorse with varied age structure. Heather too is grazed more in winter and a level of grazing by ponies helps promote its structure and vigour.
- 2.10 Besides gorse, ponies tend to be less interested in consuming woody species than ruminant grazers though breed and background probably have a part to play in this. Palatable species like willow and rowan will frequently be taken and oak browsed a little. Pine appears to be avoided and birch unfortunately is rarely consumed in anything but small quantities. Occasionally ponies will graze down young re-growth from cut stumps of downy birch but silver birch is generally avoided.
- 2.11 Mature ponies are generally untroubled by dogs but are frequently perceived as a problem by horse riders – stallions need to be avoided and it is essential to remove any ponies that show signs of interfering with ridden horses. Ponies can get conditioned to hand-feeding by people who consequently run the risk of injury from ponies vying for attention. To avoid such problems developing, there should be a clear policy of discouraging feeding. Laminitis is a problem that can affect mature ponies on rich grazing and, perhaps surprisingly, ponies grazing heathland can suffer, especially in the summer. Certain individuals seem more prone and if identified may need to be re-located. Hoof-trimming needs to be another consideration with free-roaming ponies. Some breeds on some sites seem to be able to manage without attention as the hooves naturally wear down and chip off but others need regular hoof-trimming which requires them to be tame enough to carry it out. Tame ponies are more likely to develop the undesirable habit of seeking food from visitors.

## **Cattle**

- 2.12 Of the animals considered here, cattle are the least selective grazers. Nevertheless, they will centre their grazing activity where it is likely to give them palatable forage with least effort. As they graze by wrapping vegetation with their tongue and pulling rather than biting, they are less able to graze tight swards than ponies so may concentrate even more of their grazing on taller purple moor-grass when it is growing actively – with beneficial results. Heather is often grazed quite heavily at flowering and also during the autumn and winter and cattle generally will take some scrub and browse low branches of trees – broadleaved species in spring and summer and pine in winter but

they are less attracted to gorse than ponies. Birch regrowth is frequently grazed but rarely killed out as it may be with sheep. Like ponies, cattle are likely to produce areas of bare ground that are valuable habitat in the heathland system. Except where they have access to substantial areas of winter-green grassland, all but the most hardy breeds struggle to maintain acceptable condition on heathland over the winter without regular winter feeding so in most situations there will be an emphasis on summer grazing by cattle.

- 2.13 If stocked at the right level, cattle have a beneficial effect in countering scrub invasion and produce a coarse and varied structure in the vegetation which is valuable for heathland fauna. Adult cattle are unlikely to be harmed by dogs and are generally problem-free with people, especially if – as is intended here – cows with young calves are not put on the commons and they are very unlikely to bring with them problems of over-familiarity with humans that may happen with ponies. If one grazing option has to be selected, free-ranging cattle grazing over the summer months is probably the all round preference but where it is possible, using cattle in combination with other species can bring added benefit.

### **Pigs**

- 2.14 Ponies and cattle can be killed by over-consuming acorns and in ‘mast years’, there is the potential for heavy crops of acorns on parts of the Chailey commons. Putting pigs on commons to eat them (a tradition called ‘pannage’) can much reduce the danger of acorn poisoning and this is still done regularly in the New Forest. Pigs also take invertebrates, tubers, fungi, fruits, seeds, grasses and carrion, much of which is obtained by rooting about in the leaf litter. Pigs have a liking for bracken rhizomes and have been used on some sites to control bracken in heather-dominated communities (e.g. at Dunlossit on Islay)<sup>1</sup>. Whether they have potential as controllers of bracken on lowland heathland is at present uncertain – there is concern that they can encourage invasives, for example, birch.

### **Grazers in combination**

- 2.15 Given heathland with a good range of vegetation types including gorse and areas of winter-green grassland, hardy ponies have the advantage of being able to survive with little or no supplementary feeding throughout the year. In the summer they are valuable for their grazing of purple moor-grass and during the winter they give the benefits of managing gorse and heather and may remove dead growth from areas of ranker grass. Because of this, all-the-year-round grazing by a small number of ponies supplemented by cattle grazing over the summer months (April- September) is a frequently chosen option by managers of heathland sites. Whilst at Chailey it may not be possible to have year-long grazing on any one grazing unit (see Schedule below), over all the commons it would be possible to maintain a small herd of ponies throughout the year and bring in cattle to graze during the months when the growth of purple moor-grass adds considerably to the need for higher levels of grazing. Some breeds of sheep would also have a place in combination with other grazers in control of scrub and managing heather. Hitherto, sheep have been grazed within electric fencing - with good results - but their effectiveness as free-ranging animals should be investigated with a view to mixing them with other grazers if they are shown not to cause excessive grazing of mature heather and are not prone to attack from dogs. The difficulty of controlling goats probably rules them out as a

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.islayinfo.com/islay-dunlossit-estate-pigs.html>

management option at Chailey - what they could contribute (management of mature scrub) would probably be easier achieved by a combination of mechanical clearance and grazing by other species.

- 2.16 There is also a possible place at Chailey for pigs. Free-roaming pigs might be intimidating to visitors and horses are reputed to be particularly averse to pigs so they might be unpopular with riders, but it might be possible to confine pigs to areas of woodland using electric fencing - or alternatively, tame pigs could be accompanied by their owner! Care should be taken to check for archaeological features of interest before pig enclosures are planned, as pigs could easily damage earthworks.

## Breeds

- 2.17 There is currently a debate over the extent to which livestock breed plays a significant role in an animal's ability to do well on sites of poorer agricultural quality (e.g. (Rook et al. 2004), (Isselstein et al. 2007). Similarly, the published evidence base for whether traditional breeds are more likely to create the desired outcome on semi-natural swards is currently ambiguous (e.g. (Dumont et al. 2007). However, within the nature conservation community, it is generally accepted that, all other things being equal, hardy native breeds are likely to do better than commercial breeds (Tolhurst and Oates 2001). Traditional breeds generally have low input costs, the ability to outwinter, better efficiency in converting poor pasture to prime meat, easy handling, easy birthing and longevity. That some native breeds may have attributes that are particularly well-suited to harsh climatic conditions, to difficult terrain, to grazing semi-natural vegetation and to achieving conservation objectives is reflected in the native breeds at risk supplement with Higher Level Stewardship, and lists of these breeds can be found in *the Higher Level Stewardship: Environmental Stewardship Handbook, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition* (Natural England 2010)<sup>2</sup>. Unfortunately there is little comparative data available between native traditional and continental breeds. The GAP breed profile handbook is a useful starting places (Tolhurst and Oates 2001), although it should be borne in mind that it is largely based on anecdotal evidence. The Rare Breeds Survival Trust<sup>3</sup> also has breed profiles on its website, and is currently expanding these with information on daily liveweight gain etc.
- 2.18 We stress that individual genetics, background and experience are extremely important and can over-ride the effects of breed (e.g. Lake 2002). Ideally stock should already be accustomed to the type of vegetation they are required for – in this case heathland with scrub and woodland. This will ensure both that their digestive system is adapted to the type of forage and that they have experience of how to forage effectively on sites with similar challenges. Similarly, where possible, it is preferable to retain older animals with knowledge of the site within a herd, so that younger inexperienced animals can learn from them. In addition grazing ability tends to improve with age, and older animals tend to cope better with a poorer quality diet – for example, cattle rumens mature around age 18 months. Discussion with conservation land managers suggests that even hardy breeds can suffer if moved from improved pasture to more challenging unimproved swards. Work at Bristol University looking at different breed and pasture type showed no obvious differences in health and welfare between traditional and modern breeds.
- 2.19 Cattle breeds that might be considered at Chailey include Sussex, Longhorns, Highlands, Belted Galloways and British White. All are traditional hardy breeds, relatively docile and able to do well on rough grazing. Sussex are the most local breed while Belted Galloways and British Whites have the

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<sup>2</sup> <http://naturalengland.etraderstores.com/NaturalEnglandShop/NE227>

<sup>3</sup> <http://rbst.org.uk>

added advantage of greater visibility, which would be of benefit at Chailey due to the roads crossing the southern grazing unit. However, any hardy native beef breed see (Tolhurst and Oates 2001) could be suitable, dependent on background.

- 2.20 Any sheep breed used would need to be a hardy upland breed. Hebrideans have already been used on site, and we would suggest that this breed is likely to have greatest potential to control scrub re-growth.
- 2.21 Of the native pony breeds, Exmoor, New Forest and Dartmoor are the most commonly used in conservation grazing, and are all able to cope with coarse vegetation. Exmoor ponies may be the most suited to Chailey, as they maintain condition well over winter (lack of condition can cause concern to the public), are relatively disinterested in people and are generally ignore dogs.

### 3. Stocking rates and grazing schedule

#### Stocking rates

- 3.1 As far as possible, it is preferable to work on an outcome-lead basis, using the numbers of livestock that provide the conditions required. The impact of a given stocking rate will depend on a number of factors including breeds used, the proportion of grass rich vegetation in the sward, and the management objectives (Lake 2001). Stocking rates also need to be pragmatic – for example farmers are often less willing to supply lower numbers of animals preferring a group size that makes sense from the point of view of husbandry and logistics. For cattle, this is usually around 30. The use of a grazer close by the common would hopefully allow greater flexibility here. Assuming the Chailey Commons are entered into Higher Level Stewardship, the stocking levels will need to be agreed with the relevant Natural England officer. HLS advice states *“Graze with [cattle, sheep and/or ponies] suitable for the conditions, to suppress scrub and grasses during the main growing season. Adjust stocking density to ensure that any young heather is not damaged, or suppressed by other vegetation. No winter grazing is allowed between [early September and mid-/late May], unless [the dwarf shrub ground cover exceeds 25% on large sites with a high proportion of rank grasses and] subject to prior agreement with your Natural England adviser”* (text in brackets can be edited by the relevant NE adviser). Stocking rates for lowland heathland reported in Lake (2001) varied from 0.05 to 0.4 LU/ha/yr.

We suggest a low initial overall stocking rate of around 0.1 LU/ha/yr (where one cow = 1LU, one pony = 1LU, 1 sheep = 0.15 (e.g. RDS 2005) n.b. higher pony equivalences are often given). A relatively low stocking rate is suggested so that impacts can be assessed and the stocking rate adjusted accordingly. In addition, much of the commons are dominated by bracken, scrub and woodland. The area of heathland and grassland has been calculated in MapInfo from electronic habitat maps supplied by East Sussex County Council, and is shown in

- 3.2 Table 1. The final column shows the percentage of each grazing unit which support bracken and other habitats (car parks, bare ground) which will not provide much forage. On Red House Common in particular, there is currently a high proportion of the site that will not provide much forage for stock. A fairly high proportion of Memorial/Pound/Romany Ridge is also bracken or other, but this area has a greater proportion wet heath supporting purple moor grass which will provide palatable forage in the spring and summer.

**Table 1 Approximate areas of main habitat types at Chailey (ha)**

Grazing Unit	Heathland and grassland	Gorse	Woodland	Bracken	Other	Total	% bracken/ other
Memorial/Pound/Romany Ridge	30.99	11.86	23.33	14.39	4.99	85.55	23
Red House	10.71	6.34	23.18	15.77	5.66	61.6	35
Lane End	3.64		9.36	1.04	0.05	14.09	7

- 3.3 Stocking rates will need to change over time, as, for example, a higher number of animals will be needed initially to reduce the dominance of purple moor-grass than will be needed to maintain condition once the desired sward composition is achieved. Regular monitoring should be carried out to establish the impact of grazing and allow the grazing regime to be regularly updated.
- 3.4 Grazing pressure will not be uniform throughout the site, and it is likely that all free-ranging stock will show a strong preference for areas of grassland (including purple-moor grass in spring) (Lake 2002), with wooded areas used for shelter overnight and in poor weather. Heath dominated areas are likely to be largely used in travelling between preferred areas, although patches of young heather may be preferentially selected for grazing. Some increase in the use of heath and scrub are likely to be seen in the winter. Careful location of management practices such as mowing can be used to help encourage livestock onto areas which are less used.
- 3.5 Monitoring across all vegetation types is recommended so the effects on each type can be assessed. Enclosures would be ideal as these would allow comparison between grazed vegetation and ungrazed control plots. However, this would be difficult under the exemptions for commons grazing, as even if they were taken down when livestock were moved off the site, they would need to be re-erected in the same position once livestock are moved back on which is not permitted (see (Footprint Ecology 2010a). It may therefore be necessary to use fixed point quadrats and look at vegetation changes over time. Fixed point photography is also highly recommended as a cheap and straightforward means of monitoring which provides readily accessible results. Regular monitoring of sward condition will also be needed when grazing animals are on site, particularly in winter, to check both the availability of forage and for any possible damage to heather.

### Schedule

- 3.6 Priority needs to be given to achieving adequate levels of grazing in the summer months when purple moor-grass is in growth. This is most needed on Memorial, Pound and Romany Ridge Commons (which will be fenced as one block). Red House Common has fewer areas where purple moor-grass has come to dominate so has a lower requirement for summer grazing. It is also the common likely to have highest summer visitor numbers. Lane End Common would benefit most from grazing when purple moor-grass is in growth and this could be achieved most easily with a small number of ponies. It is therefore suggested that cattle and ponies provide the majority of the grazing. A mixed regime including penned sheep could be beneficial but needs to be trialled to make sure the sheep do not excessively damage mature heather stands and that visitor behaviour does not

put them at risk from dogs. Sheep numbers have not been included in the schedule, but it is anticipated that a similar system to that used previously could be practices, with a peripatetic herd of 10-20 sheep used in electric fenced enclosures , particularly focussing on areas with birch regeneration. Regular monitoring will be required, particularly in winter, to ensure that there is no heather damage. Winter stocking under HLS will need to be considered by NE.

- 3.7 The following is a simple indication of how grazing might initially be ordered across the commons in order to achieve both conservation objectives and sensible grazing logistics. It is perhaps a starting point: Actual grazing practice will be led by experience and may differ from this. Stocking rates are not provided for pigs – if this option is taken up, the best way to establish a suitable stocking rate would be a site visit with the grazier during the autumn to establish how much forage is present. A low stocking rate should be used and very regular checks of the impact on the vegetation carried out, as by rooting up vegetation pigs can have a very significant impact in a short space of time.

Table 2 Grazing schedule for the Chailey Commons. This scheme ensures that a visitor who does not want to mix with livestock can visit at least one of the grazing units at any time of year.

P= ponies; C= cattle; S= sheep.

Unit	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	LU/ha /yr
Memorial/ Pound/ Romany Ridge				15C 7P	15C 7P	15C 7P	15C 7P	15C 7P	15C 7P	7P	7P	7P	0.15
Red House	7P	7P	7P				3P	3P	3P	3P	3P	3P	0.05
Lane End	3P	3P	3P	3P	3P	3P							0.16

## 4. Sourcing livestock

### Dedicated ownership

- 4.1 Cattle, ponies or sheep of the right breed and background to graze a heathland site such as this are frequently hard to find. Add to this the need for an owner with an understanding of a livestock system far removed from mainstream agriculture and the choice is further limited. As a result, some heathland managers, having failed to find suitable graziers, have opted to own and run their own livestock and have complete control of the grazing. This is no light undertaking as ownership of agricultural animals brings with it a considerable amount of administration connected with livestock registration, movement and health. This is in addition to the many practical considerations of livestock keeping including equipment to transport and manage the animals, a requirement for back-up land and some sort of base to store equipment and run operations from. It is likely that other options will be preferable for grazing the Chailey Commons.

## Commoners

- 4.2 Once fencing is in place, those with registered commoners rights attached to their properties may wish to exercise them. Currently, the indications are that few will do this but there is certainly relevant expertise amongst the commoners, some of whom are practicing farmers with holdings well placed to resume grazing of the commons – either exercising their rights or providing grazing under licence or similar arrangement. One commoner at least has suitable cattle, sheep and pigs and considerable enthusiasm to be involved. Very local graziers have the advantage of local knowledge of the commons as well as knowing and being known to many who use them and they are close at hand should there be problems with their animals. There are possible cultural as well as marketing benefits in linking the common once again to local food production. It is also worth taking into consideration that locally based livestock is less likely to be affected by controls on movements that can be imposed for bovine TB and Foot and Mouth Disease.

## Other Sources

- 4.3 Sussex Wildlife Trust grazes 14 sites across the county and manages about 1000 sheep and 100 Sussex and British White cattle. Potentially the Trust could, under a suitable financial arrangement, provide cattle grazing on the Chailey Commons. They are well placed to do so as their base for operations is Southerham Farm near Lewes. However, with TB prevalent in the area, moving cattle on and off the commons may pose difficulties.
- 4.4 The Sussex Pony Grazing and Conservation Trust is a locally based organisation that grazes Exmoor ponies on heathland and downland. It is in a good position to provide ponies for the Chailey Commons as it does on parts of Ashdown Forest. A valuable feature of grazing carried out by both these organisations is their policy of involving local people as volunteers – something that can do much to link the commons closer to the local community. Indeed, it is especially important that all who provide grazing on the commons have a positive attitude to other users of the commons and a willingness to inform and, where appropriate, involve them in the grazing.

## 5. Infrastructure

- 5.1 Clearly, considerable thought went into the designing of fencing and related infrastructure prior to the application to the Planning Inspectorate. The fencing is of stock mesh which would allow sheep to be free-ranging as well as cattle and ponies but equally it would be valuable if sheep were to escape from electric-fenced enclosures. Stock mesh is also generally preferred by people to barbed wire but has the disadvantage that it can encourage more running of uncontrolled dogs as the owners become aware that they cannot escape onto the roads.
- 5.2 Care has been taken to avoid ‘cattle-traps’ –stretches of fencing narrowing to a point – and field gates have been placed to facilitate access of stock from adjacent holdings that may possibly wish to provide grazing animals or at locations that would allow ready catching up of animals for removal from site. It is seen, however, that no holding or management areas for livestock are planned. This facility can be provided by portable equipment and it is understood that this is proposed. The ownership of this equipment and arrangements for making it available are issues that will need to be addressed.

- 5.3 The stretches of road that will be included in the southern grazing unit have sections where there is a restricted view for drivers. Thus, even with the measures that will be put in place to calm the traffic and alert drivers to the possibility of livestock on the roads, regular clearance of roadside vegetation will be an important task.
- 5.4 Approximate positions for water troughs have been included in the application to the Planning Inspectorate. Although there is a likelihood of permanent natural water being available at least on two of the grazing units – the southern unit and Red House Common – this piped water will ensure supplies of good quality water throughout the year. It should also help to maintain a good spread of grazing over the sites - the position of a water trough can often increase grazing pressure in its vicinity.

## 6. Animal welfare

- 6.1 In addition to the obvious ethical reasons for maintaining excellent animal welfare, there are several practical ones. Firstly, healthy livestock do a better job of grazing. It is also important that animals on a site with public access are in good health, as the level of public scrutiny of the animals is likely to be high. Ensuring good welfare helps to ensure public support and reduces the likelihood of complaint and time taken in dealing with it. The Farm Animal Welfare Council's 'Five Freedoms' have been widely adopted as a measure of how livestock systems perform on welfare grounds. They are listed below with comments relating to the Chailey Commons grazing proposals in italics in the text box.
- 6.2 A livestock risk assessment should be carried out for each grazing unit. This is a useful process to go through to ensure all relevant aspects have been considered and any appropriate actions taken or planned. An example copy for the entire site using the Five Freedoms and based on a template provided by the Grazing Animals Project<sup>4</sup> is included in Appendix 1.
- 6.3 We recommend that livestock Risk Assessment should be completed for each grazing unit once the stocking regime has been finalised and before the grazing animals are introduced to the site.
- 6.4 An animal health plan should be completed for the livestock that will be brought on to the site, and the site managers can request that this is done. Animal health plans are recommended under the code of recommendations for the welfare of livestock, and can be excellent management tools. They focus on using animal husbandry skills and good pasture management to prevent disease and reduce routine use of medicines. They are normally prepared by the registered keeper of the livestock, and should be agreed with their vet. Health plans should be flexible working documents that are monitored and updated as necessary. The health plans will help in carrying out the risk assessment, showing where husbandry actions have been taken or are planned to ensure the animals' good health on sites. See GAP's information leaflet no. 6 Animal Health Plans (GAP 2005) for further information.
- 6.5 Other measures to ensure the welfare of animals on site will be identified through the livestock risk assessment, and may be covered by actions already undertaken or planned. In particular, an emergency plan will be needed to ensure that contingencies can be dealt with. For example, the fire plan for the site should be updated to include information about the likely whereabouts of stock at different times of year, and emergency procedures worked out in case the stock need to be removed

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<sup>4</sup> [www.grazingadvicepartnership.org.uk](http://www.grazingadvicepartnership.org.uk)

from the grazing unit affected. Plans for providing supplementary feed in snowy weather conditions should also be made and agreed in advance with Natural England. For each group of livestock used on the site, it must be ensured that back up land is potentially available should the animals need to be unexpectedly removed from the site.

## The Five Freedoms

**1. Freedom from Hunger and Thirst** - by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.

*With regular and thorough supervision, livestock should never be lacking food and water. They should only be kept on the commons when there is enough natural food to support them; water will be provided from natural and piped sources and if freezing takes place measures should be taken to ensure that drinking water is immediately restored.*

**2. Freedom from Discomfort** - by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.

*All the grazing units have plenty of suitable natural shelter and resting areas for all types of livestock that are likely to be grazed.*

**3. Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease** - by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.

*Thorough risk assessment should be carried out and every effort made in prevention. All livestock brought onto the common should have an Animal Health Plan. Traffic calming measures and warning signs will help protect against road casualties; good information for visitors will help avoid harm from dogs; stock should be excluded by temporary fencing from site-specific hazards (e.g. old wartime trenches). Frequent checking of the site and the livestock will ensure that problems are identified and quickly dealt with – a good working relationship should be developed with a local vet.*

**4. Freedom to Express Normal Behaviour** - by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.

*The commons provide an excellent environment for livestock to express normal behaviour; animals should never be grazed alone.*

**5. Freedom from Fear and Distress** - by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

*All those involved in managing the livestock should be trained to behave responsibly towards them and treat them humanely at all times.*

- 6.6 Unfenced roads crossing the southern units will present a risk to free-ranging livestock, particularly where roadsides are grassy and therefore attractive to livestock. Measures should be taken to reduce the risk of collisions. Speed reduction measures are already planned, and should be supplemented with vegetation management alongside road to help increase visibility. The use of high-visibility bands should be discussed with graziers – further information can be found in GAP information leaflet no. 7 Reducing stock casualties on roads (GAP 2007a). Livestock behaviour is also a key issue here. More problems are likely when new stock are becoming familiar with the site. It will therefore be beneficial to use the same individuals as far as is possible, as they will be familiar

with where roads are and understand that there is traffic on them. Livestock tend to use a site according to a daily routine, therefore it will be helpful to look at how the stock are using the site and whether this can be influenced to reduce activity near roads. For example, water, natural shelter and preferred forage (e.g. grassy swards, young heather) should be available on both sides of a road to reduce the frequency of animals crossing in search of these.

- 6.7 An ongoing series of measures to involve the local community in the site and encourage them take an interest in the livestock will be very beneficial (see Section 9) and should form part of the efforts to ensure the welfare of the livestock on site. This is particularly important for dog walkers. Should problems arise with dogs and livestock, GAP information leaflets no. 8 *Dogs and Grazing* (GAP 2007b) provides useful ideas of measures that can be taken to reduce encounters between dogs and livestock and help raise awareness of the issues with users of the site.

## 7. Responsibilities

- 7.1 This section outlines the responsibilities which the different parties involved in grazing the Chailey Commons hold. Care should be taken that everyone understands where their own and others responsibilities lie, and that adequate training is given should these be delegated.

### Registered Keeper

- 7.2 The registered keeper of the livestock will hold responsibility for the welfare of the animals on sites, although this may be delegated to others. According to the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000, they must have access to the relevant welfare codes<sup>5</sup> and to be familiar with their provisions, and anyone stock checking must receive guidance on them. Stock keepers may also be responsible for maintaining fences, gates and water supplies – this should be agreed in the grazing agreement (see Section 8)
- 7.3 The registered stock keepers must have appropriate and current insurance, particularly third party insurance in case of injury or damage resulting from the livestock presence on the site. This should be required in the grazing agreement.

### Stock checks/looking

- 7.4 Daily stock checking (traditionally called looking in the southern counties) may be carried out by the registered keeper, or delegated to site rangers and volunteers. It is important the responsibilities are clearly outlined in the arrangements that are made. In general, lookers (stock checkers) are responsible for checking that all animals are present and healthy, that there is sufficient food and water, and that fences and other infrastructure are sound and that there are no problems such as litter or poisonous plants. Lookers can of course carry out tasks such as shutting gates or picking up litter, but generally refer back to the stock keeper if there are any more serious problems. It is important that lookers are given appropriate training, and access to the relevant welfare codes. The Grazing Advice Partnership runs day-long courses for daily stock checking<sup>6</sup>. Engaging the services of regular site users such as dog walkers as lookers is often an effective way of gaining their interest

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/welfare/onfarm/index.htm#we>

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.grazinganimalsproject.org.uk/gap\\_training.html](http://www.grazinganimalsproject.org.uk/gap_training.html)

and increasing their understanding of grazing. In addition to appropriate training and access to welfare guides, lookers should be provided with an up-to-date action plan, detailing what they should do if there are any problems, and who to contact. An example is given in Appendix 2 . A system of lookers report forms or a log book (which can be electronic) can also be a useful way to check that stock checks have been carried out and for lookers to pass on information (e.g. if an animal seems basically fine but they notice some behavioural changes or anything that might suggest that the next looker should take particular notice of that animal). An example is provided in Appendix 3 Example of a lookers form.

### Responsibilities to other site users

- 7.5 Risk assessments addressing risks to other site users should be carried out by the site managers. It will be essential to erect signs alerting the public to the presence of livestock, and giving numbers of animals and dates when animals come on and are expected to go off a particular common, together with a politely worded and friendly request for the proper control of dogs to reduce stress to the grazing animals. Signs should provide emergency contact numbers, and be erected at all public access points. They should be removed when stock are not present.
- 7.6 Livestock risk assessments should be carried out as discussed in Section 6 and in this case are probably carried out by the site managers in conjunction with the graziers.

### Responsibilities to stock keepers

- 7.7 These are largely concerned with biosecurity - measures and protocols designed to prevent disease transmission and spread. Given livestock from different holdings are likely to be used at Chailey, a written biosecurity policy may be useful to ensure responsibilities are met. Guidelines include ensuring all equipment in contact with the animals on site is regularly cleaned and disinfected, that sick animals are isolated off-site, ideally back on the stock keeper's holding, and water troughs are cleaned and disinfected regularly. Fencing should be checked regularly to prevent stock mixing with neighbouring stock. Such measures will of course also help ensure the health of animals grazing on the Chailey commons.

### Other authorities

- 7.8 In conjunction with DEFRA Animal Health Officers and the State Veterinary Service, it is the statutory responsibility of County Council Trading Standards to enforce all animal health legislation. The remit of Trading Standards generally includes the welfare of animals in transit, at markets and ports and, together with DEFRA, enforcing the identification of livestock. Local Authorities coordinate Trading Standards and are the first point of contact for further information.

## 8. Grazing Agreement

- 8.1 A grazing agreement with each grazier is essential. An example is provided in Appendix 4. Competent professional advice must be sought before adapting the licence template. The NFU also supplies a series of model clauses for use by its members. The grazing agreement should state clearly the location, the type of stock to be grazed, the numbers needed, the dates grazing is to be carried out, and other issues such as who will be responsible for maintaining fences and water supplies, who

will carry out daily stock checks and of course any financial arrangements. It can be made clear that failure to meet the terms will result in payments being partially or fully withheld as appropriate.

- 8.2 There is currently much debate in the conservation grazing community as to the pros and cons of paying graziers, asking for a peppercorn rent, or asking for a more substantial rent. Existing arrangements vary across the country depending on local demand either for land or for suitable livestock for conservation grazing. In many cases in the southern counties of England, graziers are currently paid to graze heathland sites, rather than themselves paying rent for use of the land for grazing animals. Heathland sites often present extra-ordinary challenges in terms of the vegetation type, difficulties in finding and checking stock, and public access. In addition the requirements of the site managers to achieve the maximum conservation benefit are not necessarily the same as those of the grazier wishing to maximise the return on their stock. The situation is further complicated by payments received through Environmental Stewardship schemes, in this case Higher Level Stewardship, and through Single Payment Scheme subsidies.
- 8.3 HLS agreements can be made with the site owner/manager, or the grazier. In general, if the landlord (or site manager) is paying for all the fencing, hedge maintenance, water and other costs, and the farmer is grazing for part of the year on a seasonal grazing licence, its generally held to acceptable for the landlord to claim the HLS payment. The landlord may then choose to reimburse the grazier for their time checking stock on a difficult site, and/or for their contribution in keeping the land in good environmental and agricultural conditions. The grazier then becomes a 'grazing contractor' rather than a 'tenant' and is paid for delivering a service.
- 8.4 If, however, the grazier uses the land under the terms of a standard farm business tenancy, s/he is likely to be responsible for maintenance costs and also have greater freedom in deciding when and how s/he uses the land. In such cases it is usually more appropriate for the grazier to receive SFP and ES payments.
- 8.5 In some cases, graziers are charged rent for the land, and then after six months paid for their services as a grazier, the argument being that this helps ensure their compliance with the grazing requirements and means they value the grazing contract. A competitive tendering process can be used to select a grazier if there is sufficient demand. This requires a long term grazing agreement, but allows room for regular rent reviews (with a qualified professional). However this is most suited to sites where the grazier can claim SFP.
- 8.6 At Chailey the exact grazing requirements and the possible need for more than one grazier makes it most appropriate for the agreement to be taken up by the site managers, who can then ensure a suitable grazing programme is implemented. The most suitable sources of livestock at Chailey are likely to be the existing grazier, who has historically received payment for grazing the site, and the Sussex Pony Grazing and Conservation Trust, who require a per capita payment to fund the enterprise. Therefore in this case it seems most suitable that the grazier should be paid to graze the site, using HLS funds.
- 8.7 The question of single farm payment is less straightforward. On commons, SPS can be claimed by the grazier if they have the right to farm the land and enough grazing entitlements (the basis for SPS payments), and have a registered holding number. (Useful information on SPS entitlements is

provided by Business Link<sup>77</sup>). The situation is more complicated if the grazier has no grazing rights for the site, and was summarised neatly in a recent posting to the Nibblers conservation grazing forum by conservation grazier Richard Collingridge :

- 8.8 *Suppose Borsetshire Wildlife Trust has a 100 ha common and they want me to graze it. There are three commoners, and each has grazing rights for enough to occupy a nominal 25 ha of the common. This would leave 25 ha for BWT, and that is all I could claim on as their tenant (assuming I had that many SPS entitlements as well). This would apply even if some or all the commoners were not claiming SPS at all. However, I could also lease common grazing rights from any commoners who were not claiming SPS on their share of the common – I would then be their tenant as well as the owner's, and if I had the entitlements [or could lease them] I'd be able to claim on their share of the common too."*
- 8.9 Further investigation as to the number of commoners and any grazing entitlements is required to clarify the situation at Chailey. If SPF can be claimed by a potential grazier, this would reduce the need for a grazing fee to be paid to that grazier.

## 9. Recommendations for wider involvement

- 9.1 Involvement from the wider community and other interested parties is important if grazing schemes (particularly those on sites with public access) are to be successful. The perceived level of animal welfare is very important on public access sites, therefore we recommend engagement with the RSPCA and possibly trading standards before livestock are brought on site. This will ensure they understand the aims of the grazing scheme, and can advise on welfare issues if needed. RSPCA has worked with the Grazing Animals Project (now Grazing Advice Partnership) on welfare recommendations for conservation grazing, and, at a national level, has a good understanding of the issues. If members of the public are concerned and approach the RSPCA, they will already know the background to the project and will hopefully have visited the site, and will be able to allay fears.
- 9.2 It is also wise to encourage involvement from a local vet. A vet familiar with the conditions of the site and the livestock grazing it will be in a better position to both to contribute to Animal Health Plans and to treat animals should the need arise.
- 9.3 Community engagement is particularly important. The consultation process carried out before permission to fence the common was granted from the Secretary of State means that many local people are already aware of the grazing plans, and many of them may have a firm opinion about them. Opportunities for site users to learn more about the grazing are a useful way of encouraging positive engagement. A "meet the livestock" event where the livestock might be temporarily penned to enable people to observe them at close quarters, with an invitation to dog walkers to bring their pets for a walk around the stock, with the stock keeper and warden/ranger present to answer questions and advise on any difficulties. Needless to say, stock that are well used to people and dogs should be used for such an occasion, and the same experienced stock subsequently used on the common.

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<sup>77</sup> <http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/detail?itemId=1082224422&type=RESOURCES>

- 9.4 Volunteer training days are also a way to increase interest. Dog walkers are one of the best groups to engage with, as dog walkers are likely to use the site very regularly. Training dog walkers as volunteer lookers will both help in terms of stock checking, and increasing understanding of dog and livestock issues in the most relevant user group. Other groups to engage with include local schools and clubs and societies. Further tips for community engagement can be found in Commons Factsheet No.04 Getting Started (Footprint Ecology 2010b).

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## Appendix 1 - Example of a livestock risk assessment for Chailey Common.

We recommend that a livestock risk assessment is completed for each grazing unit before livestock are brought on. This example is intended for information only, and should be adapted to the specific conditions of each common.

The risk is calculated as the severity x probability of the risk occurring. If, using the system outlined below, the resulting risk level is greater than five, action should be taken to reduce the severity, the probability, or both, and the risk re-calculated to ensure the proposed actions are adequate. If preferred, “low”, “medium” and “high” could be used and the calculation step omitted.

**Probability of Suffering** - this reflects the probability that suffering will actually result from the identified hazard during the grazing season. If the animals are on site year round, assess the probability that in any one year suffering will actually result from the identified hazard.

Probability of Suffering	Score
Improbable	0
Physically possible, but never known to happen	1
Possible, occasional instances known or heard of	2
Likely, instances known of with some frequency or might well happen	3
Very likely, a common occurrence	4

**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 animals	1
Major suffering to one animal	2
Major suffering to several animals	3
Death of one animal	4
Death of several animals	5

Footprint Ecology: Chailey Grazing Plan

Example Grazing System Risk Assessment				
Proposed Grazing System	Date	November 2010	Timing or duration of grazing	Complete according to unit
	Assessor	Rob McGibbon	Perimeter security	Stock fenced
	Site (map)	Chailey Common combined	Water supply	Troughs and natural
	Stock type and breeding or not	<i>Cattle</i> ADD DETAIL <i>Sheep</i> ADD DETAIL <i>Ponies</i> ADD DETAIL <i>Pigs</i> ADD DETAIL	Stock checking proposals	Daily lookering by volunteers Regular stock checks by registered keeper ADD DETAIL
	Number, age, breed	ADD DETAIL	Handling facilities	ADD DETAIL
	Stocking density	ADD DETAIL	Emergency (e.g. foul weather, ill-health)	ADD DETAIL

Footprint Ecology: Chailey Grazing Plan

Type of hazard	Written assessment of hazard	Assessment of risk (score 1-20)			Location(s) on map (✓)	Actions	Re-assessment of Risk	
		Probability	Severity	Risk Level				
<b>BASIC REQUIREMENTS (refer to second freedom)</b>								
Food	Lack of availability (Quantity and Quality)	<i>This should be adequate for the stocking density proposed.</i>	1	3	3		<i>Stocking levels to be adapted to food availability: Monitor regularly.</i>	
	Impeded accessibility (e.g. snow,	<i>Lack of food due to snow cover in winter is possible.</i>	2	1	2		<i>Supplementary feed brought on - arrangements made with NE in advance to establish protocol.</i>	
	Known mineral deficiencies	<i>See health plans and consult with local vet</i>					<i>Mineral supplements provided as necessary</i>	
Water	Lack of availability (Quantity)	<i>Plenty of natural water on southern grazing unit plus troughs. Lane End Common and Red House Common – check natural resources. Vandalism possible.</i>	1	5	5		<i>Check natural supplies in dry weather include troughs in regular checks by lookers. Check that there is sufficient trough provision for all animals to drink</i>	
	Quality (Salinity, Pollutants)	<i>No known problems; potential risk of pollution of pond at extreme eastern end of Pound Common from road.</i>	2	5	10		<i>Carry out assessment of potential effects of road effluent on pond – take steps to isolate pond from effluent if possible. Fence off pond temporarily if incident on road threatens to introduce harmful substances to pond.</i>	(1x5) 5
	Accessibility (Physical access, freezing,	<i>Loss of access through freezing (natural and trough), lack of access through drought (natural).</i>	2	5	10		<i>Check water supplies frequently in freezing and very dry weather, and take appropriate action. Check troughs not affected by vandalism.</i>	(1x5) 5

Footprint Ecology: Chailey Grazing Plan

Type of hazard	Written assessment of hazard	Assessment of risk (score 1-20)			Location(s) on map (✓)	Actions	Re-assessment of Risk
		Probability	Severity	Risk Level			
<b>PHYSICAL HARM FROM NATURAL ELEMENTS (refer to second and third freedoms)</b>							
<b>Fire</b>	<i>Flammable material present – wildfire a possibility but large grazing units give space for livestock to avoid fire.</i>	2	3	6		<i>Ensure there is a suitable fire plan agreed with fire service and a back-up plan for removal of animals if necessary.</i>	(1x3)3
<b>Flood</b>	<i>No dangerous flooding likely</i>	1	1	1			
<b>Poisonous plants</b>	<i>Yew (very localised), bracken and ragwort on site. Many oak trees present, particularly along margins so acorn poisoning a possibility autumn.</i>	3	4	12		<i>Bracken and ragwort poisoning should be unlikely if there is plenty of other summer forage available but monitor possible consumption very carefully. Ragwort can be controlled by pulling and removing the pulled material from site. Monitor consumption of acorns – some animals are more likely to over-consume – remove these individuals. Consider using pigs to remove acorns.</i>	
<b>Ground conditions (injury)</b>	<i>Ground generally uneven but should not present a problem. In places war time trenches may present a hazard.</i>	3	4	12		<i>Clear most hazardous ditches to ensure they are clearly visible to livestock, or consider temporary electric fencing around most dangerous ones.</i>	
<b>Lack of / insufficient suitable resting areas</b>	<i>Plenty of dry flat ground within and adjacent to grazing areas.</i>	1	1	1			
<b>Water bodies (e.g. drowning, exposure, injury entering/exiting)</b>	<i>Pond on eastern end of Pound Common – quite shallow so low hazard predicted for well-grown livestock.</i>	1	4	4			
<b>Weather (extremes)</b>	<i>Plenty of natural shelter - no hazard predicted.</i>	1	1	1			

Footprint Ecology: Chailey Grazing Plan

Type of hazard	Written assessment of hazard	Assessment of risk (score 1-20)			Location(s) on map (✓)	Actions	Re-assessment of Risk
		Probability	Severity	Risk Level			
<b>PHYSICAL HARM FROM HUMAN-MADE ELEMENTS (refer to third freedom)</b>							
<b>Insects</b>	<i>Blood- sucking flies likely but not a significant hazard – livestock will be able avoid most troublesome locations - dry woodland and airy provides refuges. No hazard</i>	4	1	4			
<b>Roads</b>	<i>Minor roads present in southern unit. Risk of injury or death from collision.</i>	2	5	10		<i>Warning signs and traffic calming measures in places. Clearing roadside vegetation to improve visibility. Consider using reflective bands on livestock. Use pale coloured livestock if possible. Ensure water supply and shelter is adequate on both sides of roads to reduce crossing.</i>	
<b>Fences</b>	<i>No barbed wire – no hazard predicted.</i>	1	1	1			
<b>Debris/materials</b>	<i>Possibility of littering (plastic bags, sharp objects) and dumping of poisonous plant material</i>	3	4	12		<i>Daily lookering to include check for this. Engagement with local community to raise awareness.</i>	
<b>Shooting</b>	<i>No known hazard</i>	1	1	1			
<b>Vandals</b>	<i>Not considered a big problem but untested with grazing infrastructure and animals free-ranging on site.</i>	2	5	10		<i>Carry out very frequent checks of livestock and fencing at start of grazing period to assess vandalism risk. Mark gates etc to deter theft. Involve police if necessary.</i>	

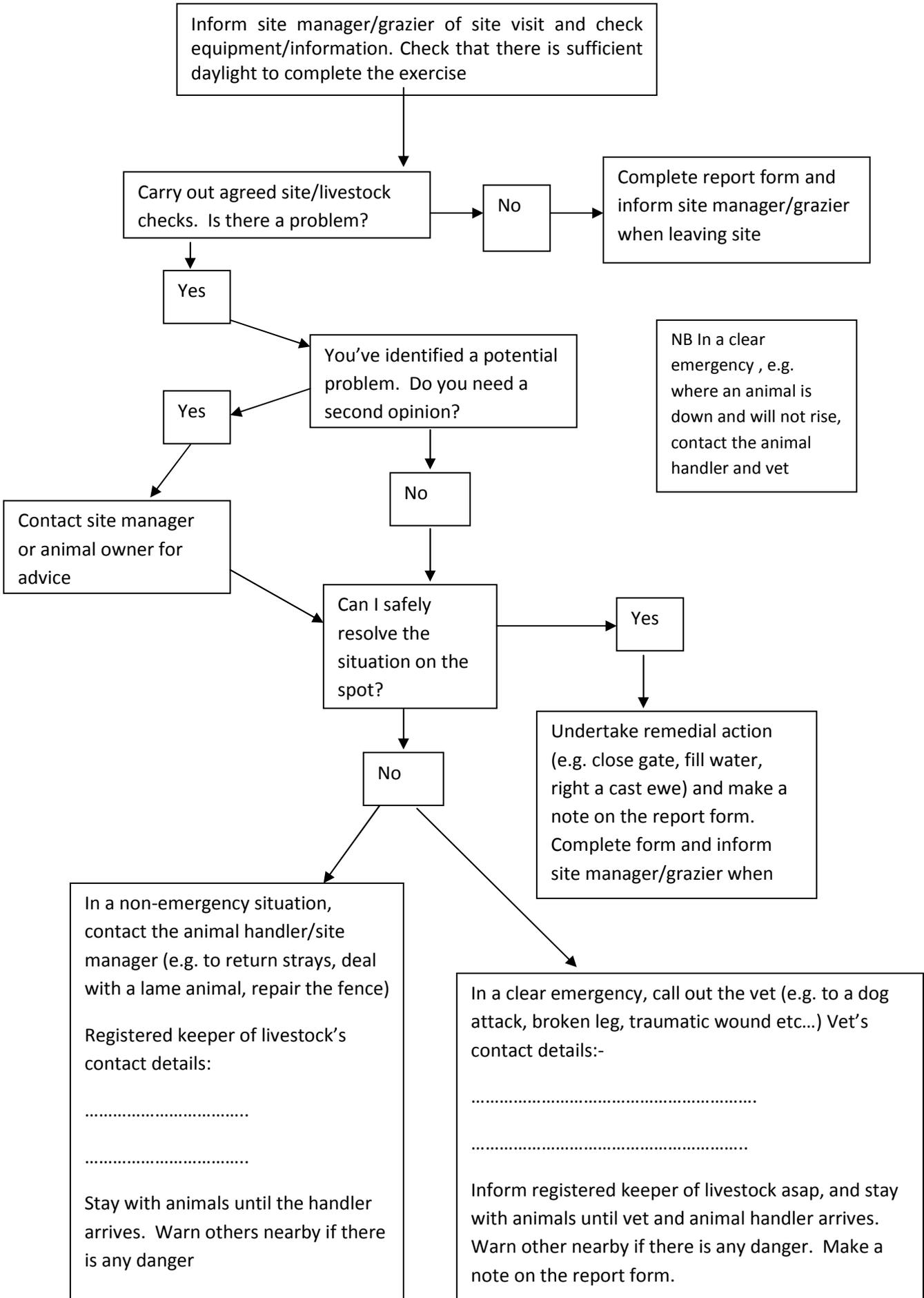
Footprint Ecology: Chailey Grazing Plan

Type of hazard	Written assessment of hazard		Assessment of risk (score 1-20)			Location(s) on map (✓)	Actions	Re-assessment of Risk
			Probability	Severity	Risk Level			
<b>DISEASE (refer to third freedom)</b>								
Internal (e.g. parasites)		<i>To be completed according to livestock used – usual risks expected</i>					<i>Ensure appropriate animal health plans in place and implemented</i>	
External (e.g. fly-strike, sweet itch)								
Other (e.g. common /local ailments)								
<b>PSYCHOLOGICAL STRESS (FEAR OR DISTRESS) FROM NATURAL FACTORS (refer to fourth and fifth freedoms)</b>								
Inability to demonstrate natural patterns of behaviour		<i>No risk anticipated – animals will be with others of their kind and allowed to range over a large and varied grazing unit.</i>	1	1	1			
Negative social interaction (e.g. bullying)		<i>Complete according to livestock used.</i>					<i>Observe social behaviour during daily lookering. Remove troublesome animals if necessary.</i>	

Footprint Ecology: Chailey Grazing Plan

Type of hazard	Written assessment of hazard	Assessment of risk (score 1-20)			Location(s) on map (✓)	Actions	Re-assessment of Risk
		Probability	Severity	Risk Level			
<b>PSYCHOLOGICAL STRESS (FEAR OR DISTRESS) FROM HUMAN-MADE FACTORS (refer to fifth freedom)</b>							
<b>General public</b>	<i>Some risk as this is a site with significant public access but experience to date suggests it is likely to be low.</i>	3	3	9			
<b>Dogs</b>	<i>Inevitable risk on public access site.</i>	4	3	12		<i>Community engagement to raise awareness, dog-walker events, recruit dog walkers as lookers.</i>	
<b>Noise (e.g. shooting, aircraft)</b>	<i>No risk anticipated.</i>	1	1	1			
<b>Vehicles/machinery</b>	<i>Mostly road related but also potentially tractors and machinery such as excavators used in management – unfamiliar sights and potentially loud noises – but grazing units are large so animals can move away.</i>	2	2	4		<i>It may be possible to carry out site management operations when livestock are not present.</i>	
<b>Vandals</b>	<i>Not considered likely to be a big problem but untested with animals free-ranging on site.</i>	2	4	12		<i>Carry out very frequent checks of livestock at start of grazing period to assess vandalism risk. Involve police if necessary.</i>	

**Appendix 2 – Example of a daily stock checking action plan**  
 (Adapted from **Grazing Animals Project, 2008**)



**Appendix 3 Example of a lookers form**

Name of Looker:			Site compartment:		
Date and time:			Weather:		
Are all the animals there?	Yes	No	Are gates and fences secure	Yes	No
Are all the animals in the right place?	Yes	No	Is adequate good quality water accessible	Yes	No
Have any strays come in?	Yes	No	Is there adequate mineral block/ supplements?	Yes	No
Are the animals behaving normally?	Yes	No	Is the site free of hazards?	Yes	No
Are all the animals healthy?	Yes	No	Is access clear?	Yes	No
Do all animals have their identification markers?	Yes	No	Are signs legible?	Yes	No

Footprint Ecology: Chailey Grazing Plan

If there are any issues, make a note of the reasons here;

## Appendix 4 Example of terms and conditions of a grazing licence

Competent professional advice should be sought before this example is adapted for use at Chailey, where a number of the conditions may need to be amended or removed.

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF A GRAZING LICENCE

**Date:**

Owner:

Tenant:

Site:

National Grid/

Field No:

Area (ha/ac):                      ha (    acres)

Term:

Fee:                                      £

Payment Terms:

General                                  As attached

Conditions:

Special

Conditions:                              None

I hereby agree to the Terms and Conditions of the Grazing Licence.

Signed: .....

Date: .....

**GENERAL CONDITIONS**

**IT IS AGREED:**

1. The Tenant will graze the land with his own cattle (and sheep) only in sufficient numbers throughout the period of the Agreement and will meet the Owner's management requirements (as set out in the Special Conditions).
2. The Tenant may not treat any weeds (including thistle, dock, ragwort and nettles) by the use of chemicals unless expressly authorised to do so in writing by the Owner, and is encouraged to seek other methods of controlling weeds.
3. The Tenant shall not keep on the land any vicious, unruly, destructive, infected or diseased animal. The Tenant is to remove any dead livestock within 24 hours of being notified of its death. The Owner is to be indemnified by the Tenant against all damages arising therefrom.
4. The Tenant agrees to keep any fences and walls in proper stock proof condition and make good any damage caused to the Owner's gates, fences, ditches during the period of the Licence. The Tenant shall indemnify the Owner against all costs, claims and demands made by owners or occupiers of adjoining land or any other person arising from the escape of stock from the land.
5. It is the Tenants responsibility to arrange insurance cover for their stock whilst on land owned by the owner.
6. The Tenant shall not apply any chemical substances whatsoever without the Owner's consent in writing.
7. The Tenant shall not bring a bull on to the land without receiving the Owner's prior approval in writing.
8. The Tenant undertakes to ensure that he or any other person connected with him attending or for the time being in charge of the livestock present will comply with The Welfare of Livestock Regulations 1990 or any statutory modifications in force at that time.
9. The Tenant agrees to indemnify the Owner for all liabilities and payments including legal costs and expenses incurred by the Owner as a result of any proceedings brought in respect of the welfare of livestock or otherwise relating directly or indirectly to the use of the said land by the Tenant.
10. The Tenant may use any existing water supplies available on the land but he will have no claim against the Owner should the supply be insufficient or cease to flow or be contaminated.
11. The Owner will not be responsible for any loss or injury to the live or deadstock of the Tenant however arising.
12. The Owner shall be entitled by notice in writing to determine this Agreement forthwith on the death of the Tenant and upon any breach by him of these terms and conditions.
13. This Agreement shall at all times be construed as a personal Agreement with the Tenant for the grazing of animals owned by the Tenant, or for mowing, and shall not be transferred or sublet under any circumstances.
14. The Owner shall have a lien upon all the Tenants animals for the time being grazing on the land for any sum owing or expense incurred under this Agreement for which the Tenant is liable and this lien may be enforced by the sale of any animal or animals belonging to the Tenant grazing on the land.

**GENERAL CONDITIONS cont'd**

15. The Owner retains the right to determine this Agreement and resume possession at any time of either the whole or part of the land giving two week's notice in writing, repaying or allowing to the Tenant a proportionate amount of the grazing fee only after off-setting any liabilities of the Tenant to the Owner under this agreement.
16. It is expressly agreed and understood that the Owner does not undertake to repeat this Agreement for another period.
17. Notwithstanding the provisions of clauses 12 and 15 hereof the Owner shall be entitled by two weeks notice in writing at any time to determine this Agreement forthwith, in the event that the Tenant fails to graze the land in sufficient numbers where this leads to a failure to meet the Owner's management requirements (as set out in the Special Conditions).
18. The Tenant shall not erect any permanent structures on the land. The Tenant may erect temporary holding or loading/unloading pens on the Common after agreeing the locations with the owner
19. The OS field numbers and field areas listed in this Agreement are given in good faith but it is the responsibility of the Tenant/tenant to ensure that they are correct for the purposes of subsidy claims made to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. In the event of any changes being made the Owner is to be advised within one month of DEFRA notification.
20. Occupiers are wholly responsible for complying with the Nitrate Vulnerable Zone Action Programme Rules and are obliged to meet controls on any manures and fertilisers applied and to keep records of all fertiliser and manure applications.
21. The owner (in this context referred to as the Landlord) and Tenant are aware of the introduction by the European Commission (on 29 September 2003 under Council Regulations (EC) 1782/2003) of a single farm payment scheme (SFP scheme) under the Common Agricultural Policy.
22. The Landlord and Tenant are aware of the announcement on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2004 of a dynamic hybrid basis for the allocation of entitlement under the SFP scheme. 23. The Tenant covenants with the Landlord to take all reasonably necessary and appropriate steps to secure Entitlement and to retain it during the Term and not to do or omit to do anything during the Term which results or may result in all or any part of the Entitlement being reduced lost or charged or whereby it is removed from the Tenant whether permanently or temporarily.
24. The Tenant covenants with the Landlord to furnish to the Landlord (in writing) all information which the Landlord may reasonably request concerning the Entitlement or concerning other farming activities of the Tenant which may affect or tend to affect the Entitlement whether carried out by the Tenant directly or indirectly and whether they relate to the Holding or other land.
25. If required to do so by the Landlord at the termination of this Agreement the Tenant agrees to take all necessary steps to secure the transfer to the incoming occupier of the Holding of any entitlement to payments under the SFP scheme established by virtue of the Tenant's occupation of the Holding.
26. The Tenant covenants with the Landlord not to dispose of transfer lend lease charge or otherwise deal with the whole or any part of the Entitlement save on or after quitting the holding to take all such steps and do all such acts as may be required to procure the transfer of the Entitlement to the Landlord or such person as the Landlord nominates in writing in each case at a consideration of £1.
27. If after the commencement of the Scheme it becomes possible to obtain further allocation of Entitlement where the Tenant's assistance is required then the Tenant's covenants shall apply in relation to such Entitlement.
28. The Tenant will not conduct his business or allow any other business to be conducted on the Holding or else where in such a way as to reduce either temporarily or permanently the amount of Quota or Contract or other Entitlement.