

Cross compliance checklist

GAEC 7 - Retention of landscape features

The aim of GAEC 7 rules is to protect landscape features. Answer each question below with a yes, no or n/a to help check if you have adhered to the rules. If the rules are applicable to you, and you are compliant, your answers to the questions should be yes.

- Have you obtained prior written consent from the Scottish Government before removing or destroying the following:

- Drystone or flagstone dykes?
- Ponds, watercourses?
- Turf and stone-faced banks?
- Walls?
- Hedges?
- Trees (in a line, in a group or isolated)?

Note: These features must not be removed or destroyed without prior written consent. Consent is not required to widen field entrances to enable access for livestock or farm machinery, to fell trees that are dead, diseased, damaged or insecurely rooted and are likely to cause damage by falling over, or to fell trees that are exempt from or are covered by a Felling Licence.

- Have you undertaken hedge trimming and/or lopping branches off trees between 1 September and 28 February (29 February in a leap year)?

Note: Hedgelaying can be carried out up to and including 31 March. Hedge trimming and/or lopping branches off trees must not be carried out between 1 March and 31 August, inclusive, unless one of the following exemptions applies:

- Hedges or trees may be trimmed/cut from 1 August if the hedge or tree is in a field which will be sown with oilseed rape, temporary grass or another crop, subject to prior consent of Scottish Ministers. This exemption only applies to the side of the hedge of tree that is adjacent to the named crops.
- For road safety reasons i.e. prevent danger to or the passage of vehicles, pedestrians and horse riders or farm tracks and areas of public access.

- Have you left a 2 m uncultivated strip of land from the centre line of a hedge?

Note: Cultivations can be done to establish a new hedge or a green cover if a green cover does not already exist. A green cover excludes crops that are grown for a commercial purpose, e.g. arable crops, undersown crops.

- Have you ensured that pesticides and fertiliser have not been applied within 2 m of the centre line of a hedge?

Note: Spot application of pesticides can be used to control injurious weeds, invasive species and, after prior written consent, to control other weed species. Fertilisers or pesticides can be applied to establish a new hedge; this applies from the time the land is prepared for planting the new hedge to the end of the hedge's third growing season.

- If you have a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) on your land, have you obtained Scheduled Monument Consent before altering, damaging or destroying it?

Note: SAMs must not be altered, damaged and/or destroyed without prior consent of the Scottish Government.