

# *Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013*

**Welcome to this survey! Please type your password and then click the arrow to proceed...**

Environment Department, University of York, Heslington, York. Y010 5DD.



Environment Department, University of York  
Questions? Please contact Adam Hejnowicz ([aph504@york.ac.uk](mailto:aph504@york.ac.uk)) or Dr Murray Rudd ([murray.rudd@york.ac.uk](mailto:murray.rudd@york.ac.uk))



# *Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013*

## **The role of Stewardship Advisors**

**This survey considers Natural England's stewardship schemes and the role you play in facilitating agreements and their environmental performance. Therefore, your knowledge, views and opinions are vital in shedding much needed light on a crucially important role.**

The survey will take approximately 20-25 minutes to complete and may be completed in more than one sitting. I understand this is a significant investment of time but if you could persevere I would be most grateful. The usefulness of this research and the insights we gain rests upon your goodwill and participation.

Please note the information you supply is entirely confidential, your identity remains anonymous and the data obtained is downloaded onto a secure server and not distributed to third parties.

Finally, to make absolutely clear: this survey is an independent research project carried out by the Environment Department at the University of York. The survey is not in collaboration with or endorsed by Natural England, and is not related to Defra or Natural England's work on the design of a new environmental land management scheme.



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# *Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013*

## **Official Consent of Survey Involvement**

Please indicate if you consent to participate further in this online survey.

- I agree to participate in the following survey regarding the functioning and performance of Natural England's Stewardship Schemes
- I do not agree to continue to participate further in this survey



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**Many thanks for your time.**

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## Survey Design

The survey has three parts:

**Part 1** requests information regarding personal experience.

**Part 2** focuses on the process of generating an agreement.

**Part 3** looks at the environmental content of agreements.

A note on terminology; we use Stewardship Advisor as an inclusive term to refer to farm advisors, land agents and other practitioners involved in advising farmers and land managers about Natural England's stewardship schemes.



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# *Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013*

## **Official Consent for Data Processing**

The following conditions are a necessary part of the consent procedure. You must select the first three conditions in order to proceed. If you are happy for the information you supply during the survey to be used, in an anonymous manner, then please also select that condition.

- My decision to participate is made on an entirely voluntary basis
- I have been provided with an explanation regarding the purpose of the survey and why my participation is important
- I understand that the information I provide is entirely secure, confidential and anonymous
- I am happy for any quotes I supply to be used on an anonymous basis



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# *Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013*

## Part 1: Your Experience.



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# Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013

**Q1. How many years have you worked as a stewardship advisor?**

Please state to the nearest year. The box is numeric only.

**Q2. In what capacity do you work as a stewardship advisor?**

Select all that apply

- Self-employed       Part-time  
 Employed             Alongside another job/position  
 Full-time

**Q3. In which regions of England do you presently operate?**

Select all that apply

- East Midlands       North West  
 West Midlands       South East  
 East of England     South West  
 North East           Yorkshire/Humberside

**Q4. Please indicate the stewardship schemes you regularly advise on.**

Select all that apply

- Entry Level Stewardship (ELS)       Upland (Organic)/Entry Level Stewardship (UELS/UOELS)  
 Organic Entry Level Stewardship (OELS)       Higher Level Stewardship (HLS)



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# Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013

**Q5. Please indicate your educational qualifications from those listed below.**

*Select all that apply*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> GCSE (O level)          | <input type="checkbox"/> Postgraduate MA or MSc     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A Level                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Postgraduate PhD           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Undergraduate BA or BSc | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Qualification |

**Q6. For university level education and professional certification please indicate the disciplines in which these qualifications were obtained.**

*e.g. BSc Environmental Science*

**Q7. Please select your gender**

- Male     Female



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# *Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013*

## **Part 2: Stewardship Agreement Formation.**



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# *Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013*

Q8. In your experience what are the most common motivations farmers and land managers give for entering a stewardship scheme? You may list up to *three* reasons.

*Reason 1*

*Reason 2*

*Reason 3*



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# Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013

**Q9. What percentage of clients seeking your services already have a clear idea of the stewardship scheme they wish to choose?**

*Select the most appropriate option*

- Less than 25%       Between 50% and 75%  
 Between 25% and 50%       More than 75%

**Q10. Of those clients identified in (Q9) as having a clear idea of the scheme they wish to choose, what percentage understand what these schemes involve (in terms of the application process)?**

*Select the most appropriate option*

- Less than 25%       Between 50% and 75%  
 Between 25% and 50%       More than 75%

**Q11. In general, what descriptions best characterise your clients?**

*Select all that apply*

- Relatively flexible on the type of stewardship scheme they wish to adopt  
 Relatively flexible on the type of environmental objectives they want to focus on  
 Relatively open to your advice concerning what scheme and environmental objectives may best suit them  
 Relatively inflexible on the type of stewardship scheme they wish to adopt  
 Relatively inflexible on the type of environmental objectives they want to focus on  
 Relatively closed to your advice concerning what scheme and environmental objective may best suit them



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# Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013

Q12. In light of your responses to (Q9 - Q11) how important would you say your advice is in ensuring farmers and land managers adopt the most suitable scheme?

	Very Unimportant	Unimportant	Neither Important or Unimportant	Important	Very Important	I don't know
Advice Importance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you wish to expand on your answer and add any comments please feel free to do so.



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# Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013

Q13. What are the principal *constraints* (e.g. time, cost etc.) you have to consider when preparing and submitting a stewardship scheme application? You may list up to *five* constraints.

Constraint 1

Please select those schemes to which this constraint applies

ELS  OELS  UELS/UOELS  HLS

Constraint 2

Please select those schemes to which this constraint applies

ELS  OELS  UELS/UOELS  HLS

Constraint 3

Please select those schemes to which this constraint applies

ELS  OELS  UELS/UOELS  HLS

Constraint 4

Please select those schemes to which this constraint applies

ELS  OELS  UELS/UOELS  HLS

Constraint 5

Please select those schemes to which this constraint applies

ELS  OELS  UELS/UOELS  HLS



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# Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013

**Q14. To what extent is the Farm Environment Plan (FEP) important to the subsequent design of the various stewardship scheme agreements?**

*Please select the appropriate degree of importance*

	Very Unimportant	Unimportant	Neither Unimportant or Important	Important	Very Important	I don't know
ELS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
OELS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
UELS/JOELS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
HLS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

*If you wish to expand on your answers and add any comments please feel free to do so.*



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# Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013

**Q15. How effective is the advice delivered by the FEP grant for farmers and land owners?**

*Please select the appropriate degree of effectiveness*

	Highly Ineffective	Ineffective	Neither Ineffective or effective	Effective	Highly Effective	I don't know
FEP advice effectiveness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

*If you wish to expand on your answer and add any comments please feel free to do so.*



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# Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013

**Q16. How long, on average, does it take to complete a stewardship agreement (application)?**

*For each scheme select the average length of completion time*

AGREEMENT COMPLETION TIME	1 - 3 months	4 - 6 months	7 - 9 months	10 - 12 months	More than a year	I don't know
ELS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
OELS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
UELS/JOELS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
HLS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

*If you wish to expand on your answers and add any comments please feel free to do so.*



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# Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013

Q17. What level of interaction (e.g. communication) do the various stewardship schemes require you to have with your clients?

Select the appropriate level of interaction for each scheme

	Very Low	Low	Neither Low or High	High	Very High	I don't know
ELS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
OELS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
UELS/UELS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
HLS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



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# *Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013*

**Q18. What best describes the level of interaction you have with your clients?**

*Select all that apply*

- Less than you would like
- Sufficient
- More than you would like
- Average compared to other professionals
- Above average compared to other professionals
- Below average compared to other professionals
- Entirely dependent on the individual client's needs

**Q19. In light of Q18, which party dictates the frequency of communication?**

*Select the most appropriate option*

- You
- Client
- Mutual decision



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# Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013

**Q20. What level of interaction (e.g. communication) do the various stewardship schemes require you to have with Natural England?**

*Select the appropriate level of interaction for each scheme*

	Very Low	Low	Neither Low or High	High	Very High	I don't know
ELS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
OELS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
UELS/UELS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
HLS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



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# Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013

Q21. When you contact Natural England during the preparation of a stewardship application, in general, what information is sought/discussed? You may list up to five examples

Example 1

Please select those schemes to which this example applies

ELS    OELS    UELS/UOELS    HLS

Example 2

Please select those schemes to which this example applies

ELS    OELS    UELS/UOELS    HLS

Example 3

Please select those schemes to which this example applies

ELS    OELS    UELS/UOELS    HLS

Example 4

Please select those schemes to which this example applies

ELS    OELS    UELS/UOELS    HLS

Example 5

Please select those schemes to which this example applies

ELS    OELS    UELS/UOELS    HLS



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# *Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013*

The following sets of questions ask your level of agreement regarding a series of statements



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# Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

STATEMENT	Highly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Somewhat agree	Highly agree	I don't know
My role is to achieve the best stewardship agreement for my client	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



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# Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

STATEMENT	Highly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Somewhat agree	Highly agree	I don't know
The content of a stewardship agreement is a negotiation between my client's needs and my expert advice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



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# Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

STATEMENT	Highly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Somewhat agree	Highly agree	I don't know
The content of a stewardship agreement reflects the preferences of my client and not the priorities of Natural England	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



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# Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

STATEMENT	Highly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Somewhat agree	Highly agree	I don't know
There is rarely any conflict between the needs of my clients, reflected in the prepared agreements, and the environmental concerns pursued by Natural England	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



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# Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

STATEMENT	Highly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Somewhat agree	Highly agree	I don't know
In preparing an agreement I feel that I must balance client needs with those of Natural England	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



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# Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

STATEMENT	Highly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Somewhat agree	Highly agree	I don't know
Whilst preparing a stewardship agreement I know I can contact Natural England for information and advice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



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# Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

STATEMENT	Highly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Somewhat agree	Highly agree	I don't know
Farmers and land managers think the process of applying for a stewardship scheme (in particular HLS) is too time consuming and complicated	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



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# Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

STATEMENT	Highly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Somewhat agree	Highly agree	I don't know
The process of preparing an HLS agreement requires simplifying	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



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# *Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013*

**Q30. The agri-environment system (stewardship schemes) are under review and maybe subject to change, do you have any recommendations for improving their uptake and implementation?**

*If you have any recommendations select 'Yes', if not, choose 'No' and then click the arrow to proceed*

Yes

No



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# *Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013*

*Recommendation 1*

*If you wish to add a further recommendation then select 'Yes' if not then select 'No'.*

Yes

No



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# *Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013*

*Recommendation 2*

*If you wish to add a further recommendation then select 'Yes' if not then select 'No'.*

Yes

No



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# *Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013*

*Recommendation 3*

*If you wish to add a further recommendation then select 'Yes' if not then select 'No'.*

Yes

No



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# *Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013*

*Recommendation 4*

Click the arrow to proceed to Part 3



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# *Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013*

## **Part 3: Environmental Content of Stewardship Agreements**



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# *Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013*

Q31. Stewardship schemes have five broad environmental objectives (listed below). In your experience which three environmental objectives are most fulfilled by the applications you have been involved with?

*Select the three that apply*

- Wildlife Conservation
- Maintenance and enhancement of landscape quality and character
- Protection of the historic environment
- Natural resource conservation through concentrating on water quality and soil condition
- Climate mitigation and adaptation through carbon storage and sequestration



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# *Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013*

**Q32. Environmental Objectives may be designated as having low, medium and high priority status. In general, what percentage of stewardship applications you have worked on include specific Environmental Objectives because of their priority status?**

*Select the most appropriate answer*

- Less than 25%
- Between 25% and 50%
- Between 50% and 75%
- More than 75%



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# Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013

**Q33. Please identify the reasons, from those listed, your clients give for prioritising particular Environmental Objectives.**

*Select those you feel are applicable. In the box designated Other you may indicate any additional reason that you feel is of importance.*

- Easy to implement
- Requires few man hours
- Does not require significant technical skill
- Is/Are an extension of current farming practices
- Does not significantly impact on the day to day farming routine
- Is/Are similar to neighbouring farm's contractual agreements
- Encouragement from Natural England
- Provide a higher points value
- Other (please specify 500 characters max)



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# *Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013*

If you are familiar with the arrangements of HLS schemes select 'Yes', if not, select 'No'.

- Yes
- No



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# Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013

Q34. For HLS agreements to what extent do the specific environmental options included differ between the original and final application due to Natural England advisor decision-making?

	No difference	Somewhat different	Moderately different	Very different	I don't know
Option differences between original and final application	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



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# *Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013*

**Q35. If changes to HLS agreements are made by Natural England advisors (e.g. to the environmental options detailed in the submitted applications) are you made aware of these changes?**

*Select the option that applies*

- Always
- Very often
- Often
- Sometimes
- Never



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# *Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013*

Q36. Please outline the main reasons for these changes. You may list up to four reasons.

*Reason 1*

*Reason 2*

*Reason 3*

*Reason 4*



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# Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013

Q37. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following sets of statements?

STATEMENTS	Highly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Highly Agree	I Don't Know
I should be involved in discussions which lead to options changes in finalised HLS agreements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It is fine for Natural England advisors to make final option changes to HLS applications without my input	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The changes made to HLS applications by Natural England advisors are made in the best interests of my clients	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The changes made to HLS applications by Natural England advisors are made to favour the interests of Natural England, which may or may not accord with those of my client	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you wish to expand on your answers and add any comments please feel free to do so.



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# Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013

Q38. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following sets of statements?

STATEMENTS	Highly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Highly Agree	I Don't know
Your clients are satisfied with a standard ELS payment of £30/ha/yr	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your clients are satisfied with a standard OELS payment of £60/ha/yr	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your clients are satisfied with a standard UELS payment of £62/ha/yr within SDA areas.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your clients are satisfied with the payment they receive from the HLS scheme based on their small holding size	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

*If you wish to expand on your answers and add any comments please feel free to do so.*



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# Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013

Q39. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following sets of statements?

STATEMENTS	Highly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Highly Agree	I Don't know
Your clients are satisfied that the payment amounts provided by these stewardship schemes afford an adequate income stream.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your clients are satisfied that payments provided by stewardship schemes adequately match changes in labour and material costs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your clients understand the extent of the penalties that may be applied if they fail to fully comply with the terms of the agreement.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your clients regard the sanctions that may be applied in instances of non-compliance as entirely reasonable	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you wish to expand on your answers and add any comments please feel free to do so.



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# *Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013*

If you would be willing to be contacted once the survey results have been analysed to participate in a follow-up discussion of our findings please select 'Yes', if not, then select 'No'.

Yes

No



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# *Stewardship Scheme Survey 2013*

The survey is now finished, you have reached the end! Many Thanks for taking part and for your patients in completing all the questions, it is greatly appreciated. The information you have provided will add to our understanding of the way in which stewardship agreements are formed, and how that process influences the implementation of land management policy tools on the ground.



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