2025

Saltmarsh Management Toolkit

Supporting wildlife and enhancing your land

Acknowledgements and funding information

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Cover photo: Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* on saltmarsh – Gillian Fisher.

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Why saltmarshes matter

Saltmarshes are dynamic coastal ecosystems that connect marine and terrestrial environments, providing valuable environmental benefits including:

🌎 **Climate change mitigation:** Acting as effective carbon sinks, saltmarshes capture and store atmospheric carbon and help combat climate change.

🌿 **Wildlife haven:** They support specialist plants, birds, and invertebrates, as well as fish nurseries.

🌊 **Coastal resilience:** Healthy saltmarshes absorb tidal impacts, reducing pressure on man-made sea defences, infrastructure, and agricultural land.

Redshank – an indicator of saltmarsh health

Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) is considered a key indicator of a healthy saltmarsh due to its reliance on:

🌱 **Diverse sward structure** – a mix of short and tall vegetation.

💧 **Wet features** – supporting high invertebrate biomass for feeding.

As an umbrella species, conservation measures that benefit Redshank support a wide range of other bird species, including:

➡ **Oystercatcher** (*Haematopus ostralegus*)
➡ **Skylark** (*Alauda arvensis*)
➡ **Meadow Pipit** (*Anthus pratensis*)

These measures also help maintain the diversity of saltmarsh plants and the invertebrates that rely on different sward structures.

Redshank breed most successfully where they have the conditions above and are:

✅ **Protected from nest trampling by livestock**

✅ **Free from disturbance**

By focusing on Redshank-friendly management, you can enhance biodiversity and create a healthier ecosystem for multiple species.

Protecting your saltmarsh means safeguarding a resource of national and global significance

Assessing saltmarsh condition

Understanding your site's condition is the first step toward effective management. The condition of a saltmarsh can vary significantly depending on different factors.

Key considerations for assessment include:

- **Geographical location**

The site's position can influence its ecological features and management needs.

- **Historic land use and management practices**

Past activities can shape current habitat conditions and potential restoration efforts.

- **Existing conservation objectives**

Review any current management plans to align actions with conservation goals.

- **Designated protection status**

Check if the site holds any special status, such as Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Area of Conservation (SAC), or Ramsar site.

- **Participation in agri-environment schemes**

Involvement in these schemes can affect management options and funding.

- **Habitat condition**

Assess factors like vegetation structure, composition, and hydrology to understand the health of the ecosystem.

📌 **For more details:**
👉 Saltmarsh Audit forms [1]
👉 Common Standards Monitoring guidance for saltmarsh habitats [2]

Monitoring and adjusting management

Regular monitoring and record-keeping are essential for understanding how your saltmarsh is responding to management efforts. By tracking progress, you can easily see what strategies are working and identify areas that need adjustment to meet your conservation goals.

How to monitor your saltmarsh

There are various methods for monitoring saltmarshes, ranging from simple visual assessments to detailed ecological surveys. These include, for example, monitoring breeding and wintering bird populations, assessing vegetation communities, and recording botanical indicators. Some methods are straightforward enough to do independently, while others may require the expertise of an ecological consultant or a bird surveyor.

The role of statutory agencies

If your saltmarsh is part of a designated site or within agri-environment schemes, it's important to consult with statutory agencies (Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, NatureScot or Northern Ireland Environment Agency). These agencies should be involved in the monitoring process to ensure compliance with regulations and goals.

Risk assessment and safety considerations

Saltmarshes can be hazardous, so it's essential to conduct a thorough risk assessment before any surveys take place. Always prioritise safety during monitoring activities.

Adapting to changing conditions

Saltmarshes are sensitive to changing weather conditions. Be prepared to adjust your management strategies as needed and rely on regular monitoring to guide those decisions.

Management approaches for saltmarshes

The approaches described in this Toolkit should be used as a starting point and adjusted if necessary, depending on more detailed knowledge of the site, or following a period of monitoring. They do not supersede the prescriptions within your agri-environment schemes, any responsibility to meet cross compliance regulations nor any legal obligations including planning requirements and/or consents. If you have any doubts regarding management, please seek advice from your local statutory agency adviser. This guidance may not cover every aspect of management in specific situations and should not be relied upon as a substitute for tailored advice. Accountability and responsibility for the land management remain with the landowner(s).

Approaches applicable to: existing or potential livestock-grazed saltmarshes

Grazing plays a key role in shaping saltmarsh vegetation, creating the patchy habitats that Redshank and other waders need for nesting and feeding. Cattle grazing is generally recommended for saltmarsh, as their grazing behaviour produces much better habitat conditions. However, sheep grazing remains commercially important in some areas (e.g., for high-value saltmarsh lamb), and in such cases, sheep grazing practices can be adapted to encourage good quality habitats. It's also important to recognise that not all saltmarsh requires grazing; sites with a long history of non-intervention and naturally diverse vegetation should be left undisturbed to preserve their ecological value. To support grazing needs, consider using other parts of your land or working with neighbouring farmers to create a shared grazing network. This can help balance grazing pressure across different areas and seasons, ensuring sustainable habitat management while meeting the needs of local graziers.

Conservation grazing to reduce nest trampling

Delay onset of grazing

✅ **What to do:** Avoid grazing entirely until July. After this, higher grazing intensities (up to 0.7 Livestock Units per hectare [LU/ha]) can be used.

➡️ **Why it helps:** Prevents nest trampling, as most Redshank nests hatch before July.

💡 **Considerations:** Post-July grazing should be at a high enough intensity to maintain a mosaic of short and tussocky vegetation to support nesting the following year.

OR

Introduce rotational grazing

✅ **What to do:** Leave a large proportion of the saltmarsh ungrazed each year, or graze in alternate years, to provide refuges for breeding birds.

➡️ **Why it helps:** Prevents nest trampling in the ungrazed section while maintaining habitat suitability through prior-year management.

💡 **Considerations:** Use natural barriers (creeks), temporary electric fencing, or livestock GPS collars (e.g. Nofence) to control livestock movement. Avoid prolonged ungrazed periods to prevent rank vegetation development.

OR

Reduce grazing livestock in spring and early summer

✅ **What to do:** Use very low grazing rates (less than 0.1 LU/ha) from April to June. Increase grazing to low-moderate levels (up to 0.7 LU/ha) from July to October if needed to manage vegetation.

➡️ **Why it helps:** Reduces nest trampling, though doesn't prevent it completely. Maintaining varied vegetation heights (5–15 cm) supports nesting and chick survival.

💡 **Considerations:** Even light grazing can impact nest survival. Monitor vegetation and breeding success and adjust stocking rates accordingly.

Move freshwater locations

✅ **What to do:** Relocate freshwater sources away from key Redshank nesting areas, as cattle tend to stay close to them.

➡️ **Why it helps:** Encourages livestock to spread out, reducing trampling pressure on nesting sites.

💡 **Considerations:** Relocating water sources may disturb habitat, so assess site conditions before making changes.

Use experienced livestock

✅ **What to do:** Ideally, use older cattle (2+ years) who know the site well, or a mix of older and younger animals.

➡️ **Why it helps:** Older experienced cattle are calmer and trample less. Younger cattle following experienced animals tend to spread out, reducing pressure on nesting areas and benefitting vegetation structure over a wider area.

💡 **Considerations:** Using the same cattle each year allows them to familiarise themselves with the landscape, further reducing unpredictable behaviour.

Approaches applicable to: any saltmarsh where the specified issue is present

These actions can be applied to any saltmarsh, livestock-grazed or ungrazed, where issues such as dense monocultures degrading habitat quality, water loss due to past drainage, disturbance from people and dogs, or high mammalian predation pressure are present.

Implement targeted grazing

✅ **What to do:** Introduce light grazing after the nesting season (from July) in areas with dense monocultures of sea-purslane or grasses. May need heavy grazing initially to put structure back into the vegetation.

➡️ **Why it helps:** Enhances vegetation diversity, improving habitat suitability for breeding birds.

💡 **Considerations:** Be aware of grazing-sensitive species and the risks of overgrazing which can lead to semi-permanent changes in vegetation. Monitor vegetation and adjust grazing pressure as needed. In some situations, summer cutting (post-breeding season) may be required to encourage grazing.

Restore hydrology to retain water

✅ **What to do:** Block or modify artificial drainage features using saltmarsh sediment dams to retain water in creeks, pans, and pools. If necessary, create artificial flashes (shallow water-filled depressions), and reprofile vertical edges of creeks and pans to make wet features accessible to wader chicks.

➡️ **Why it helps:** Provides wet, muddy edges for chick foraging and prevents habitat drying during droughts.

💡 **Considerations:** Use LiDAR or aerial imagery to identify low-lying areas suitable for water retention. Although creek blocking is most likely to be appropriate to reverse the impacts of historic drainage, contact your statutory agency adviser to ensure the use of machinery can be permitted on the land.

Reduce recreational disturbance

✅ **What to do:** Use fencing, ditches (wet fences), and signage to restrict human and dog access to nesting areas during the breeding season. Encourage dogs to be kept on leads. Provide alternative routes for dog walkers.

➡️ **Why it helps:** Prevents disturbances that could expose nests to predators or lead to nest abandonment.

💡 **Considerations:** Community engagement and education are key to effectiveness. Seasonal wardens can reinforce conservation messaging. Assess existing habitats and ensure that important conservation features are protected before carrying out any work. Contact your statutory agency adviser to ensure the use of machinery can be permitted on the land.

Manage predators (fencing)

✅ **What to do:** Install predator-exclusion fencing around key breeding areas.

➡️ **Why it helps:** Prevents mammalian predation by restricting access to nesting areas.

💡 **Considerations:** Most effective for colonial species e.g. Avocet, Terns. Installation in intertidal habitats is challenging due to ground variation, tidal forces, and storm debris. In some situations, may be built inland of seawalls to avoid structural damage. Does not prevent avian predation. Contact your statutory agency adviser to ensure the use of machinery can be permitted on the land.

Approaches applicable to: specific areas

In the short term, focusing on improving the quality of existing habitat rather than expanding its size is key to effectively supporting breeding bird populations. However, if you have suitable land, larger-scale creation projects to develop new areas may also be a viable option.

Expand habitat

✅ **What to do:** Implement larger-scale projects such as Managed Realignment, Regulated Tidal Exchange, and Beneficial Use of Dredged Sediments to increase saltmarsh habitat. Create coastal and floodplain grazing marsh inland as functionally linked habitat.

➡️ **Why it helps:** Provides more breeding space for birds.

💡 **Considerations:** These projects can be costly and often require significant investment. Contact your local statutory agency adviser for advice.

Funding support for tailored management

Agri-Environment Schemes

Each country of the UK runs Agri-Environment Schemes which provide payments for land management options beneficial for the environment and wildlife. The content and focus of these schemes change periodically, but the schemes in existence and relevance for saltmarsh management in 2025 are summarised below.

England

The Environmental Land Management (ELM) schemes in England aim to support the rural economy while fulfilling the objectives of the UK's 25-Year Environment Plan and the commitment to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. These schemes offer three funding streams:

Scheme	Purpose
Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier (CSHT)	Funds targeted actions focused on specific locations, features, and habitats.
Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI)	Provides payments to farmers for managing land in an environmentally sustainable way. Currently **closed** but will reopen with new endorsed actions (including COH1).
Landscape Recovery (LR)	Supports long-term landscape and ecosystem restoration (e.g., peatland, saltmarsh). Open to projects of 500 ha+. Currently **closed** but may reopen in the future.

Example of options available:

Option	Scheme	Payment
CCT2: Make space for new coastal habitat	CSHT	£773/ha/year
CCT3: Manage coastal saltmarsh and its vegetation	CSHT	£724/ha/year
CCT4: Create intertidal and saline habitat on arable land	CSHT	£812/ha/year
CCT5: Create intertidal and saline habitat by non-intervention	CSHT	£494/ha/year
CCT6: Coastal vegetation management supplement	CSHT	£123/ha/year
CCT7: Create intertidal and saline habitat on intensive grassland	CSHT	£494/ha/year
CSP6: Cattle grazing supplement (non-moorland)	CSHT	£59/ha/year
CSP9: Threatened Species Supplement (for Redshank)	CSHT	Up to £204/ha/year
CSP18: Keep native breeds on extensively managed habitats supplement (50-80%)	CSHT	£7/ha/year
CSP19: Keep native breeds on extensively managed habitats supplement (more than 80%)	CSHT	£11/ha/year
COH1: Manage coastal saltmarsh (endorsed)	SFI	£483/ha/year

📌 **For more details:**

👉 Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier guidance [3]

👉 SFI24 offer - endorsed actions (draft) [4]

Wales

The Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS) will replace the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) and the Rural Development Programme (RDP), both of which will be fully phased out by 2029.

To be eligible, applicants must:

- carry out agricultural activities on agricultural land,
- hold at least 3 hectares (7.41 acres) of eligible land in Wales *or* demonstrate more than 550 standard labour hours,
- have exclusive occupation and management control of the land for a minimum of 10 months within the calendar year.

Scheme	Purpose
Sustainable Farming Scheme 2026	Remunerates farmers for actions promoting environmentally friendly farming going beyond the minimum legal requirements.

Option	Payment
UA5: Habitat maintenance – coastal saltmarsh	£69/ha/year

📌 **For more details:**

👉 Sustainable Farming Scheme 2026: scheme description [5]

Scotland

The Agri-Environment and Climate Scheme (AECS) is Scotland's primary programme for funding sustainable land management that supports biodiversity, addresses climate change, improves water quality, and preserves historic sites.

Scheme	Purpose
Agri-Environment Climate Scheme	Supports sustainable land management practices that protect Scotland's heritage and environment.

Example of options available:

Option	Payment
Wetland Management – management	£90.03/ha/year
Wetland Management – creation and management	£284.80/ha/year
Coastal Embankment Breaching, Lowering or Removal	Custom payment

📌 **For more details:**

👉 AECS Wetland Management [6]

👉 AECS Coastal Embankment Breaching, Lowering or Removal [7]

Northern Ireland

The Environmental Farming Scheme (EFS) provides applicants with a five-year agreement to implement different environmental measures. The scheme operates at three levels:

- **Higher Level** – targeted at environmentally designated sites and other priority habitats
- **Wider Level** – aimed at delivering benefits across the wider countryside, beyond designated areas
- **Group Level** – supporting collaborative action by farmers in specific areas, such as river catchments

Scheme	Purpose
Environmental Farming Scheme	Supports farmers to implement environmentally beneficial actions and works on their land.

Example of options available:

Option	Scheme	Payment
Coastal salt marsh remedial management (CSM)	EFS Higher	£45/ha/year
Breeding wader site remedial management (BWG)	EFS Higher	£195/ha/year

📌 **For more details:**
👉 EFS Higher Level [8]

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

Since 12 February 2024, Biodiversity Net Gain is a mandatory requirement for new land developments under new government legislation aimed at ensuring nature is not harmed. This means that any land developed for housing, industry, or other purposes must result in a 10% increase in biodiversity value compared to its pre-development state. Developers are encouraged to achieve this gain on-site by creating new natural features, such as ponds, wildflower meadows, or other habitat enhancements. However, if it is not feasible to achieve the required biodiversity improvement on the development site itself, developers can fund habitat restoration or creation elsewhere, paying landowners to carry out the necessary ecological improvements. This legislation ensures that development projects contribute positively to biodiversity, creating opportunities for landowners to engage in habitat enhancement and conservation. BNG off-site habitat restoration or creation could be a way to leverage funding support for beneficial saltmarsh management.

📌 **For more details:**
👉 Biodiversity Net Gain guidance [9]
👉 BNG Brochure 2022 [10]

The UK Saltmarsh Code

A new UK Saltmarsh Code is being developed, modelled on the existing Peatland Code and Woodland Code. Under this scheme, companies will be able to purchase carbon credits to voluntarily offset their carbon dioxide emissions. The project is currently in the planning and pilot stages, which will continue over the next few years. Initially, the Saltmarsh Code will focus on carbon credits for managed realignment projects, as this is where the strongest scientific evidence currently lies.

📌 **For more details:**
👉 UK Saltmarsh Code [11]

Further information and advice

Saltmarsh Redshank Recovery Plan Framework for England – gain insight into saltmarsh habitat and Redshank ecology, the threats they face, and the available recovery strategies https://www.projectlote.life/saltmarsh-redshank-recovery.html.

Farm Wildlife – a single source of best-practice management advice for wildlife on farmland https://farmwildlife.info/ and contacts for local wildlife farming advisers https://farmwildlife.info/find-local-advice/.

The Grazing Animals Project – https://www.rbst.org.uk/gap-information. Further information about conservation grazing including additional resources https://www.rbst.org.uk/Pages/Category/gap-resources and access to a useful forum, Nibblers.

Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group – for independent environmental advice and agri-environment scheme support https://www.fwag.org.uk. Also search under regional groups.

BTO Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) – for survey methods for breeding birds and bird count data https://www.bto.org/get-involved/volunteer/projects/bbs.

UK Environment Bank – https://environmentbank.com.

Nature Friendly Farming Network – for advice and resources on farming in an environmentally sensitive way https://www.nffn.org.uk/.

Livestock GPS collars – Nofence: https://www.nofence.no/en/.
eShepherd: https://am.gallagher.com/en-au/new-products/eShepherd.

Environment Agency Saltmarsh Restoration Handbook UK and Ireland – manual aimed at providing practical guidance on restoring and creating saltmarsh habitat. Contains advice on planning and implementation with case studies. https://catchmentbasedapproach.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/ZSL00333_Saltmarsh_Restoration_Handbook__UPDATED_082023.pdf.

Joint DEFRA/Environment Agency Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management R&D Programme - Saltmarsh management manual – manual aimed at assisting coastal and estuarine managers to identify problems and possible solutions for the management of saltmarsh. Includes general saltmarsh management techniques, surveys and monitoring. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/290974/scho0307bmkh-e-e.pdf.

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https://www.projectlote.life/saltmarsh-redshank-recovery.html

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https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/7607ac0b-f3d9-4660-9dda-0e538334ed86/CSM-SaltmarshHabitats-2004.pdf

3. GOV.UK – Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier guidance:
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/countryside-stewardship-higher-tier-csht

4. The Farmer Network – SFI24 offer endorsed actions:
https://www.thefarmernetwork.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/SFI24-endorsed-actions-DRAFT.pdf

5. GOV.Wales – Sustainable Farming Scheme 2026 description:
https://www.gov.wales/sustainable-farming-scheme-2026-scheme-description-html

6. Rural Payments (Scotland) – Wetland Management:
https://www.ruralpayments.org/topics/all-schemes/agri-environment-climate-scheme/management-options-and-capital-items/wetland-management/

7. Rural Payments (Scotland) – Coastal Embankment Breaching / Lowering / Removal:
https://www.ruralpayments.org/topics/all-schemes/agri-environment-climate-scheme/management-options-and-capital-items/coastal-embankment-breaching--lowering-or-removal/

8. DAERA – Environmental Farming Scheme (EFS) Higher Level:
https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/environmental-farming-scheme-efs-higher-level

9. GOV.UK – Biodiversity Net Gain guidance:
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/biodiversity-net-gain

10. Natural England – Biodiversity Net Gain brochure:
https://naturalengland.blog.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/183/2022/03/BNG-Brochure_Final_Compressed.pdf

11. UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology – UK Saltmarsh Code:
https://www.ceh.ac.uk/our-science/projects/uk-saltmarsh-code

Appendices

Case studies

Case studies of beneficial saltmarsh management will be added to this section as they become available, providing practical examples and evidence to support the approaches outlined above.

- RSPB Frampton Marsh
- RSPB Campfield Marsh

Finding a grazier

Ideally, you can make the necessary grazing adjustments with your existing grazier. Maintaining established relationships is often the best approach, as your grazier will already be familiar with the land and livestock welfare requirements.

If you need to find a new grazier, the Grazing Animals Project is a helpful resource. Your local Farm Wildlife or Farm and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) adviser can also provide guidance.

Once you've found a suitable grazier, it's important to formalise the arrangement by setting up a grazing licence to cover key terms and responsibilities.

✅ Key points to confirm with your grazier

➡️ **Legal restrictions:**
Clarify any legal requirements, such as conditions under an agri-environment scheme or SSSI Potentially Damaging Operations (PDOs).

➡️ **Type of livestock:**
Specify the type of livestock you want to graze on the site (cattle if possible).

➡️ **Grazing restrictions:**
Define when and where grazing will occur, including boundaries and access points.

➡️ **Livestock welfare:**
Agree on who is responsible for the care of the livestock, including managing escapes and providing food and water.

➡️ **Grazing licence:**
Ensure the licence covers responsibilities for insurance, fence repairs, and maintenance.

➡️ **Grazing fees:**
Agree on the fees for grazing.

➡️ **Agricultural and environmental payments:**
Decide who will claim any agricultural or environmental payments for the site.

➡️ **Stocking rate:**
Set a maximum stocking rate to prevent poaching and overgrazing.

➡️ **Grazing purpose:**
Determine whether the livestock are being grazed for finishing or stock to ensure the saltmarsh can meet their dietary needs.

Troubleshooting and Q&As

I've never grazed my saltmarsh, should I start?

It depends on the current condition of your saltmarsh. If it contains many flowering plants with a varied sward structure, including long and short patches and tussocks, then introducing livestock grazing is not necessary, as it already provides a rich, diverse habitat that supports a wide range of wildlife. Often, these saltmarshes are naturally grazed by migratory geese in the winter. However, if your saltmarsh is dominated by dense monocultures of sea purslane or grasses for example, low levels of grazing after the breeding season could be an efficient management tool to restore a more diverse and balanced habitat. It is also worth noting that grazing tends to be most effective on mid to upper marsh zones, while lower marsh areas may require little or no grazing to maintain diverse swards.
Always seek advice before introducing grazing to an ungrazed saltmarsh. It is particularly important to consult your statutory agency adviser if your saltmarsh is part of a designated site or within agri-environment schemes.

Would stopping grazing be better for Redshank?

Not necessarily. More Redshank nest on saltmarshes with a low intensity of grazing from livestock or wildfowl than those without any grazing. Over time grazing typically leads to dominance of the sward by grass species as these are better adapted to grazing than most other plants. Continuing grazing at a low level where it is already practiced is likely to prevent the growth of tall, rank swards which would crowd out a variety of important saltmarsh plants and negatively impact wildlife, including Redshank. The key is ensuring grazing is appropriately managed to reduce the risk of nest trampling from April-June, and prevent the development of monocultures and uniform swards, and to support the habitat diversity, which Redshank and other wildlife rely on.

I want to explore potential income streams from carbon offsetting. Does grazing affect carbon storage?

Grazing, when carefully managed, should not interfere with the carbon storage capacity of your saltmarsh. In fact, maintaining a balance of grazing can help support habitat diversity and resilience, which are important for the long-term health of the ecosystem.

Do I need to manage natural wildfowl grazing?

Wildfowl grazing of saltmarsh is very variable between years and depends on their numbers and how they use available habitats. Light grazing by livestock can benefit wildfowl by encouraging their preferred grasses and creating open sightlines, which help them spot potential predators. However, combined grazing pressure from both livestock and wintering wildfowl can become too high to create the conditions that breeding Redshank need. If wildfowl numbers have increased significantly over a sustained period, reducing livestock grazing to compensate for the additional grazing pressure may be necessary. Accounting for natural grazing is therefore essential, with livestock numbers adjusted accordingly to maintain the sward height and vegetation structure needed to support breeding Redshank and other saltmarsh species.

Once I find a grazing regime that works, can I stop monitoring?

No, continuous monitoring is essential to understanding the ongoing condition of both your saltmarsh and redshank population. Regular data collection helps you track changes over time, ensuring that the grazing regime is still benefiting the habitat and species. It also allows you to identify adjustments that may be needed, especially as environmental conditions and species populations evolve.

Grazing plan template

Saltmarsh Grazing Plan

General information about the plan
Date of plan: **Plan period**: **Plan produced by**: **Existing/past surveys and management plans**:

Site information
Location: **Total area**: **Physical attributes (climate, geology and sediment types):** **Conservation designations**:

Saltmarsh management objectives *Summarise your objectives (aims) e.g. increase Redshank pairs, reduce rank grasses, increase plant diversity.*

Habitat types and key features *It may help to complete a habitat map to complete the following sections.*		
Saltmarsh habitat	**Total area (ha)**	**Key features** (include rare or scarce plant or animal species)
Pioneer marsh		
Low marsh		
Mid-marsh		
Upper marsh		
Transition (non-saltmarsh)		

Habitat condition	
Saltmarsh habitat	**Condition** (e.g. mixed vegetation, dominated by short sward, dominated by long sward, bare ground (wet / dry), presence of creeks and pools (wet / dry). Note: sward structure is critical between April and June. Wet features are important until at least mid-July.
Pioneer marsh	
Low marsh	
Mid-marsh	

Upper marsh	
Transition (non-saltmarsh)	

Constraints *Using the headings below, outline any constraints or issues that may affect the implementation of your grazing plan.*
Grazing tenure and availability of stock/graziers:
Availability of monitoring personnel:
Obligations and agri-environment schemes:
Wild herbivore presence and management:
Obstacles to stock movement:
Incompatible biodiversity or cultural heritage objectives:
Other constraints:

Grazing management *Describe how the saltmarsh will be grazed, e.g. as one or more grazing management units. Show the areas of the management units and any operations required to achieve your objectives, such as fences, on a map.*

Grazing regime *For each grazing management unit, describe the breed of grazing animal, the initial stocking density required to achieve your biodiversity objectives and whether grazing will be seasonal or year-round. Include a stocking density calculation.*

Monitoring and review *Describe your monitoring programme for tracking the success of the grazing plan.*
Method of monitoring: Frequency and timing of monitoring: Who will undertake the monitoring:

Other operations and activities *(e.g. stock fencing).*		
Activity	**Operation**	**Year**