

Common Land or Shared Grazing

Consult Stakeholders

Where a common has not previously been subject to an agri-environment agreement, or where consultation is required to bring the land owner(s), rightsholders and other stakeholders together in support of the management proposals, activities to develop awareness, understanding and agreement across these interest groups will be required before a CS application can be made. [Further guidance is given](#). The extent of public engagement required will depend upon the management change which is being considered within the CS agreement.

Further guidance is given in Annex A: public engagement

The extent of public engagement required will depend upon the management change which is being considered within the CS agreement and the impacts that the changes may have on features of interest on the common and on local and national stakeholders. Almost all commons have features of public interest; these include but are not limited to: public access rights, historic features, landscape and nature conservation.

Where works are proposed that need consent from the Planning Inspectorate then applicants need to follow the principles set out in the guide called '[A common purpose: a guide to agreeing management on common land \(CP1\)](#)'.

Where management changes do not require consent from the Planning Inspectorate public consultation should still be undertaken, in these circumstances you are not obliged to follow the principles in "A common purpose" but where there is considerable public interest in your site, particularly if there are significant numbers of visitors, then it is likely to be helpful to follow "A common purpose".

Public engagement where works that need consent are not proposed should still include relevant stakeholders. The applicant should identify relevant stakeholders, contact them, supply information about the proposed scheme, what the intended outcomes will be (eg for biodiversity), and opportunity should be provided for stakeholders to give feedback, especially if the proposals would impact upon them. It may be helpful to prepare a summary of the scheme proposals, including maps and pictures that can be sent to stakeholders, posted on relevant websites and handed out at public meetings.

The applicant should consult:

- the owners of the land
- the commons council or association (if there is one)
- others with a legal interest eg tenants, anyone who has an easements or other rights and covenants over the land

- all known commoners (whether they're actively using their rights or not) *any parish, district, city or county council in the same area as the land
- [Natural England](#)
- [English Heritage](#)
- [National Park Authority](#) (if the area you want to work on is in a National Park)
- [Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty](#) (AONB) Conservation Board Joint Advisory Committee (if the area of land you want to work on is in an AONB)
- the [Open Spaces Society](#)

The applicant may also need to talk to:

- [Wildlife Trusts](#)
- [Local Access Forums](#)
- [Campaign to Protect Rural England](#)
- [Ramblers' Association](#)
- local amenity societies if there are any in the area where the land is
- anyone living on the land or on neighbouring land who could be affected by your planned works

The applicant should hold public meetings in local venues and invite stakeholders to hear more about the proposals and comment upon them.

The applicant should keep a record of feedback and comments received about the proposals. The applicant should consider how concerns from stakeholders about the proposals could be addressed by alterations to the scheme and implement these if they do not significantly compromise the outcomes sought. The applicant should be able to demonstrate how they have adapted the scheme proposals where this is appropriate.

These are some examples of changes to scheme proposals which could be made in response to feedback:

- agreement on limitation of use of existing tracks in bad weather to reduce potential damage to track surfaces so as not to inconvenience other users
- agreement to retain certain trees (eg on heathland) where these are of significance to the local community
- alteration of grazing calendar to reduce conflict with public recreation
- avoidance of operations on non-protected historic features

- provision of new/improved access points where a common is already fenced
- provision of seating at a viewpoint
- alteration of felling proposals to retain screening of buildings, roads or industry adjacent to the common
- alteration of the location of tree planting proposals to provide screening of buildings, roads or industry
- agreement to tie back gates when these are not required to secure livestock