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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**1998 No. 1310**

**AGRICULTURE**

**The Environmentally Sensitive Areas (Suffolk River Valleys) Designation (Amendment) Order 1998**

<i>Made</i>	- - - -	<i>19th May 1998</i>
<i>Laid before Parliament</i>		<i>27th May 1998</i>
<i>Coming into force</i>	- -	<i>22nd June 1998</i>

Whereas, pursuant to section 18(1) of the Agriculture Act 1986<sup>(1)</sup>, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (“the Minister”) has by order designated an area in the Suffolk River Valleys as an environmentally sensitive area (“the designated area”);

And whereas it appears to the Minister that it is particularly desirable—

(1) to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the designated area together with an additional area in the Suffolk River Valley;

(2) to conserve the flora and fauna and geological and physiographical features of those areas; and

(3) to protect buildings and other objects of historic interest in that area;

And whereas it appears to the Minister that the maintenance or adoption of particular agricultural methods in respect of the matters specified in the Schedules to the following Order is likely to facilitate such conservation, enhancement or protection;

Now therefore, the said Minister, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by section 18(1) and (4)<sup>(2)</sup> of the said Act, and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, with the consent of the Treasury and after consultation with the Secretary of State, the Countryside Commission and the Nature Conservancy Council for England<sup>(3)</sup> in accordance with section 18(1) of the said Act, and with the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England in accordance with section 99 of the Environment Act 1995<sup>(4)</sup>, makes the following Order:

**Title and commencement**

**1.** This Order may be cited as the Environmentally Sensitive Areas (Suffolk River Valleys) Designation (Amendment) Order 1998 and shall come into force on 22nd June 1998.

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(1) 1986 c. 49. The expression “the Minister” is defined in section 18(11).

(2) Section 18(4) was amended by S.I. 1994/249; sub-section 18(4A) was inserted by S.I. 1997/1457.

(3) The provisions in section 18 of the Agriculture Act 1986 concerning Nature Conservancy Councils were amended by Part VII of, and Schedule 9 to, the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (c. 43).

(4) 1995 c. 25.

## Interpretation

2. In this Order “the principal Order” means the Environmentally Sensitive Areas (Suffolk River Valleys) Designation Order 1993(5), as amended at the date that this Order comes into force.

## Amendment of the principal Order

3. The principal Order shall be amended in accordance with the following provisions of this Order.

4. In article 2(1) of the principal Order, the provisions immediately following the words “In this Order—” to the end of article 2(1), in so far as they were made under section 18 of the Agriculture Act 1986, shall be deleted and the following definitions shall be inserted at their appropriate alphabetical place:

““agreement” means an agreement under section 18(3) of the Agriculture Act 1986 as respects agricultural land in the area designated by article 3;

“buffer strip” means a strip of land which is subject to a prohibition on the use of fertilisers and other agricultural chemicals, is at least six metres wide, is located at the edge of a field and adjoins an open drainage channel or a hedgerow;

“capital activity” means an activity specified in Schedule 1;

“conservation plan” means a plan incorporated into an agreement for the carrying out of one or more capital activities within a specified period;

“cultivated land” means land which is regularly ploughed or otherwise cultivated or that is regularly treated with fertilisers;

“farmer” means a person who has an interest in agricultural land in the area designated by article 3, and who has also entered into an agreement with the Minister;

“fen” means an area of semi-natural vegetation which is waterlogged throughout the year;

“grassland” means land on which the vegetation consists primarily of grass species and includes meadowland, pasture and rough grazing;

“low input grassland” means permanent grassland which has not been regularly cultivated or reseeded, or treated with fertiliser, pesticides or other agricultural inputs, or permanent grassland that has the potential to retain high summer water levels;

“management activity” means an activity specified in Schedule 2;

“marsh” means grassland with the potential to retain high spring water levels in ditches so as to create field wetness or to allow shallow pools to develop;

“permanent grassland” means grassland which has not been ploughed or reseeded for at least five years;

“public access route” means a strip of land which is the subject of an agreement and on which access is given to the public;

“relevant date” means 22nd June 1998;

“reverted grassland” means grassland established pursuant to the provisions of an agreement on land previously used for arable cropping; and

“woodland” means land used for woodland where that use is ancillary to the farming of land for other agricultural purposes.”.

5. In article 3 of the principal Order, for the words “dated 3rd March 1993, signed and sealed by the Minister” there shall be substituted “dated 18th May 1998, signed on behalf of the Minister by the Parliamentary Secretary”.

6. For article 4 of the principal Order and the heading thereto there shall be substituted the following article and heading—

**“Matters in respect of which payments may be made**

4. Payments to be made by the Minister under an agreement may be made in respect of a capital activity or a management activity”.

7. For article 5 of the principal Order and the heading thereto there shall be substituted the following article and heading—

**“Rates of payment**

5.—(1) Payments to be made by the Minister under an agreement shall not exceed—

- (a) in the case of a management activity, the rate specified in respect of that activity in column 2 of Schedule 2; and
- (b) in the case of one or more capital activities included in a conservation plan, £100,000 in aggregate.

(2) Any works which form part of an activity which constitutes both a management activity and a capital activity may by virtue of an agreement be eligible for payment either as part of a management activity or as part of a capital activity, but the agreement together with any conservation plan incorporated in it shall not provide for payment to be made on both such bases in respect of the same works.”.

8. For Schedule 1 to the principal Order there shall be substituted the Schedule set out in Schedule 1 to this Order.

9. For Schedule 2 to the principal Order there shall be substituted the Schedule set out in Schedule 2 to this Order.

10. The following provisions of the principal Order shall be deleted—

- (a) articles 4A and 6; and
- (b) Schedules 1A, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

18th May 1998

*Elliot Morley*  
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Food

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We consent,

19th May 1998

*Graham Allen*  
*Jim Dowd*  
Two of the Lords Commissioners of Her  
Majesty's Treasury

**SCHEDULE 1**

Article 8

“**SCHEDULE 1**

Articles 2(1) and 5(1)

**CAPITAL ACTIVITIES**

- The planting, laying or coppicing of hedges.
- The provision of water-penning structures.
- The creation or restoration of ponds, and the restoration of ditches and dykes.
- The restoration of reedbeds or sedgebeds.
- The provision of water supplies and fencing where necessary to facilitate the reintroduction of livestock for grazing.
- The management of scrub.
- The control of bracken.
- The creation or improvement of herb-rich hay meadows.
- Works to protect historic and archaeological features.
- The provision and restoration of gates, stiles and footbridges where an agreement includes requirements as to public access.
- The re-introduction of pollarding management for neglected trees.
- Tree-planting.
- The provision of rabbit fencing.
- Wind pumps for water level management.
- Other works for the restoration or enhancement of wildlife habitats.”

**SCHEDULE 2**

Article 9

“**SCHEDULE 2**

Articles 2(1) and 5(1)

**MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

<i>Column 1</i> <b>Activity</b>	<i>Column 2</i> <b>Maximum rate (in £ per hectare of land per annum, except where otherwise stated)</b>
1. Management of permanent grassland.	80
2. Management of reverted grassland.	270
3. Management of low input grassland.	190
4. Management of low input reverted grassland.	290
5. Where management of any kind referred to in item 1, 2, 3 or 4 above is undertaken, additional management for the purpose of bringing about marsh conditions.	50
6. Where management of any kind referred to in item 3, 4 or 5 above is undertaken, additional	50

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<i>Column 1</i> <b>Activity</b>	<i>Column 2</i> <b>Maximum rate (in £ per hectare of land per annum, except where otherwise stated)</b>
management for the purpose of bringing about high water levels.	
7. In relation to cultivated land:	270
(a) reversion of arable land to grassland.	
(b) where management of any kind referred to in item 1 of subparagraph (a) above is undertaken, additional management for the purpose of creating and management of buffer strips.	55
8. Management of fen vegetation.	100
9. Maintenance of woodland.	17
10. The provision of public access routes.	170
11. Hedgerow restoration.	£4 per metre”

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Order)*

This Order amends the Environmentally Sensitive Areas (Suffolk River Valleys) Designation Order 1993 (“the principal Order”) which designated an area in the Suffolk River Valleys as an environmentally sensitive area, in implementation of Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2078/92 (OJ No. L215, 30.7.92, p.85) on agricultural production methods compatible with the requirements of protection of the environment and the maintenance of the countryside, as amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No. 2772/95 (OJ No. L288, 1.12.95, p.35) as in turn rectified by Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1962/96 (OJ No. L259, 12.10.96).

The definitions set out in article 2(1) of the principal Order are consolidated and in addition new definitions are inserted (*Article 4*).

This Order replaces the Schedules to the principal Order (laying down detailed requirements of the scheme) by two new Schedules specifying the capital and management activities in respect of which payments may be made and specifies the maximum payments in respect of such activities.

The area designated by the principal Order is increased (by an amendment to article 3 of the principal Order) and the designated area as thereby enlarged is shown (coloured yellow) in a new volume of maps dated 18th May 1998, which replaces the volume of maps referred to in article 3 of the principal Order dated 3rd March 1993 (*Article 5*).

The provisions of the principal Order that are amended or revoked do not include any that derive from the Environmentally Sensitive Areas (England) Designation (Amendment) Regulation 1996 (S.I.1996/3104); those which derive from S.I. 1996/3104 are revoked with a saving, by

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the Environmentally Sensitive Areas (England) Designation (Revocation of Specified Provisions) Regulations 1998, coming into force on 21st June 1998.

No regulatory appraisal has been made in respect of this Order.