

Biosphere Certification Mark Application

Guidance Notes

*All **Certified products and services** are expected to conform to both the **Standards** and the **Characteristics** of the Certification Mark.*

*We will ask you for **evidence** that you meet these during the application process and any **assessment visit** needed*

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THE STANDARDS

The Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere has three main aims/functions:

📌 **Conservation:** promoting the preservation of wildlife, habitats, and landscape.

📌 **Learning:** supporting a better understanding of nature and global issues.

📌 **Development:** fostering a sustainable economy and society.

To support the achievement of these functions the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere has developed 6 Principles which form the foundation for the Standard of the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Certification Mark Scheme

The 6 Proud Supporter principles are to:

- o Help to conserve the natural resources of the Biosphere
- o Support the economy to benefit people and nature
- o Promote cultural heritage and local products
- o Contribute to the health and well-being of the community
- o Develop knowledge, understanding and promote research
- o Raise awareness of the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere

Examples of how the Applicant supports these principles and aligns with the characteristics needed for products and services form the basis for the evidence needed to show compliance with the standard. A balance of activity across all the 6 principles is expected.

A business demonstrating sustainable development benefits to the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere and/or wider environment is one where profitability, concern for the environment and social commitment are in harmony. A sustainable business is an enterprise that has minimal negative impact, or potentially a positive effect, on the global or local environment, community, society, and economy

The concept of sustainable business can be explained as “doing more with less”. Besides sustainable production and consumption, it also entails being more efficient, maximising positive effects and minimising negative impact for the environment, society, and mankind. Managing and developing businesses sustainably involves doing more than is demanded by laws and regulations. It requires you to take responsibility for developing sustainably. Sustainable development meets today’s needs without compromising the ability of future generations to satisfy their own.

Management of sustainability can be split into three dimensions that together contribute to sustainable development:

- Economic – business survival - ensuring that your business can grow, recruit employees, and operate profitably long into the future
- Environmental - running a business sustainably requires that its activities do not damage the environment, the climate, or nature’s resources

- Social - running business as a “good citizen” taking both “internal” and “external” responsibility for people and communities. Adding value to the local community through providing essential services, supporting community initiatives, and contributing to the local economy through working with and using local suppliers.

THE CHARACTERISTICS

The Characteristics to which goods and services should conform.

The characteristics to be certified by the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Certification Mark Scheme
GOODS (NON-FOOD)
Body fragrances; Body and facial butters; Soap products; Perfume.
In respect of such goods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are created in a manner demonstrating conservation and sustainable development benefits to the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere and/or wider environment. • Are made or manufactured in the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere • Contain sustainable/sustainably sourced materials either originating in the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere area or sustainable/sustainably sourced materials from outside
Jewellery; Clocks
In respect of such goods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are created in a manner demonstrating conservation and sustainable development benefits to the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere and/or wider environment. • Are made or manufactured in the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere • Contain sustainable/sustainably sourced materials either originating in the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere area or sustainable/sustainably sourced materials from outside
Books; Prints; Photographs; Paper.
In respect of such goods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are created in a manner demonstrating conservation and sustainable development benefits to the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere and/or wider environment. • Are made or manufactured in the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere • Contain sustainable/sustainably sourced materials either originating in the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere area or sustainable/sustainably sourced materials from outside
Furniture made from wood; Wooden goods, Picture frames; Mirrors.
In respect of such goods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are created in a manner demonstrating conservation and sustainable development benefits to the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere and/or wider environment. • Are made or manufactured in the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contain sustainable/sustainably sourced materials either originating in the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere area or sustainable/sustainably sourced materials from outside
Ceramics for household purposes; Household utensils; Earthenware; Works of art of porcelain, ceramic, earthenware or glass.
<p>In respect of such goods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are created in a manner demonstrating conservation and sustainable development benefits to the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere and/or wider environment. Are made or manufactured in the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Contain sustainable/sustainably sourced materials either originating in the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere area or sustainable/sustainably sourced materials from outside
Woollen blankets; Textiles; Textile goods, and substitutes for textile goods; Wool yarn fabrics.
<p>In respect of such goods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are created in a manner demonstrating conservation and sustainable development benefits to the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere and/or wider environment. Are made or manufactured in the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Contain sustainable/sustainably sourced materials either originating in the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere area or sustainable/sustainably sourced materials from outside
Articles of clothing; Footwear; Headgear.
<p>In respect of such goods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are created in a manner demonstrating conservation and sustainable development benefits to the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere and/or wider environment. Are made or manufactured in the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Contain sustainable/sustainably sourced materials either originating in the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere area or sustainable/sustainably sourced materials from outside
Carpets, rugs and mats.
<p>In respect of such goods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are created in a manner demonstrating conservation and sustainable development benefits to the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere and/or wider environment. Are made or manufactured in the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Contain sustainable/sustainably sourced materials either originating in the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere area or sustainable/sustainably sourced materials from outside
GOODS (ANIMAL/PLANT – FOOD/DRINK)
Meat; Fish; Poultry; Game; Milk products - milk; butter; cheese; cream, yogurt ; Eggs; Vegetables (Prepared); Prepared fruits; Jams; Soups; Shellfish (not live)
In respect of such goods:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are created in a manner demonstrating conservation and sustainable development benefits to the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere and/or wider environment • Are grown, reared or originate in the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere • Are prepared or manufactured using at least 50% ingredients and produce grown, reared or originating from the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere. (Note: Sustainable and responsibly sourced produce/ingredients may replace produce/ingredients where no sources exist in Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere)
Chutneys; Tea; Bread; Chocolate confectionary; Confectionery; Condiments; Honey; Pies; Biscuits; Flour confectionery.
<p>In respect of such goods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are created in a manner demonstrating conservation and sustainable development benefits to the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere and/or wider environment • Are grown, reared or originate in the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere • Are prepared or manufactured using at least 50% ingredients and produce grown, reared, or originating from the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere. (Note: Sustainable and responsibly sourced produce/ingredients may replace produce/ingredients where no sources exist in Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere)
Fresh fruits and vegetables; Natural plants and flowers; Agricultural and aquacultural crops, horticulture and forestry products; Live animals; Dried flowers; Live Shellfish
<p>In respect of such goods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are created in a manner demonstrating conservation and sustainable development benefits to the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere and/or wider environment • Are grown, born, reared or originate in the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere area.
Beers; Fruit drinks; Mineral water.
<p>In respect of such goods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are created in a manner demonstrating conservation and sustainable development benefits to the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere and/or wider environment • Are grown, reared or originate in the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere • Are prepared or manufactured using at least 50% ingredients and produce grown, reared, or originating from the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere. (Note: Sustainable and responsibly sourced produce/ingredients may replace produce/ingredients where no sources exist in Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere)
Wines; Spirits; Liqueurs.
<p>In respect of such goods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are created in a manner demonstrating conservation and sustainable development benefits to the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere and/or wider environment • Are grown, reared or originate in the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are prepared or manufactured using at least 50% ingredients and produce grown, reared, or originating from the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere. (Note: Sustainable and responsibly sourced produce/ingredients may replace produce/ingredients where no sources exist in Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere)
SERVICES
Arranging and conducting of cultural activities; Entertainment, sporting and cultural activities; Providing cultural activities; Arranging and conducting of educational events; Organizing cultural and arts events; Conducting guided tours; Health and wellness training.
<p>In respect of such services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are created/delivered in a manner demonstrating conservation and sustainable development benefits to the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere and/or wider environment • Majority of services and activities are provided in the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere area.
Restaurant, cafe and bar services; Catering services; Hotels, B & B, hostels and boarding houses, holiday and tourist accommodation, holiday park, self- catering
<p>In respect of such services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are created/delivered in a manner demonstrating conservation and sustainable development benefits to the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere and/or wider environment • Serve food and drink (25% of menus) that is made, manufactured, grown, reared or contains ingredients originating in the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere area
Therapy services; Beauty care services; Agriculture, horticulture and forestry services
<p>In respect of such services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are created/delivered in a manner demonstrating conservation and sustainable development benefits to the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere and/or wider environment • Majority of services are provided in the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere area.

SECTION ONE

YOUR BUSINESS

This section is to help give an overview of the business and the products / services for which you are applying for the Certification Mark

- We'd like to know a bit about your business:
- How long it's been running
- How many people it employs
- What the business does.
- What do you think the Certification Mark will bring to your business?
- Give us a flavour of what makes your business special.

SECTION TWO

GOODS AND SERVICES

Businesses applying for the Certification Mark need to show evidence that goods and services support sustainable development in the Biosphere by meeting the 'standard' and conforming to the various characteristics.

2.1 GOODS

Goods producing businesses - those that want to use the Certification Mark on goods and product labelling need to describe the type of business they operate and detail the origin, preparation and/or manufacture and ingredients/materials used for each good/product they want to receive the Certification Mark for.

Food and Drink products need to be prepared or manufactured using or substantially using ingredients/materials (50% or more) of produce grown reared or originating in the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere. (Note: Sustainable produce/ingredients/materials may replace produce/ingredients/materials where no sources exist in Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere area)

2.2 SERVICES

Businesses delivering services – Describe the service you want to receive the Certification Mark for. The service should be one that is delivered (majority of service) in the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere and can demonstrate sustainable development benefits to the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere and/or wider environment.

Tourism Businesses/Food and Drink Providers

Need to deliver their services in a manner demonstrating conservation and sustainable development benefits to the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere and when the serving of food applies to the business any produce served is made, manufactured, grown, reared or contains materials originating in the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere area (25% of menus)

Activity, cultural, educational and leisure-based services

Therapy and Beauty Care Services

Agriculture, Horticulture and Forestry Services

Businesses will need to describe the type and give examples of activity they deliver. The service needs to be created and/or delivered in a manner demonstrating conservation and sustainable development benefits to the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere and/or wider environment. Majority of services and activities must be provided in the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere area.

SECTION THREE

3.1 Business Operation Enquiry/Booking/Point of sale/Administration/Office or Production/operation/Waste management/Energy Source/Water Conservation.

What you are doing to reduce your environmental impact, and how do you demonstrate this?

GUIDANCE:

How do your administration/sales/production/processing and information channels demonstrate your environmental actions and commitment to reducing environmental impact/conserving resources in the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere?

Examples:

- We use recycled ink cartridges and reuse all single side printed paper for notes
- We use paperless systems for enquiries, bookings and at point of sale
- We tell our customers the story behind the produce on our menu's/our ingredients/materials
- Turning of lights and computers at night
- We tell our customers about how we are minimising our environmental impact and what our guests/customers can do to help
- We have a ground / air source heat pump system.
- Our Business has a (insert renewable energy source) which produces ...% of our need and we have a battery storage system.
- We have a rainwater collection system in place
- We have an environmental policy/green story on our website.

3.2 Transport/Arrival/Distribution

How does your business try to minimise transport impact in the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere? How do you distribute any products in an environmentally friendly way

GUIDANCE:

Think about yourself, staff and customers impact.

Examples:

- Encourage staff car share where possible
- We have a E-vehicle charging point / we signpost to nearby sites
- Encourage visitors to use public transport e.g. make available public transport timetables/links on website
- Cycle friendly business
- Bio-degradable/recyclable packaging used to distribute products

3.3 Place – Business premises, your immediate surroundings and locations you deliver your services

How do you manage your surroundings to enhance the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere and its valued characteristics for the visitor or customer?

GUIDANCE:

If you don't have gardens or land, how do you influence the people who control your surroundings?

How do you influence or manage the location of where you deliver your activities?

Consider things like garden, grounds, biodiversity, soil, water, air, tranquillity, dark skies.

Examples:

- We have plants and shrubs that encourage pollinators
- All outside lights are down-lighters with movement sensors so as not to cause light pollution
- Our land is managed under a conservation agreement
- We carry out beach cleans and 'Leave no Trace' at the location we deliver our activities
- All of our light sources are downlighting and we have blackout curtains to protect the Dark Skies of the region
- The bird tables attract lots of birds and visitors alike!

3.4 Purchasing - Services/processes

What are you doing to reduce the negative impact of this? What are you doing to support sustainable purchasing? Do you buy recycled or recyclable products? Eco-friendly products? Do you use local suppliers? How are purchases transported? Do you use local tradesman?

GUIDANCE:

All businesses buy goods, products and services. Do you buy in bulk to reduce the amount of packaging? Do you buy environmentally friendly products? Do you Reuse, Reduce, Recycle? Do you check the credentials of your suppliers? Where do they source ingredients? Do you consider if they have an environment/sustainability policy?

Examples:

- We grow all our own animal feed/ we make sure we source UK-grown feed to make sure it's not from a source that depletes rainforest
- Our fencing materials are local wood, British wood or FSC-certified wood
- We buy locally produced goods and our ingredients/menu items are from a sustainable source
- We buy local to reduce transport impacts

3.5 Employing people- staff

Do you employ local people? How do you support the employment of local people?

How do you look after your employees?

GUIDANCE:

Example:

- We employ local people and have agreed working hours to fit their families/work life balance
- We have 'Investors in People' award
- We have a minibus to pick up local staff members
- We support staff development and training.

3.6 Learning - You and your staff

How do you and your staff keep informed about the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere?

How do you keep your work-related skills up to date?

GUIDANCE:

How do you learn about environmental initiatives and new ideas and make sure you are as

professional as possible in your business? Can you and your staff answer customers' questions about

the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere? Do you enable staff to attend training opportunities?

The Biosphere 'Sense of Place Tool Kit' and other business resources are available to help you and your staff learn about what makes the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere a special place. [Galloway-and-Southern-Ayrshire-Biosphere-Sense-of-Place-Statements-1.docx \(live.com\)](#)

Examples:

- I and one of my staff attended a course on energy efficiency methods from the Energy Centre
- We subscribe to (Industry specific newsletter / magazine / journal)
- I subscribe to Galloway and Southern Ayrshire e-newsletters and also share with my staff
- I am a member of the Proud Supporter closed Facebook Group
- I attend Biosphere workshops and events

3.7 Local Community

How do you and your business support the local community?

GUIDANCE:

How does your business support your local community? How do you encourage visitors and customers to contribute to supporting your local community?

Examples:

- We sponsor a local festival or football team
- Contact details for local churches and organisations are in the accommodation information packs
- We have open farm days
- We promote and encourage our visitors and customers to attend local events and activities

3.8 Networks

How does your business work with other local businesses and/or community organisations? Do you collaborate with any other business?

GUIDANCE:

List the local businesses you work with. How do you work with them? Promotion, using each other's ingredients/services/products?

Examples:

- We keep supplies of other 'Proud Supporter' businesses leaflets for our customers
- We collaborate with other businesses in creating new products
- We mention where our bacon, sausage, milk and eggs come from on our menus
- We share transport
- We pass on enquiries to other local businesses
- We use the local accountant/solicitor services
- We attend the local farmers market

3.9 Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Culture, Heritage and Environment.

What do you do to support the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere's special features, its Culture Heritage and Environment? How are you championing these? Does your customers or visitors enjoy, learn about the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere.

GUIDANCE:

How do people know that you support the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere culture, heritage and environment, how can your customers learn more and contribute too?

Examples:

- We volunteer regularly on conservation projects and tell our customers about our adventures!
- Our tourist information corner is full of leaflets about the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire/SW Scotland.
- The cottage has a 'Did You Know?' information sheet containing interesting facts on the local area, its culture and heritage, environmental issues and the Biosphere.
- We have a self-guided farm walk leaflet so people can learn about the landscape, the way of life and how farming has changed over the years
- I help with the local village and county agricultural shows, galas and events.
- We only engage local musicians and bands for our events

3.10 Marketing and Promotion

GUIDANCE:

As a Proud Supporter it is expected that you will be showcasing the Biosphere within your marketing and promotion and displaying the Proud Supporter logo on your website/social media channels. How do you describe the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere in any marketing and promotional material e.g. website? Think about ways you could improve on this. The Business Resources section on our website includes Cut and Paste statements that can be used and a Photo Library.

https://www.gsabiosphere.org.uk/resource_categories/media-and-marketing-tools/

Our Sense of Place Tool Kit may also help give ideas to include in marketing and promotional activities. You can always contact the Biosphere Business Team if you need help.

Examples:

- We have a section on our website about the Biosphere.
- All emails and electronic information carry links to the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Website and our Proud Supporter badge
- Our leaflet has the 'Proud Supporter' logo on and refers to the GSA Biosphere
- We include details and Biosphere Leaflets in our welcome pack to customers/tell our customers we are in the Biosphere.

SECTION FOUR

4.0 Future Aspirations

What are your future aspirations to be a more sustainable business?

Have you got any specific goals you want to achieve over the coming years?

GUIDANCE:

Tell us about any plans you have to become a more sustainable business and any actions you intend taking to achieve this:

- Short term goals
- Medium term goals
- Long term goals

SECTION FIVE

LAND MANAGEMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Complete this Section 5 if you are applying for:

- an agricultural, horticultural or forestry product that is produced primarily on your property; or
- events or tourism-based services taking place primarily on your property.

5.1 Land Management

A. What size property do you have?

GUIDANCE:

Identify the size, in acres or hectares, of your full ownership.

B. What amount (ac/ha/%) is used to support the product/service you are applying for?

GUIDANCE:

Identify the size, in acres or hectares or as a percent of total property size, where you either 1) engage in activities that support the agricultural/horticultural/forestry product for which you are applying, or 2) use for the event or tourism-based service for which you are applying.

Examples:

- We grow plants for the nursery on an acre of the property.
- We use about 75% of the property for farm tours.

C. What habitat types exist on your farm or property?

GUIDANCE:

Identify the various habitat types, including water features, that exist throughout your property. This does not need to be formal habitat definitions (i.e. UK Habitat Classification) but can be described in common terms.

Examples:

- We have an area of native woodland, a small conifer plantation, and a little riparian vegetation along one of the burns.
- We have improved and semi-improved pastures, with field margins and hedges along many of them.

D. Describe any land management plans you have.

GUIDANCE:

Identify if you have developed any type of written management plan(s) for your property, whether with or without an advisor, and whether required by a scheme or not.

Examples:

- We have a biodiversity enhancement plan.
- We have a woodland planting plan.

- We have a habitat management and monitoring plan.
- We have an integrated land management plan.
- We have a farm environment assessment.
- We have a grassland management plan.
- We have a water management plan with a map of the water system.

E. Identify any audits conducted on your farm or property.

GUIDANCE:

Identify if you have conducted any audits or baseline surveys on your property, how/by whom it was conducted and when.

Examples:

- We conduct a carbon audit using Agrecalc every year.
- We conducted a carbon audit using Farm Carbon Toolkit last year.
- We conducted a Phase 1 habitat survey three years ago.
- We conducted a biodiversity audit using NatureScot's Biodiversity app this year.
- We conducted a biodiversity audit with the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT) two years ago.
- We are currently conducting a Savills natural capital evaluation.

F. Does your farm or property hold any sustainability-related certifications?

GUIDANCE:

Identify any sustainability-related certifications or accreditations you have received.

Examples:

- We have organic certification from the Soil Association.
- We have accreditation from Wildlife Estates Scotland.
- We have certification from Green Tourism.
- We are certified by Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF) Marque/ Red Tractor/ Pasture for Life/ Cradle to Cradle/ Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC)/ etc.

G. Are you receiving, or have you received, any grant funding such as through an Agri-environment Climate or Forestry scheme?

GUIDANCE:

Identify if you are currently receiving, or have received within the past approximately five years, any public grant funding for land management activities, such as through the Scottish Government or Local Council. Be as specific as possible.

Examples:

- We have been in a Species-rich Grassland Management scheme through Agri-environment Climate Scheme (AECS) for the past three years.

- We received funding from Scottish Forestry for creation and management of diverse conifer forest five years ago.
- We received a native woodland planting grant from D&G Woodlands in 2023.

H. Are you participating in any local environmental project or activity to maintain or restore good habitat conditions on your land?

GUIDANCE:

Identify if you are currently, or within the last five years, involved with the local community in relation to any land management activities on your farm or property.

Examples:

- We hosted a bioblitz this year and occasionally invite community members to record species on our land.
- We have planted trees on the property with the community.
- We host “walk & talks” with the community about every other year to share how we manage our land.

I. What land sustainability and resiliency goals are you trying to achieve through your land management?

GUIDANCE:

Describe the goals you have for your property in terms of protecting and enhancing the health of the land today and into the future.

Examples:

- We want to increase biodiversity on our property and particularly focus on increasing grassland species diversity in our pastures.
- We want to enhance and maintain healthy soil.
- We want more trees on our property, to provide shade for our livestock and habitat for birds.

J. What management systems or management practices do you have for your land?

GUIDANCE:

Describe the system and/or practices you have in place for managing your land.

Examples:

- We mob-graze our cattle to improve soil and grassland health.
- We have a 7-year rotation for reseeding our improved pastures with a low-till system.
- We compost extra plant material and use that to fertilise our fields.
- We maintain hedgerows along many of our field borders.
- We farm according to biodynamic and permaculture practices, adapting management as conditions change.

K. What do you do in terms of sustainability related to land management that is beyond the industry standard?

GUIDANCE:

Describe land management activities you undertake that go beyond the industry standard in terms of sustainability and resiliency. By “industry standard,” we mean regulations and what’s considered normal practice for your industry.

Examples:

- Three years ago, we planted an acre of native trees along the burn that runs through the property.
- We have restored three ponds and they now have great crested newts.
- We reduced the acres we till based on the carbon audit we conducted.
- We just finished a soil management plan based on a soil audit.
- We have implemented a nutrient management plan that reduces our application of fertiliser.
- We have completed five acres of peatland restoration through Peatland Action.

5.2 Animal Welfare

A. If you have animals, do your animal welfare measure comply with the Animal Health and Welfare Scotland (Act) 2006 and/or the Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010?

GUIDANCE:

Respond yes or no if you are complying with the Animal Health and Welfare Scotland (Act) 2006 and/or the Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010. If no, please explain why.

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B. What do you do in terms of animal welfare that is beyond the industry standard, if anything?

GUIDANCE:

Describe any animal welfare measures you undertake that go beyond the industry standard. By “industry standard,” we mean regulations and what’s considered normal practice for your industry.

Examples:

- We are registered with Quality Meat Scotland (QMS).
- We are registered with the RSPCA Farming Scheme.

5.3 Cultural and Archaeological Features

Are there any cultural or archaeological features on your property, such as stone dykes or cairns? If so, please describe.

GUIDANCE:

Identify and briefly describe such features and any management of them.

Examples:

- We try and keep all our drystone walls up and have an ongoing restoration programme.
- Our land has been surveyed for archaeological features and we make sure our farming practices do not disturb them. We have a guided walk around the farm which shows what the features are and explains their history.

5.4 Access

Are there any public access features on your property, such as core paths, signs or parking areas? If so, please describe.

GUIDANCE:

Identify and briefly describe any established public access opportunities on or across your property.

Examples:

- We open the property to the public on Open Farm Days.
- We encourage access across the property by providing parking areas and signage.
- A core path runs through the south part of the property, where there are gates and stiles.

If you need further advice relating to the application form, please contact jake@qsabiosphere.org.uk