

Cambridge City Council - City Services

Registration of Stock 2026 - Terms and Conditions

These Terms and Conditions apply to all applications for grazing livestock on commons managed by Cambridge City Council for the 2026 grazing season.

By submitting an application, the grazier agrees to comply with the following conditions:

1. Liability

- 1.1 The Council accepts no liability for any loss, damage or injury to persons, animals or property arising from or in connection with livestock grazing on the commons.
- 1.2 Responsibility for livestock, including their supervision and welfare, remains solely with the owner at all times.

2. Ownership and Eligibility

- 2.1 Only cattle owned by the applicant are eligible for registration.
- 2.2 All cattle must comply with current livestock movement regulations and hold the required movement licences.
- 2.3 The Council does not permit subletting or transfer of grazing rights.

3. Identification of Stock

- 3.1 All cattle must bear a clearly identifiable and permanent brand or distinguishing mark approved by the Pinder.
- 3.2 The cutting of an animal's tail will not be accepted as sufficient identification.

4. Age and Breeding Restrictions

- 4.1 No cattle under 14 months of age may be grazed on the commons.
- 4.2 Cows within one month of expected calving must not be turned out onto the commons.
- 4.3 Milking of cows on the commons is strictly prohibited. Animals must be removed from the site for milking purposes.

5. Animal Health and Welfare

- 5.1 No diseased animals may be turned out onto the commons.
- 5.2 Any animal that becomes diseased or dies while on the commons must be removed immediately.
- 5.3 Diseased animals may not return until fully recovered and free from disease.
- 5.4 Responsibility for compliance with the Animal Welfare Act 2006 rests entirely with the livestock owner.

6. Grazing Season

- 7.1 The 2026 grazing season runs from 1 April 2026 to 1 November 2026, except for Midsummer Common.
- 7.2 All cattle grazing on Midsummer Common must be removed by 16 October 2026.
- 7.3 The Council will provide cattle removal assistance only until 16 October 2026.
- 7.4 All livestock must be removed from all commons by 1 November 2026 unless an earlier date is required by the Council or otherwise agreed in writing.

7. Stock Movements and Pinder Service

- 7.1 The Pinder provides attendance and assistance at the start and end of the grazing season only.
- 7.2 Emergency attendance during the season is limited to animal welfare matters.
- 7.3 Attendance for stock movement for slaughter or other non-welfare purposes is not included.
- 7.4 Additional attendance during the season will be charged at a flat rate of £500 per occasion.
- 7.5 The Council reserves the right to require livestock to be moved at short notice, for example where events are scheduled or grazing levels are unsuitable. Where this is necessary, the Council will endeavour to relocate cattle to an alternative suitable site at no cost to the grazier and will provide notice where reasonably practicable.
- 7.6 The Pinder must be informed in advance of the dates livestock are to be turned out or removed.

Emergency Pinder contact number: 07855 376652.

8. Behaviour of Stock

- 8.1 Any animal displaying aggressive behaviour towards members of the public or other livestock must be removed immediately upon request.
- 8.2 No refund will be issued in such circumstances.

9. Grazing Allocation and Site Preferences

- 9.1 Site preferences may be indicated on application but cannot be guaranteed.
- 9.2 The Council will liaise with applicants to agree a suitable alternative site where necessary.

10. Stock Density and Conservation Grazing

- 10.1 The Council is committed to conservation grazing to enhance biodiversity.
- 10.2 Stocking densities will be gradually reduced year on year towards an average of 1 cattle per 0.6 hectares (approximately 1 cattle per 1.5 acres) by 2030, in accordance with recommendations made by MKA Ecology Ltd (2025).
- 10.3 Graziers must support sustainable farming practices and demonstrate progress towards Integrated Pest Management (IPM) principles.

11. Parasite and Veterinary Treatments

- 11.1 Routine worming treatments must not be carried out on site.
- 11.2 Where treatment is essential for animal welfare and no alternative exists; cattle must be removed from the commons for treatment.
- 11.3 Treated cattle must not return to the commons for a minimum of four weeks following treatment.

12. Supplementary Feeding

- 12.1 Supplementary feeding is not permitted without prior written consent from the Council.
- 12.2 Where consent is granted, the grazier is responsible for ensuring adequate feed where sward levels are insufficient.

13. Fees and Invoicing

13.1 Grazing fees for 2026 are:

- £77.70 per beast; or
- £46.60 per beast where more than 10 cattle are grazed at one time.

13.2 Charges are invoiced per beast for the full grazing season.

13.3 No refunds will be issued for voluntary reductions in stock numbers or partial-season grazing.

13.4 Additional cattle:

- Added before 30 June 2026 – charged at full season rate;
- Added from 1 July 2026 – charged at half season rate.

14. Movement and Regulatory Compliance

14.1 All common land grazing must be registered as an additional holding linked to the grazier's existing holding in accordance with current Animal Health/DEFRA requirements.

14.2 Registration must be completed directly with Animal Health.

15. Basic Payment Scheme and Cross Compliance

15.1 The Council registers common land under the Basic Payment Scheme pursuant to European Council Regulation 1782/2003.

15.2 The grazier must not take or omit any action that would cause the Council to breach cross compliance requirements.

15.3 "Cross Compliance" refers to the statutory management requirements and standards for good agricultural and environmental condition set out in Articles 3 and 4 and Annexes III and IV of the above Regulation.

15.4 This agreement does not confer occupancy rights for the purposes of the Basic Payment Scheme and does not constitute a tenancy under the Agricultural Tenancies Act 1995.

16. Geo-Fencing and Nofence Technology

- 16.1 The Council is trialling and implementing Nofence technology to support conservation grazing without permanent fencing.
- 16.2 The Council reserves the right to require licensed livestock to wear Nofence collars.
- 16.3 Collars will be supplied on loan by the Council, fitted prior to turnout, and include software subscription costs.
- 16.4 Graziers are expected to access and monitor live data via the Nofence application and respond promptly to alerts.
- 16.5 Livestock will be trained in geo-fencing at the beginning of each season and are expected to remain on the commons for the duration of the licence unless otherwise agreed.

17. Refund Policy

No refunds will be issued for:

- Early voluntary removal of cattle;
- Partial grazing;
- Reduction in herd size during the season;
- Removal required due to aggressive behaviour.