

Guide to the Environmental Farming Scheme

**For agreements commencing 01 January 2020
and 01 January 2021**

**This Guide is for EFS Agreements commencing
01 January 2020/2021.**

**For the Guide to EFS Agreements commencing
01 July 2017 – 01 January 2018 & 01 January 2019 see the link below**

[Guide to the Environmental Farming Scheme commencing 01 July 2017 -
01 January 2018 & 01 January 2019](#)

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COVID-19

Due to restrictions on face-to-face meetings and the closure of all of our offices to the public, we have had to make a number of changes to the way we work. These changes are designed to safeguard everyone’s health, while ensuring that we continue to provide the best level of service possible in these difficult times. Advice and support will be available by telephone and e-mail while our offices remain closed. **Any farm visits or On-The-Spot-Checks will follow the most up-to-date Public Health guidelines.** You should continue to check the DAERA website for updates.

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1. Introduction to the Guide

This booklet sets out the general information about the Environmental Farming Scheme (EFS) and the process of applying for the Scheme.

Detailed information on the EFS Options and Non-productive Investments (NPIs) that make up the Scheme can be found in the EFS Information Sheets which are available on the DAERA website and can be accessed using the following links:

[EFS Wider Options Information Sheets Link](#)

[EFS Wider stand-alone Options Information Sheets Link](#)

[EFS Wider Non-Productive Investments \(NPIs\) Information Sheets Link](#)

[EFS Higher Options Information Sheets Link](#)

[EFS Higher Non-Productive Investments \(NPIs\) Information Sheets Link](#)

All of the EFS information contained in this publication is intended as a guide to farmers and should not be regarded as a legal interpretation of the Regulations governing the Environmental Farming Scheme and/or other schemes.

Applicants are advised to take independent legal advice, as necessary, to ensure their interests are looked after.

1.1 *Points to note before you start:*

- You should read this Guide before you visit the online application available on the DAERA website at www.daera-ni.gov.uk/services/daera-online-services during the open application period.

As the application is online only, you should ensure that you are set up to access DAERA Online Services through the Government Gateway or via NI Identity Assurance (NIDA) in advance of the open application period. Further information is available at the following link.

[DAERA Online Services Link](#)

- You are advised to read the guidance before you complete your application for the Environmental Farming Scheme. If you need help to complete your application you can call us on 0300 200 7848 and our advisors will provide you with the assistance you require, or email 'efs@daera-ni.gov.uk'.
- If you have any queries about completing the online application, contact the **EFS Advisory Service** on

Tel: 0300 200 7848 or

Email: efs@daera-ni.gov.uk.

2. General Rules of the Environmental Farming Scheme (EFS)

2.1 Introduction

The Environmental Farming Scheme (EFS) is a voluntary scheme that will support farmers and land managers to carry out environmentally beneficial farming practices on agricultural land. EFS agreements will have a five year duration, with the exception of Tranche 1 Wider which has a five and a half year duration.

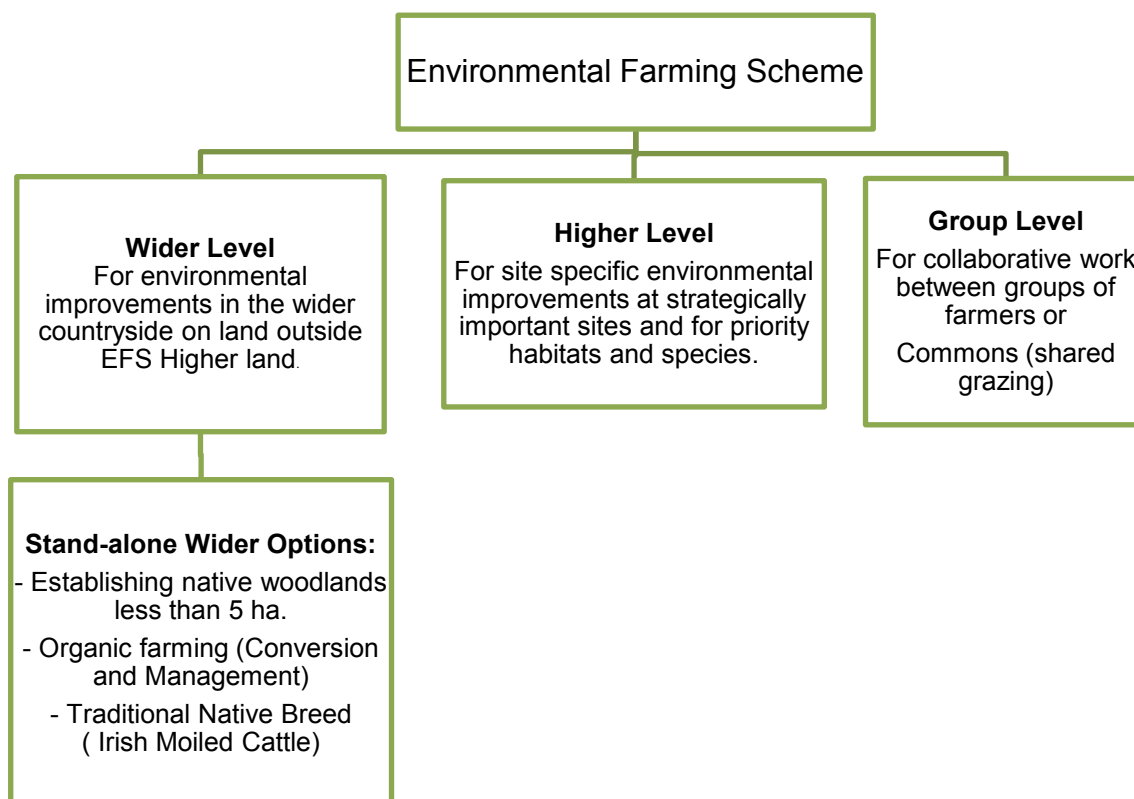
The aims of the Scheme are to:

- restore, preserve and enhance biodiversity;
- improve water management and water quality;
- reduce soil erosion and improve soil management;
- foster carbon conservation and sequestration in agriculture; and
- reduce greenhouse gas and ammonia emissions from agriculture.

The EFS is made up of three levels:

- EFS (W), a Wider Level Scheme aimed at delivering benefits across the wider countryside outside of environmentally designated areas;
- EFS (H), a Higher Level Scheme primarily aimed at site specific environmental improvements at strategically important sites and for priority habitats and species; and
- EFS (G), a Group Level Scheme to support co-operative work by farmers in specific areas, such as river catchments, or commonages. EFS (G) is in pilot stage.

Figure 1: EFS Levels



Each EFS level has a suite of management Options and Non-productive investments (NPIs), commonly referred to as capital items.

Management Options may be made up of:

- essential capital items (NPIs) carried out to establish the Option, and / or
- recurring annual management requirements to ensure successful establishment, retention and maintenance of the Option.

Payment for the essential NPIs is included in the Option payment for Year 1 of the agreement. Some Options contain only recurring annual management requirements. Work started or completed before the start of the Scheme agreement is not eligible for payment.

There is also a suite of additional NPIs, which can be carried out to complement certain Options. Payment for these is in addition to the Option payment for essential NPIs.

The agreement holder must complete the approved unit/area/length for all EFS Options and additional NPIs, to the standards set out by the Department in the 'Requirements and Controls' table included in the EFS Information Sheet of the Option, within the required time permitted.

EFS Information Sheets are available in the [EFS Section of the DAERA website](#).

Note, if you do not complete all work in your agreement in the appropriate timescale or to the required standard, financial penalties may be applied.

All EFS Options must be situated on land or its boundaries that is entered into the Scheme.

As most essential and additional NPIs must be carried out in the first year of the EFS agreement, applicants should be confident that they can complete all the Options they apply for within the required timescale.

2.2 Who is eligible to apply for EFS?

EFS is open to applicants who have

- a DAERA Category 1 or Category 2 Business Identification Number; and
- at least 3 ha of eligible agricultural land and have management control of the land for the duration of their agreement.

If the applicant does not own the land, management control will usually mean a lease covering the five year period of the Scheme. Where leased land is entered into EFS, both the landlord and tenant are advised to seek legal advice when drawing up the lease.

In almost all circumstances, only the person actively farming the land and claiming other area-based payments will be eligible to apply to the EFS.

Where a Business ID manages a number of individual farms as a single unit, these farms will comprise one farm business.

2.3 Eligibility of land

Each LPIS land parcel (normally a field) has been assessed by DAERA to decide which EFS Scheme level (either Wider or Higher) it is eligible for. Land that is under an older agri-environment scheme agreement on the date by which the EFS agreement is due to commence will not be eligible.

EFS (H) land is split into three tiers, depending on which designated site or priority site it falls into.

- EFS (H) Tier 1: includes those fields that are within sites designated as Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) and RAMSAR sites.
- EFS (H) Tier 2: includes those fields that are within sites designated as biological Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI).
- EFS (H) Tier 3: includes Northern Ireland priority habitats and species areas outside designated sites.

If the EFS (H) area within a LPIS land parcel (normally a field) is less than 0.10 ha, the entire field is not eligible for EFS (H) but is eligible for EFS (W). If the EFS (H) area is greater than or equal to 0.1ha or greater than or equal to 10% of the field area, then the entire field is eligible for EFS (H).

The land area eligible for EFS will be a direct reflection of the LPIS Maximum Eligible Area (MEA), with the exception of:-

- (1) woodland habitats, where EFS payments will be applicable to non-LPIS MEA woodland areas;
- (2) commonage or shared grazing on LPIS, which are not eligible for either EFS (W) or EFS (H) (except where part of the EFS (G) pilot); and
- (3) other areas deemed to be of environmental importance by DAERA.

Fields listed in the EFS agreements must be under the management control of the applicant for the duration of the Agreement. Ensure ALL the fields you wish to be considered for EFS are listed on your Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) form.

If the applicant's eligible agricultural land falls below 3 ha at any point during the five year duration of the agreement, the EFS agreement will be terminated. Monies already paid may be recovered.

Applicants must refer to the 'Guide to Land Eligibility' to decide if land is eligible for EFS. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that they only apply on eligible land and deduct all ineligible areas from their claim irrespective of what is indicated on their DAERA farm map.

More information about eligibility of land can be found in the individual EFS Information Sheets and scheme Terms and Conditions available at the following links.

[EFS Wider Options Information Sheets Link](#)

[EFS Wider Terms and Conditions – Agreements commencing 01 January 2020](#)

[EFS Higher Terms and Conditions - Agreements commencing 01 January 2020](#)

2.4 Dual use claims

If two claimants use the same land at the same time to claim two different schemes, for example EFS and BPS, this is known as dual use.

In almost all cases, the person applying for BPS on the land will be entitled to apply for EFS funding on the same land. This is in line with the general rule of one claimant for each land parcel.

With regard to EFS and Basic Payment, dual use claims (DUCs) will only be permitted in certain limited circumstances, specifically EFS Higher Level Scheme Natura 2000 or ASSI designated land and in cases where the EFS applicant can demonstrate significant environmental benefit accruing from the arrangement. Where this occurs, both beneficiaries must be able to demonstrate that they each meet the requirements of their respective Schemes.

If two businesses submit separate claims on a field, one for EFS and one for BPS, it is possible that the EFS claim will be rejected unless strict criteria have been met.

2.5 Land receiving other funding

EFS cannot be used to pay for environmental management activities that are already being funded on the same land area by another funding source.

Applicants must check if they have land which is under contract or obligation to other schemes e.g. legacy agri-environment agreement (NICMS/NESA/CMS), Habitat Improvement Scheme, Woodland Grant Scheme, Management of Sensitive Sites scheme (MOSS), Heritage Lottery Funding or other similar schemes.

It is the responsibility of the agreement holder to ensure that double funding does not occur within an EFS agreement. Where there is evidence that an agreement holder has knowingly claimed under the Environmental Farming Scheme for management activities that have received or will receive payment from another source, this may result in the recovery of payments already made and possible termination of the EFS agreement.

EFS cannot be used to fund environmental management activities that are required by law or by any legally binding contract or obligation.

2.5.1 Planning permission and remediation

EFS must not fund works that must be undertaken as a requirement of any planning permission or fund works required to restore or remediate any works undertaken illegally.

2.5.2 Landscape features removal derogations

EFS must not fund works that must be undertaken as remedial mitigation as a result of landscape features removal derogation under Cross-Compliance GAEC 7. This mitigation work must be completed by the business at its own cost.

2.6 EFS and Greening

Under Greening rules, farmers with more than 15 ha of arable land must have an area equivalent to at least 5% of that land in an Ecological Focus Area (EFA). EFS Options cannot be funded if they are used to fulfil an EFA requirement as this would be considered double funding.

Areas used for the following eight EFS Options cannot be used as EFA during the term of the Agreement.

- Creation of Pollinator Margins – 10 metres width – Pollen and nectar
- Creation of Pollinator Margins – 10 metres width – Annual wildflower;
- Creation of Arable margins – 6 metres width – Rough grass;
- Creation of Arable margins – 6 metres width – Cultivated uncropped;
- Creation of Riparian buffers – 2 metres width – ungrazed;
- Creation of Riparian buffers – 2 metres width – planted with native trees;
- Creation of Riparian buffers – 10 metres width – ungrazed; and
- Creation of Riparian buffers – 10 metres width – planted with native trees.

The EFS Options 'Planting new hedgerows including two protective fences', 'Traditional stone wall rebuilding – single skin' and 'Traditional stone wall rebuilding – double skin' established under EFS cannot be declared as EFA in the year of establishment/rebuilding.

If an EFS Agreement holder uses the land included in any of the five EFS Options listed below for EFA requirements, a reduction will be applied to the EFS payment.

- Provision of winter feed crop for wild birds;
- Retention of winter stubble;
- Establishment of native woodland less than 5 ha;
- Planting native tree corridors; and
- Lapwing fallow plot.

A reduction in the EFS payment due to overlapping EFA requirements can be avoided by creating the EFA in a different location to the EFS Option. 'Establishment of agroforestry' and 'Organic management' EFS Options overlap with EFA requirements but the extent of this is small and so in these cases there is no reduction in payment.

2.7 EFS and BPS/ANC eligibility

Land under EFS Options is eligible for BPS for the length of the EFS agreement if SFP was claimed and paid on the land in 2008.

Land within the following EFS Options will remain eligible for BPS for the duration of the EFS agreement and for a further retention period if SFP was claimed and paid on the land in 2008:

- **ENW** - Establishment of native woodland less than 5 ha
 - Eligible for BPS during 5 years of EFS plus 15 years retention period;
- **RBS** - Creation of riparian buffer – 2 metre width – ungrazed
 - Eligible for BPS during 5 years of EFS plus 10 years retention period;

- **BNT** Creation of riparian buffer – 2 metre width – planted with native trees
 - Eligible for BPS during 5 years of EFS plus 10 years retention period;
- **RBW** Creation of riparian buffer – 10 metre width – ungrazed –
 - Eligible for BPS during 5 years of EFS plus 10 years retention period; and
- **BWT** Creation of riparian buffer – 10 metre width – planted with native trees
 - Eligible for BPS during 5 years of EFS plus 10 years retention period.

As above, the area fenced off for a riparian buffer, either 2 or 10 metres in width, remains eligible for BPS provided the area was claimed and paid for Single Farm Payment in 2008. Under normal circumstances it would be expected that no more than an average of 2 or 10 square metres of land per 1 metres length of riparian buffer would be established. However in some circumstances it may be necessary to fence off an area beyond the 2 m or 10 m buffer for reasons of safety and practicality. It may be more practical to site the fence on firmer, more stable ground away from the contours of the watercourse. If the fence put up for the riparian buffer options is placed considerably beyond the 2 metre or the 10 metre point and this results in a significantly greater extent of the field being fenced off, please note that only the area covered by the EFS Option remains eligible for BPS. Any additional area fenced off will be subject to the normal eligibility rules. Consequently if this **additional** area is not grazed and there is no agricultural activity, it is not eligible for either BPS or EFS.

The Guide to Land Eligibility states: Agro-forestry occurs where agriculture and tree cultivation are carried out on the same land unit. Where land is managed for agro-forestry the tree density is usually in excess of 50 trees/ha but the planting has taken place in such a way that the area of the field is utilized for agricultural activity in the initial years of tree establishment. These areas are eligible for BPS in the initial years of tree establishment, provided agricultural activity remains predominant and is not significantly affected by the presence of trees.

Woodland habitat areas funded under EFS (H) will remain ineligible for BPS.

Under the EFS (H) Level, the site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP) may include actions to remove LPIS ineligible features, e.g. scrub, to improve habitat condition. These areas may eventually become eligible for BPS, EFS and/or ANC if the business completes and submits a 'Farmer Notified Change (FNC)' form to DAERA to amend the MEA of the field.

2.8. Retention period for EFS Options

Some Options include a retention period of 10 or 15 years after the end of the agreement and during this time the area can be claimed for BPS, provided SFP was claimed and paid on the land in 2008.

2.9 Cross-Compliance

Cross-Compliance applies to all Area-based Schemes including EFS. Scheme participants must meet the Cross-Compliance verifiable standards on all the agricultural area of their holding. Failure to meet the Cross-Compliance requirements could lead to the application of penalties to all Area-based Schemes including EFS. Further details on Cross-Compliance can be found on the DAERA website:

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/cross-compliance-2020>.

2.10 Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Scheme participants must implement Principles 2 and 8 of Directive 2009/128/EC, Establishing a Framework for Community Action to achieve the Sustainable Use of Pesticides (Integrated Pest Management (IPM)).

Principle 2 states that harmful organisms must be monitored by adequate methods and tools, where available. Such adequate tools should include observations in the field, scientifically based warning, forecasting and early diagnosis systems, where feasible, as well as the use of advice from professionally qualified advisors.

Principle 8 states that based on the records on the use of pesticides and on the monitoring of harmful organisms, the professional user should check the success of the applied plant protection measures.

Table 1: Methods of Integrated Pest Management

IPM Section	Methods
Section 2: Monitoring of Harmful Organisms	Use early warning/weather forecasting systems
	Use weather forecast to aid decisions
	Accurate pest and disease identification
	Monitor crops for pests/diseases
	Adviser monitors crops
	Use traps/sticky pads/lures
Section 8: Checking and recording the success of the applied crop protection measures	Success or failure of intervention measured
	Crop yields /disease and pest incidences recorded
	Member of discussion group
	Success or failure of intervention recorded
	Results discussed with adviser

It is the agreement holder's responsibility to keep accurate and up to date evidence that they have implemented Principles 2 and 8 of IPM. The evidence for all years of the Scheme must be available for an inspector to check at any time.

An example of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) record keeping can be viewed in the EFS field records templates which can be accessed using the following links.

[EFS \(W\) field records template](#)

[EFS \(H\) field records template](#)

2.11 Record keeping

An agreement holder must keep and maintain records relating to the Scheme, as stated in the 'Requirements and Controls' for each Option and capital item. Field records must be kept up to date throughout the period of the contract and the agreement holder must retain all records throughout the period of the contract.

Records must be available to DAERA at any time of the year. If DAERA completes an EFS inspection, the inspector will check that the records are accurate and up to date. The inspector will also check that the information entered in the records confirms that the correct management has been undertaken. Failure to keep complete and accurate records may lead to a reduction or recovery of payments.

You may use your own preferred format to record the required information as detailed in the EFS (W) templates for Options and / or NPIs 'Requirements and Controls' section. DAERA has developed field record templates which you can download and print from the DAERA website using the links noted in section 2.10 above.

An example of completed field records is included in the documents.

2.12 Training

EFS Agreement holders must complete Option-specific training in order to demonstrate their understanding of the management activities associated with each Option. All Options will have on-line training available. Scheme participants must complete each course associated with the EFS Options and NPIs that are included in their Scheme agreement. **Training must be completed before the first claim.** Scheme participants must have an email account in order to complete the online training.

2.13 Consents and Permissions

In certain circumstances, special consent or permission is required before any work can be carried out. Further detail is available in the Terms and Conditions of the scheme.

[EFS Wider Terms and Conditions - Agreements commencing 01 January 2020](#)

[EFS Higher Terms and Conditions - Agreements commencing 01 January 2020](#)

3. Making an application to the Environmental Farming Scheme

3.1 *The application process*

Applications are made on-line only, through DAERA On-line, in the 'open for applications' period.

Completing the EFS application online through DAERA Online Services allows all applicants to view their land, select appropriate options for the EFS (W) and establish if they can apply for EFS (H) Level. The EFS online application form helps applicants avoid mistakes; the system warns an applicant if they have missed part of the application process. Applicants also receive an instant receipt and summary of their application.

If you are already registered with DAERA online services:

- Log on to DAERA Online Services using your Government Gateway or NI Identity Assurance (NIDA) details at: www.daera-ni.gov.uk/daera-online-services.
- from the list of "Services" select 'Environmental Farming Scheme' to start your application.
- if you need help, at any stage of the process, please select from the help methods available, which include the option to phone us on 0300 200 7848 and ask to speak to our EFS Advisory team.

If you are new to DAERA Online Services

You must be registered to use DAERA Online Services. Their contact details are:-

By email at onlineservices@daera-ni.gov.uk

By telephone on 028 9442 6699

Once registered, you will be given instructions on how to access our on-line services, including the EFS Application online. You can also authorise another person, such as an agent or a family member, to submit your on-line application. You will also need to provide an email address for us to contact you.

Fields that were entered in the applicant's previous Single Application will be listed in the EFS online 2021 application, separated into fields eligible under the Wider and Higher levels. Any fields that are not classified as Wider or Higher will not be displayed.

3.2 *Making an EFS (W) application*

3.2.1 Access DAERA Online Services

After logging into your EFS application, in the EFS (W) section all fields declared by you in the previous year's Single Application which have been identified as within the EFS (W) area will be listed.

3.2.2 Selection of EFS (W) Options

The application process is underpinned by mapping data which determines where Options may be undertaken in each individual field. Not all EFS (W) Options will be available in all field parcels.

In addition, you should consider the suitability of your field for the Option as you must successfully establish and retain the Option you select. For example, if your land is not capable of successfully establishing and growing 'Provision of winter feed crop for wild birds', you should not select that Option.

EFS (W) is not a whole farm scheme so applicants can select which Options to undertake on which land parcels.

The Options in the EFS (W) Level, which focus on biodiversity, climate and water management, are listed in **Table 2: EFS Wider Level Options and Payment Rates**. EFS (W) applicants can select from these when making their online application.

Applicants must apply for between **one** and **four EFS (W) Options**. One Option can be selected on several different field parcels, if necessary, and is counted as one Option.

There are minimum and maximum areas / lengths / units for each EFS (W) Option and these limits are built into the EFS online application. A warning will appear on the screen if the applicant is breaching these limits.

Details of the work to be carried out under these Options, including the maximum and minimum thresholds, can be found in the EFS Information Sheets for each Option and NPI which are online at the following link.

[EFS Information Sheets Link](#)

It is recommended that applicants read the EFS Information Sheets to understand what they will have to do while in the Scheme, before starting the online application. Applicants should also be confident that they can complete all the Options they apply for within the required timescale and to the required standard.

Table 2: EFS Wider Level Options and Payment Rates

Focus Area	Description of Option		Code	Payment Rate (per ha unless stated otherwise)		
				Year 1	Years 2-5	
Biodiversity	Hedge laying including two protective fences		LAY	£16.04 / m	£0.00 / m	
	Traditional dry stone wall rebuilding		Single skin	SSW	£13.02 / m	£0.00 / m
			Double skin	DSW	£22.95 / m	£0.00 / m
	Creation of pollinator margins	10 m width	Pollen and nectar	PAN	£465.00	£465.00
			Annual wildflower	WFM	£2,530.00	£2,530.00
	Creation of arable margins	6 m width	Rough grass	RGM	£841.50	£707.00
			Cultivated uncropped	CUM	£702.00	£702.00
	Provision of winter feed crop for wild birds		WFC	£ 590.00	£ 590.00	
	Retention of winter stubble		RWS	£85.00	£85.00	
Creation of traditional orchard		CTO	£3,832.68	£110.00		
Climate	Establishment of agro-forestry		EAF	£1,637.00	£65.00	
	Natural regeneration of native woodland		NRW	£360.00	£360.00	
	Planting native tree corridors		NTC	£2146.90	£465.00	
	Planting new hedgerows including two protective fences		PNH	£15.83 / m	£0.00 / m	
Water Management	Watercourse stabilisation with fencing (Not available to Agreements commencing 01 January 2021)		WSF	£4.80 / m	£0.00	
	Creation of riparian buffers	2 m width	Ungrazed	RBS	£6.07 / m	£0.07 / m
			Planted with native trees	BNT	£6.31 / m	£0.07 / m
		10 m width	Ungrazed	RBW	£7.63 / m	£0.36 / m
			Planted with native trees	BWT	£8.13 / m	£0.36 / m

Description of Option			Code	Payment Rate (per ha unless stated otherwise)			
				Year 1	Years 2-5		
Stand-alone Options	Traditional native breeds (Irish moiled Cattle)		IMC	£95.00 / Livestock Unit	£95.00 / Livestock Unit		
	Establishment of native woodland less than 5 ha		ENW	£2625.00	£516.00		
	Organic conversion	Arable	0.00 ha - 60.00 ha	OCA	£149.00	£149.00*	
			Over 60.00 ha		£45.00	£45.00*	
		Grassland	0.00 ha - 60.00 ha	OCG	£144.00	£144.00*	
			Over 60.00 ha		£45.00	£45.00*	
		Horticulture	0.00 ha - 6.00 ha	OCH	£358.00	£358.00*	
			Over 6.00 ha		£149.00	£149.00*	
		Horticulture Top fruit	0.00 ha - 6.00 ha	OCT	£358.00	£358.00**	
			Over 6.00 ha		£149.00	£149.00**	
		Organic management	Arable	0.00 ha - 60.00 ha	OMA	£53.00	£53.00
				Over 60.00 ha		£20.00	£20.00
			Grassland	0.00 ha - 60.00 ha	OMG	£53.00	£53.00
				Over 60.00 ha		£20.00	£20.00
	Horticulture		0.00 ha - 6.00 ha	OMH	£197.00	£197.00	
			Over 6.00 ha		£53.00	£53.00	
	Horticulture Top fruit		0.00 ha - 6.00 ha	OMT	£197.00	£197.00	
			Over 6.00 ha		£53.00	£53.00	

*Organic conversion payments rates only applicable to Arable and Grassland Options for Years 1 - 2. Area will be eligible for Organic management payment rates in Years 3 - 5 subject to organic certification being in place.

** Organic conversion payments rates only applicable to Horticulture Options for Years 1 - 3. Area will be eligible for Organic management payment rates in Years 4 - 5 subject to organic certification being in place.

Some of the EFS (W) Options contain essential Non-productive Investments (NPIs), which must be carried out within Year 1 of the scheme. These are listed in **Table 3: Essential NPIs included in EFS Wider Options**. For example, in the Option 'Planting native tree corridors', the planting of native trees and erection of tree guards and canes must be carried out by 01 June in the first year of the EFS Agreement. Payment for these NPIs is included in the Option payment for the first year of the Scheme. Failure to complete these NPIs within the required timeframe may result in penalties.

Table 3: Essential Non-productive Investments included in EFS Wider Options

EFS Option	Essential NPIs included in the EFS Option
Hedge laying including 2 protective fences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hedge laying • Interplanting gaps • Planting hedgerow trees with 1.2m tree guards • Erection of 2 protective fences
Traditional dry stone wall rebuilding – Single skin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebuilding single skin stonewall
Traditional dry stone wall rebuilding – Double skin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebuilding double skin stonewall
Creation of arable margins – 6m wide – rough grass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing the rough grass margin (cultivation and sowing the grasses)
Creation of traditional orchard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fruit tree planting • Protection with spiral guards • Fixing trees to a stake with tie
Establishment of agroforestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting the trees • Erecting tree guards • Anchor pegs and stakes
Planting native tree corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting native trees • Erecting tree guards and canes
Planting new hedgerows including 2 protective fences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting new hedge including trees • 1.2m guards and stakes for trees • Erecting 2 protective fences
Watercourse stabilisation with fencing (Not available to Agreements commencing 01 January 2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erecting the watercourse stabilisation fencing
Creation of riparian buffers – 2m wide - ungrazed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erecting protective fence
Creation of riparian buffers – 2m wide – planted with native trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erecting protective fence • Planting native trees and shrubs • Erecting tree guards and canes
Creation of riparian buffers – 10m wide - ungrazed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erecting protective fence • Erecting access gate(s) and gate posts
Creation of riparian buffers – 10m wide – planted with native trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erecting protective fence • Erecting access gate(s) and gate posts • Planting native trees and shrubs • Erecting tree guards and canes
Establishment of native woodland less than 5 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting native trees and shrubs and erecting tree guards and canes as necessary

3.2.3. Selection of EFS (W) additional NPIs

Each EFS (W) Option selected may offer other NPIs which can be undertaken to further improve the environmental benefit.

When selecting an Option during the online application process, a list of these additional NPIs or capital items will be available and applicants can choose if they want to add one or more of these to their form. Please note that where the EFS Option is not completed by the applicant, additional NPIs will not be eligible for payment.

The value of these NPIs is added to the Agreement Value.

The NPIs available can be found in Table 4: EFS Wider Level Non-Productive Investments and payment rates.

Table 4: EFS Wider Level Non-Productive Investments (NPIs) and payment rates

These capital items are undertaken in the first year of the Scheme only.

EFS Wider Level Non-Productive Investments	Code	Payment rate
Stock-proof fencing	SPF	£6/m
Permanent electric fencing (including energiser)	PEF	£5/m
Gate and 2 gate posts – stock-proof fence	GPS	£190.44/gate + 2 posts
Drinking Trough	DTR	£41.00 each
Drinking Trough Base	DTB	£30.54 each
Water trough pipe work	DTP	£3.91/m
Pasture Pump and associated pipe work	PAP	£285/pump
Parkland/Fruit/ Standard native tree guard	SNT	£143.40/guard
Parkland/Fruit / Standard native tree stake	SNS	£4.50/ stake

3.2.4 Minimum and maximum EFS (W) Agreement value

The minimum EFS (W) agreement value must be at least £2,500 over the duration of the 5 year agreement.

The maximum EFS (W) agreement value on farms up to 25 ha is £12,500. For larger farms the maximum £12,500 agreement value is increased by £26.67 per ha for each additional hectare above 25 ha, up to a maximum of £20,000 over the duration of the agreement.

The payment rates for additional NPIs count towards the overall maximum agreement value. These thresholds are to ensure that spend remains within budget and may be amended in further tranches of EFS.

The value of the EFS Stand-alone Options is NOT included in these thresholds.

3.3 Stand-alone EFS Options

The stand-alone Options are not included in this minimum/maximum agreement value limits as they have their own individual prioritisation and selection criteria.

The three stand-alone Options are:

- Establishment of native woodland less than 5ha,
- Traditional Native Breed – Irish Moiled Cattle,
- Organic Conversion or Organic Management.

3.3.1 Establishment of Native Woodland less than 5ha

This Option aims to ensure the successful establishment, retention and maintenance of native woodland. A minimum of 0.1ha and a maximum of 4.99 ha must be completed in the first year of the EFS agreement, made up of one or more individual woods. Trees may be planted on land declared as eligible agricultural area on the Single Application by the farm business but must not be planted on priority habitats such as species rich grassland, heath or bog. Permanent Grassland Sensitive (PGS) fields and breeding wader habitats are also unsuitable. A woodland creation plan (WCP) prepared and approved by DAERA, is a requirement of this Option. After applications for this Option are received, each applicant will be contacted by DAERA in relation to the WCP preparation.

Applicants must be prepared to retain native woodland established under this Option for a period of 15 years after the scheme. EFS payments will be made for the successful establishment and management of the woodland in its first 5 years.

Provided SFP was claimed and paid on the land in 2008, land planted in this manner is eligible for BPS for the 5 years of the EFS agreement and a further 15 years retention period.

In the event of oversubscription to the Woodland Options, it may be necessary to apply the following selection criteria to all eligible applications:

- Prioritisation of location, based on environmental benefit;
- Prioritisation of larger woodland areas.

Selection, prioritisation and scoring criteria may vary for each new application period.

DAERA may reject applications or require them to be varied if, in its opinion, they are not likely to contribute to the objectives of the Option.

The submission of a valid application does not guarantee entry under the EFS Woodland Option. Successful applicants will be notified in writing of their acceptance into the EFS Woodland Option and the commencement date of their agreement.

For more information on the EFS (W) Option “Establishment of Native Woodland less than 5ha” view the EFS Information sheet for the Option at the following link.

[Link to 'Establishment of Native Woodland less than 5 ha' Option EFS Information Sheet](#)

3.3.2 Traditional Native Breed – Irish Moiled Cattle

This standalone Option aims to help ensure the survival of the Irish Moiled traditional breed. Female Irish Moiled animals aged 6 months or over on 01 January in the claim year are eligible for payment. For EFS (H) sites, the 'Traditional native breeds' Option is eligible where it will maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of these sites and is included in the site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP).

In the event of oversubscription to the Traditional Native Breed Option, it may be necessary to apply the following selection criteria to all eligible applications:

- Prioritisation of smaller herds over larger herds;
- Prioritisation of location: - herds that are geographically isolated from other herds will be prioritised for funding. This will aim to mitigate the potential spread of diseases which could reduce Irish Moiled Cattle numbers.

Selection, prioritisation and scoring criteria may vary for each new application period.

DAERA may reject applications or require them to be varied if, in its opinion, they are not likely to contribute to the objectives of the Option.

The submission of a valid application does not guarantee entry under the EFS Traditional Native Breed Option.

Selected successful applicants will be notified in writing of their acceptance into EFS Traditional Native Breed Option and the commencement date of their agreement. For more information on Traditional Native Breeds then view the information sheet at the following link.

['Traditional native breeds' EFS Option Information Sheet link](#)

3.3.3 Organic Conversion

Organic Conversion aims to provide payments to help farmers with the additional costs and loss of income that occurs during the conversion period to organic production. It will protect and enhance the rural environment, and help producers meet consumer demand for organic produce.

All eligible EFS (W) horticultural, horticultural top fruit, arable and grassland on a farm can be entered into the Scheme. It is possible to convert only part of a farm, a land parcel, as long as conventional and organic production is kept sufficiently separate. The acceptability of this separation will be determined by the organic certification body when agreeing a conversion plan. In addition, certain minimum area thresholds must be met. For EFS (H), organic options will not be eligible.

Details of the Organic certifying bodies can be found on the DAERA website:

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/approved-uk-organic-control-bodies>

Scheme participants enter into a five year agreement for each land parcel 'in conversion'. A land parcel is that area which begins conversion in a particular year.

In order to claim an EFS Organic payment for a land parcel, it must have begun conversion before the claim is made, but not before 1 January 2020. The five year agreement will be made up of up to 2 or 3 years conversion payments followed by 3 or 2 years EFS Organic Management once the land has been certified as fully organic.

Land that is, or has previously been, certified as fully organic at application is not eligible for EFS Organic Conversion.

3.3.4 Organic Management

Organic Management aims to encourage the continuation of organic farming systems for land that is fully converted to organic production. It is also designed to provide an improved incentive to those considering conversion to organic status by offering continued financial support at the end of conversion agreements.

All eligible EFS (W) horticultural, horticultural top fruit, arable and grassland on a farm can be entered into the Scheme.

Scheme participants enter into a five year agreement for each land parcel certified as fully organic. In order to claim an EFS Organic payment for a land parcel, it must be registered as fully organic and remain certified as fully organic by a registered organic sector certification body. Land that has not already been certified as fully organic at application is not eligible for the EFS Organic Management.

More information on Organic Management and Organic Conversion Options is available in the EFS Information Sheets which can be accessed at the following link.

[Organic Options EFS Information Sheets link](#)

For arable or grassland conversion or management, the minimum area of certified organic land under EFS agreement must be 3 ha of LPIS MEA land.

For horticulture, including Top Fruit, organic conversion or management, there must be a minimum of 1ha of LPIS MEA land under EFS agreement.

In the event of oversubscription to the Organic Options, it may be necessary to apply the following selection criteria to all eligible applications:

- Prioritisation of total farm conversion over partial farm conversion;
- Prioritisation of larger organic areas over smaller organic areas;
- Prioritisation of mixed farms over monoculture farms;
- Prioritisation to help achieve sectoral balance across horticultural, livestock and cereal;
- Prioritisation of farms located in an area of intensive agricultural land use with river bodies failing to meet Water Framework Directive “good status”.

Selection, prioritisation and scoring criteria may vary for each new application period.

DAERA may reject applications or require them to be varied if, in its opinion, they are not likely to contribute to the objectives of the Option.

The submission of a valid application does not guarantee entry under the EFS Organic Option. Successful applicants will be notified in writing of their acceptance into EFS Organic Option and the commencement date of their agreement.

If Organic applicants also apply to carry out additional EFS Options, they will be entered into the EFS prioritisation process for the other Options.

There cannot be an overlap of organic options and other EFS Options on the same area.

The Creation of EFS funded Margins or buffers can be completed by an organic farmer if he wishes to do so, but the margin/buffer areas would not be eligible for organic funding. This is to ensure there is no double funding on the margin / buffer areas.

All other boundary options can be claimed on land registered as organic / in conversion since the options are sited on the field boundary and therefore do not overlap with the agricultural operations compensated for by the organic payment.

Woodland options cannot be claimed on land registered as organic/in conversion. This would not prevent an organic farmer from selecting any of these options on his farm, but the woodland option areas would not be eligible for organic funding.

For EFS (H), organic options will not be eligible.

3.4 EFS (H) application

After logging into your EFS application, in the EFS (H) section all fields declared by you in the previous year's Single Application which have been identified as within the EFS (H) area will be listed.

Applicants must include all Higher fields over which they have management control for the duration of the EFS (H) agreement in their application.

For further information about what happens after an EFS (H) application is submitted, please see Section 4.

3.5 EFS Group Level

This Level is group collaboration under the EFS. Collaboration will involve a group of farmers working together to deliver environmental benefits at the landscape scale. Each group will be co-ordinated by a facilitator. Members within a group will have their own individual EFS agreement. The facilitator will assist group members with applications, training and guidance to meet scheme requirements.

4. What happens after making an EFS application

4.1 After making an EFS (W) Application

If the number of applications for the general EFS (W) Options exceeds the funding available for that application period, a prioritisation mechanism will be applied. EFS (W) Options have been allocated points based on their environmental benefit.

Applications will be ranked by total points scored in decreasing order. As the application for EFS (W) is being completed online, applicants will be able to see how many points they have accrued from their Options and amend, if necessary, to maximise the points they accrue. Options will be listed in order of points with those providing the highest number of points first.

Stand-alone Options are not included in the EFS (W) prioritisation as they have their own individual prioritisation and selection criteria.

DAERA reserves the right to amend or reject any EFS application where the selected Options may produce an outcome contrary to the objectives of the Scheme or where environmental damage may occur.

Applicants will be notified if their EFS (W) application has been successful or not. Successful applications will result in the applicant being offered a Scheme agreement. Scheme agreements must be accepted by accessing DAERA Online Services.

4.2 After making an EFS (H) Application

After an applicant completes the initial EFS online application and indicates that they would like to apply for the EFS (H) level scheme with their EFS (H) fields, a prioritisation process is implemented, based on environmental benefit. Applicants will receive a letter advising them of the outcome of the EFS (H) prioritisation process.

Where an applicant is advised that their application has been successfully prioritised, they must engage an EFS Planner to prepare and submit a site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP) prior to the submission deadline. EFS Planner fees (nett of VAT) will be reimbursed to successful EFS (H) applicants, following agreement acceptance.

For prospective EFS Planners, further information can be obtained by contacting DAERA on email: EFSPlannerinfo@daera-ni.gov.uk or by calling Tel: 028 8675 7605.

The EFS Planner nominated by the applicant will:

- (i) Assess the EFS(H) fields in the application;
- (ii) Determine the EFS Options and NPIs required to bring the land under favourable management;
- (iii) Prepare a ssRMP which details the EFS Options and NPIs to be completed;
- (iv) Discuss and agree the content of the ssRMP with the applicant; and
- (v) Submit an ssRMP on behalf of the applicant to DAERA.

The EFS Planner can select the appropriate EFS Options and NPIs from a wide range of Higher Level management Options (**Table 6**) and Higher Level Non-productive Investments (**Table 7**). EFS (W) management Options and NPIs (**Tables 2 and 4**) may also be selected by the EFS Planner (with the exception of Organic Options which are not applicable to EFS (H)).

Further information about each EFS Option and NPI can be found in the EFS Information Sheets available through the following link.

[EFS \(H\) Option and NPI Information Sheets](#)

Table 6: EFS (H) Remedial Management Options for Priority Habitats and Species

These management activities occur each year of the agreement and are paid each year. These must be included in the ssRMP for the Higher level scheme to be eligible for payment.

Description of Option	Annual Payment (per ha)
Moorlands (Upland heath) remedial management	£40.00 *
Moorlands (Lowland heath) remedial management	£40.00 *
Moorlands (Montane heath) remedial management	£40.00 *
Moorlands (Blanket bog) remedial management	£40.00 *
Moorlands (Intact Lowland raised bog) remedial management	£40.00 *
Purple Moorgrass and rush pasture remedial management	£180.00
Calcareous grassland remedial management (all year grazing)	£230.00
Calcareous grassland remedial management (restricted grazing)	£195.00
Limestone pavement remedial management (all year grazing)	£230.00
Limestone pavement remedial management (restricted grazing)	£195.00
Lowland meadow remedial management (all year grazing)	£230.00
Lowland meadow remedial management (restricted grazing)	£195.00
Lowland dry acid grassland remedial management (all year grazing)	£260.00
Lowland dry acid grassland remedial management (restricted grazing)	£230.00
Coastal sand dunes remedial management	£235.00
Coastal salt marsh remedial management (restricted grazing)	£45.00
Coastal and flood plain grazing marsh remedial management (restricted grazing)	£180.00
Maritime cliff and slope remedial management (all year grazing)	£55.00
Maritime cliff and slope remedial management (restricted grazing)	£80.00
Parkland remedial management	£45.00
Ungrazed mixed ash woodland remedial management	£65.00 *
Ungrazed oak woodland remedial management	£65.00 *
Ungrazed wet woodland remedial management	£65.00 *
Grazed mixed ash woodland remedial management	£65.00 *
Grazed oakwood remedial management	£65.00 *
Grazed wet woodland remedial management	£65.00 *
Breeding wader remedial management	£195.00
Reedbed remedial management	£50.00
Fen remedial management	£50.00
Lowland meadow and purple moorgrass rush pasture - cut for hay	£230.00

Lapwing fallow plot	£699.00
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* Moorland payment rates:

0 – 50 ha	£40 / ha
50.01 – 100 ha	£20 / ha
100.01 ha and above	£10 / ha

+ Woodland payment rates:

0 – 10 ha	£65 / ha
10.01 – 20 ha	£40 / ha
20.01 ha and above	£20 / ha

Non-productive investments (NPIs) are also available in association with all EFS (H) Options. These are listed in Table 7 below.

Table 7: EFS Higher Level Non-Productive Investments (NPI) items

NPIs available for EFS Higher Level	Payment
Scrub control light, machine cut, stems <7cm diameter*	£979.13 / ha
Scrub control light, manual cut, stems <7cm diameter*	£1271.83 / ha
Scrub control heavy, machine cut, stems >7cm diameter*	£1942.80 / ha
Scrub control heavy, manual cut, stems >7cm diameter*	£2528.20 / ha
Scrub control – follow-up treatment – stems <7cm diameter*	£104.85 / ha
Scrub control – follow-up treatment – stems >7cm diameter*	£183.49 / ha
Tree felling for biodiversity	£600.00 / ha
Primary Rush control *	£89.34 / ha
Follow-up rush control (Year 2 – 5)	£35 / ha / year
Primary treatment of bracken – mechanised or chemical	£216.35 / ha
Follow-up treatment of bracken – mechanised or chemical	£108.30 / ha
Rhododendron and laurel – primary control *	£5049.57 / ha
Rhododendron and laurel control - Follow-up spraying regrowth control	£90 / ha / application
Rhododendron and laurel control – control by stem injection*	Actual costs
Primary or follow-up treatments of invasive non-native plants – Japanese knotweed*	Actual costs
Primary or follow-up treatments of invasive non-native plants – Giant hogweed*	Actual costs
Primary or follow-up treatments of invasive non-native plants – Himalayan balsam*	Actual costs
Creation of wetlands	Actual costs
Creation of scrapes	£2.77 / m ²
Bankside reprofiling	Actual costs
Structures/work to raise water levels	Actual costs
Ditch blocking – plastic piling dams (small)	£62 / dam
Ditch blocking – plastic piling dams (medium)	£151 / dam
Ditch blocking – plastic piling dams (large)	£385.16 / dam
Predator Perch removal	Actual costs
Predator control trap (Larsen trap)	£82.00 / trap
Machinery for management of fen & reedbed tall vegetation	Actual costs
Restorative pruning of traditional orchards	Actual costs
Tree surgery	Actual costs

Tree pollarding	Actual costs
Post and rail fencing	£18.00 / m
Rabbit proof fencing	£5.90 / m
Deer fence	£8.50 / m
* These capital items are area-based and may be claimed on current ineligible areas within a field. This may increase the MEA of the field parcel and this can be subsequently recorded on LPIS and in future claims.	
NPIs available for EFS Higher Level	Payment
Fence removal	£2.50 / m
Gate and 2 gate posts - deer fence	£215 / gate & 2 posts
Outrigger electric fence for stock fence	£0.85 / m
Solar powered energiser for electric fence	£352.26 / energiser
Standard parkland tree	£25 / tree
Standard fruit tree	£15.06 / tree
Native tree whip	£0.86 / whip
1.2 m tubular tree guard and stake	£4.02 / guard
Spiral tree guard and cane	£0.39 / guard and cane
Woodcrete bat box	£60.00 / box
Red squirrel feeder	£84 / feeder
Large bird box	£15 / box
Small bird box	£12 / box
Barn owl box	£15 / box
Solitary bee box	£30.00 / box
Stock bridge	Actual costs

Although there is no maximum limit on the area/length/quantity of an Option that can be included in an ssRMP, any EFS (H) agreement with a total value greater than £40,000 over the 5 year period must be referred to the Scheme Manager for prior approval before a Scheme agreement can be issued.

DAERA may reject or revise any EFS (H) ssRMP which it does not deem to meet Scheme objectives and priorities and therefore does not represent value for money. The special consents or permissions listed on pages 14 and 15 apply to both EFS Wider and EFS Higher level land.

After the EFS Planner submits the ssRMP on behalf of the EFS (H) applicant, DAERA will consider the content of the documentation.

Applicants will be notified if their EFS (H) ssRMP has been successful or not. Successful applications will result in the applicant being offered a Scheme agreement. Scheme agreements must be accepted by accessing DAERA Online Services.

5. Applying for EFS payment

5.1 How to apply for payment

An annual claim for payment of EFS Options and additional NPIs must be submitted on a Single Application by the deadline for Single Application submission. Details of the penalties for late claims are provided in the Guide to the Basic Payment Scheme which is published each year. Claims returned after the final date for receipt of claims with penalty will be deemed invalid.

Failure to make an EFS claim for two consecutive years may result in termination of the relevant EFS level agreement. Recovery of payments already made may be required.

Further information about claiming for EFS can be found via the following links:

[Area-based Schemes information for each claim year Link](#)

[EFS Wider Terms and Conditions - Agreements commencing 01 January 2020](#)

[EFS Higher Terms and Conditions - Agreements commencing 01 January 2020](#)

5.2 Further information

Further information about the terms and conditions which apply to Scheme agreement holder can be viewed in the terms and conditions of the Scheme which can be accessed using the following links.

[EFS Wider Terms and Conditions - Agreements commencing 01 January 2020](#)

[EFS Higher Terms and Conditions - Agreements commencing 01 January 2020](#)

This includes information about:

- Non-compliance
- Penalties and repayments
- Withdrawing from a Scheme agreement
- Amending a Scheme agreement
- Force Majeure/Exceptional circumstances
- Review of Decisions

6. State Aid

Aid for the establishment of native woodland of less than 5 hectares and aid for agro-forestry systems are subject to European Commission State Aid rules and all applications will be assessed for compliance with Articles 32 and 33 of Commission Regulation (EU) 702/2014 [Official Journal of the European Union L 193/1 – 75, 1 July 2014]”

7. Glossary of Terms and abbreviations

For the purposes of the scheme:

Agreement Holder: the member or members of the DAERA farm business identified as in the EFS Agreement.

Agricultural land: any area of land in Northern Ireland which is registered as a parcel on the Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS). These areas may include land which is deemed to be ineligible for the Basic Payment Scheme.

Annual Claim: refers to a claim for EFS payment submitted under the Basic Payment Scheme Application in accordance with Articles 12 to 14 of Commission Regulations (EU) No) 809/2014.

Agroforestry: is a land management system which integrates trees with crops and/or livestock on the same plot of land.

Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI): designated sites that are protected under Northern Ireland for their nature and earth science value. They are selected based on specific qualifying features, which include earth science, habitats and species.

Basic Payment Scheme (BPS): A direct payment to farmers under the Common Agricultural Policy from 2015.

Biodiversity: The variety of life on earth.

Capital items: are made up of those which are 'essential Capital item(s)' and those which are 'additional Capital item(s)'. Capital items are also known as Non-productive Investments (NPIs).

Controls: refer to the method of checking EFS requirements compliance. Checking may be carried out by administration, Control with Remote Sensing (CwRS) or by On-the-Spot Checks (OTSC).

Ecological Focus Areas (EFAs): a greening requirement for farmers with more than 15 hectares of arable land who submit a claim under the Basic Payment Scheme.

Eligibility: refers to the elements which are essential to allow an agreement to take place, the disrespect of which will result in the exclusion from the Scheme.

Essential Capital items: a term used to describe the work that an Agreement Holder is required to undertake as set out in the EFS Agreement to establish the EFS Option. Essential Capital items are also known as Essential Non-productive Investments (NPIs).

Field boundaries: includes dry stone walls, ditches, earth banks, hedges and rows of trees.

Government Gateway account: An account held on the online system used for a range of Government services (only available until March 2019).

Greening: a term used to describe the suite of agricultural practices that Basic Payment Scheme applicants have to comply with in order to receive the Greening Payment. The

greening practices include crop diversification, ecological focus areas, retention of permanent grassland and the protection of environment sensitive permanent grassland.

Habitat: the natural home or environment of an animal, plant or other organism.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM): is a process used to solve pest problems while minimising the risk to people and the environment

Livestock unit (LU): refers to a unit of measurement for livestock numbers.

Dairy cow: 1

Ewe: 0.15

Beef cow: 0.8

Ewe and Lamb: 0.20

Breeding Bull: 1

Sheep >1yr old: 0.20

Calf, 1yr: 0.4

Non-Productive Investments (NPIs): are **Capital items**

Pesticides: a chemical used to kill harmful pests. These include insecticides, herbicides, molluscicides and fungicides.

RAMSAR: a wetland site of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention

Riparian buffer: the marginal area along a waterway and standing waters, such as lakes and ponds.

Single Farm Payment (SFP): a direct payment to farmers under the Common Agricultural Policy 2005-2015

Special Area of Conservation (SAC): a site designated under the Habitats Directive (1992/43/EEC).

site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP): a plan completed for land managed under the EFS Higher and EFS Group which shall take into consideration local site conditions and be tailored to the needs of the site.

Special Protection Area (SPA): a designation under the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)

Abbreviations

ASSI: Area of Special Scientific Interest

BPS: Basic Payment Scheme

DUC: Dual Use Claim

EFA: Ecological Focus Area

EFS: Environmental Farming Scheme

IPM: Integrated Pest Management

LPIS: Land Parcel Identification System

MEA: Maximum Eligible Area

NICMS: Northern Ireland Countryside Management Scheme

NPI: Non-Productive Investment

NNR: National Nature Reserve

OTSC: On-the-Spot-Check

ssRMP: site specific Remedial Management Plan

SAC: Special Area of Conservation

SPA: Special Protection Area

8. Contact details

If you have a specific query you can contact us using the email addresses or telephone number below. If you have a Farm Business Identification Number (6XXXXX) please quote it on all correspondence or have it to hand before you call.

Email:

For EFS queries email: efs@daera-ni.gov.uk

For general Grants and Funding queries email: areabasedschemes@daera-ni.gov.uk

Telephone: 0300 200 7848

Useful Addresses:

If you wish to send your query by post you should send it to:

Area-Based Schemes Payment Branch
Orchard House
40 Foyle Street
Derry/Londonderry
BT48 6AT

Or you can visit your local DAERA Direct Office as listed below:

Due to restrictions on face-to-face meetings and the closure of all of our offices to the public, we have had to make a number of changes to the way we work. These changes are designed to safeguard everyone's health, while ensuring that we continue to provide the best level of service possible in these difficult times. Advice and support will be available by telephone and e-mail while our offices remain closed. You should continue to check the DAERA website for updates.

DAERA Direct Offices

Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 10.00am – 12.30pm and 1.30pm – 4pm.

Armagh Atek Building Edenaveys Industrial Estate Newry Road Edenaveys Co. Armagh BT60 1NF	Ballymena Academy House 121A Broughshane Street Town Parks Ballymena Co. Antrim BT43 6HY	Coleraine Crown Buildings Artillery Road Millburn Coleraine Co. Derry/Londonderry BT52 2AJ
Downpatrick Rathkeltair House Market Street Demesne of Down Acre Downpatrick Co. Down BT30 6LZ	Dungannon Crown Buildings Thomas Street Drumcoo Dungannon Co. Tyrone BT70 1HR	Enniskillen Innishkeen House Killyhevlin Enniskillen Co. Fermanagh BT74 4EJ
Mallusk Castleton House 15 Trench Road Grange of Mallusk Mallusk Newtownabbey Co. Antrim BT36 4TY	Magherafelt Units 36-38, Meadowlane Shopping Centre Moneymore Road Townparks of Magherafelt Magherafelt Co. Derry/Londonderry BT45 6PR	Newtownards Sketrick House 16 Jubilee Road Corporation South Newtownards Co. Down BT23 4YH
Newry Glenree House Unit 2, Springhill Road Carnbane Industrial Estate Carnbane, Newry Co. Down BT35 6EF	Omagh Sperrin House Sedan Avenue Lisnamallard Omagh Co. Tyrone BT79 7AQ	Strabane Government Offices 18 Urney Road Strabane BT82 9BX



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