

Calculation of the Ecological Focus Area (EFA) Requirement

Farmers with more than 15 hectares of arable land must ensure that an area equivalent to at least 5% of this land is EFA, unless they qualify for one of the exemptions.

For 2017, there is a further point to note for those with an EFA requirement who declare any of the following as EFA:

- landscape features located on non-arable land which are adjacent to arable land;
- areas with short rotation coppice; and/or
- afforested areas used to claim SFP in 2008.

Farmers who declare any of the above three types of EFA as EFA, should be aware that the area of these will be added to the area of arable land used in the calculation of their 5% EFA requirement. Therefore, the EFA requirement for their business will be larger than 5% of the area of arable land on their holding.

Definition of arable land

An arable crop use will be the use of land to grow crops other than grass and permanent crops. Forage crops such as maize, fodder beet, fodder rape, stubble turnips or any cereal crop used for forage are also regarded as an arable crop use. Sainfoin, clover, lucerne and forage vetches are regarded in the same way as grass and therefore are not deemed to be an arable use.

If your land will be used to grow an arable crop in 2017 or has been used to grow an arable crop in any of the years 2012 - 2016, then it will be classified as arable in 2017. Land used to grow grass in 2017 but which has been used to grow an arable crop in any of the years 2012 - 2016, i.e. temporary grassland, will also be classified as arable in 2017.

Areas available for crop production but lying fallow, including areas set aside under EU schemes, in any of the years 2012 - 2016 will also be classified as arable land.

Fallow land in grass for six consecutive years will be classified as permanent grassland if it is not used as for EFA purposes.

Landscape Features

Landscape features that can be used for EFA are hedges, sheughs, dry stone walls, earth banks and archaeological features. These must be located on, or adjacent to, arable land. Therefore, in some instances where landscape features are adjacent, they may not be located on arable land.

The area of any landscape features located on non-arable land, i.e. permanent grassland (including permanent grassland sensitive), permanent crops, unclassified land, or ineligible areas, that are adjacent to arable land and declared as EFA must be added to the arable area of the holding in the calculation of the 5% EFA requirement.

Landscape features, with the exception of archaeological features and earth banks, are recorded in metres. Therefore, before being included in the calculation, the lengths of the relevant landscape features should be converted to area using the EFA conversion factors.

These are outlined in the table below:

EFA feature (unit of measurement)	Conversion factor (m to m ²)	Linear metres to metres squared
Hedges (per 1m)	5	1 linear metre = 5m ²
Sheughs (per 1m)	3	1 linear metre = 3m ²
Dry stone walls (per 1m)	1	1 linear metre = 1m ²
Archaeological features (per 1 m ²)	N/A	N/A
Earth banks (per 1 m ²)	N/A	N/A

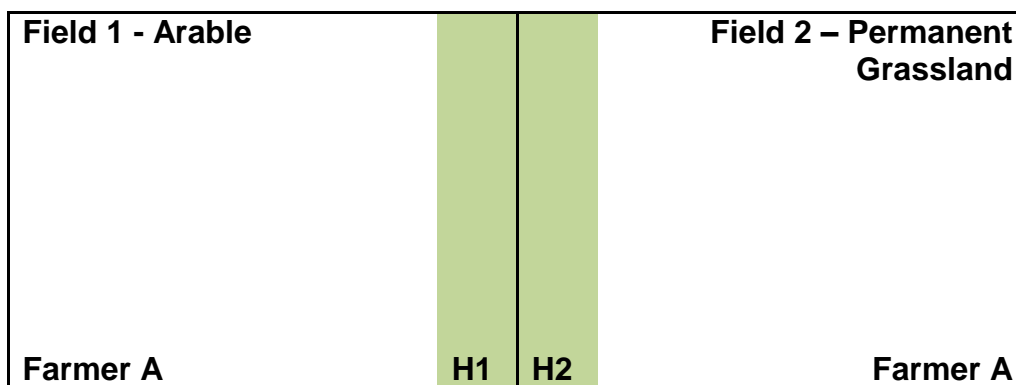
If a landscape feature is adjacent to arable land and located entirely within a non arable field (see example two below for details), the entire converted area of the

landscape feature must be added to the arable area of the holding in the calculation of the 5% EFA requirement.

Where landscape features form a field boundary, the field boundary will be in the middle of the landscape feature. Therefore, in cases where a landscape feature forms a field boundary between an arable field and a non-arable field, 50% of the landscape feature will be located on arable land and 50% on non-arable land. Therefore, in these instances, when calculating the 5% EFA requirement, 50% of the area of the landscape feature must be added to the arable area of the holding.

These principles are illustrated in the examples below:

Example 1:



In this example, an arable field and a permanent grassland field are divided by a hedge and declared by one farmer.

As the hedge forms a field boundary, 50% of the hedge is located in field 1 (arable) and 50% in field 2 (permanent grassland).

As 50% of the landscape feature is located on non-arable land and adjacent to arable land, this area must be added to the area of arable land in the calculation of the 5% EFA requirement.

The hedge is 150 metres long.

To convert this to metres squared, the conversion factor for hedges in the table above should be used.

Length of hedge 150m multiplied by a conversion factor of 5 = 750m².

To convert 750m² to hectares, divide by 10,000 square metres = 0.075 hectares.

50% of 0.075 hectares is 0.0375 hectares.

The arable area of the holding is 17 hectares. Farmer A's EFA requirement is calculated as follows:

5% of the combined total of the arable area of the holding plus 50% of the converted area of hedge declared as EFA that is located on non-arable land and adjacent to arable land.

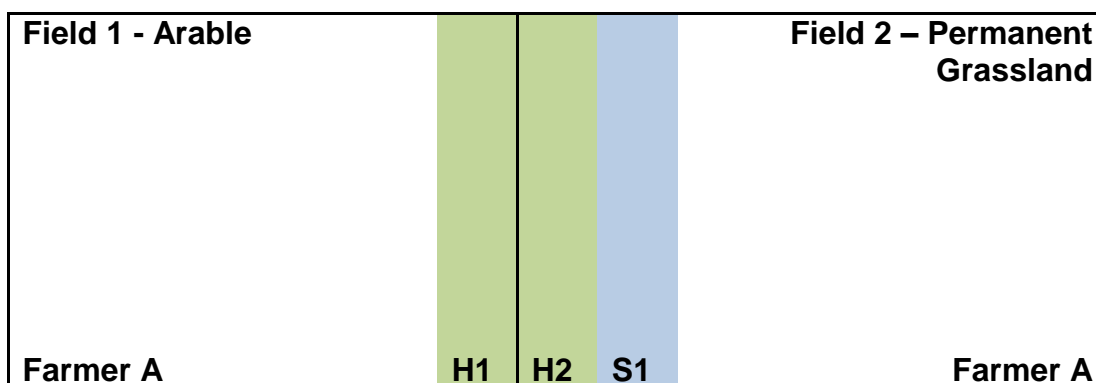
The arable area of the holding is 17 hectares.

50% of the converted area of hedge declared as EFA is 0.0375 hectares.

17 hectares + 0.0375 hectares = 17.0375 hectares.

EFA requirement is 5% of 17.0375 hectares = 0.8519 hectares.

Example 2:



In this example, an arable field and a permanent grassland field are divided by a hedge and sheugh (the latter located entirely within the permanent grassland field) and declared by one farmer. I.e. it is the same as the example above except that a sheugh in the non-arable field is also declared. Both the hedge and the sheugh are declared as EFA.

Although the sheugh is located within a non-arable field, it is eligible as EFA because it is adjacent to hedge (H2) which, in turn, is adjacent to arable Field 1. As the sheugh is located entirely within a non arable field and adjacent to arable land, it must be added to the arable area of the holding in the 5% EFA calculation.

Therefore, for the purposes of the 5% EFA calculation, the area of the hedge on non-arable land and the entire area of the sheugh must be taken into account.

As in the example above, the hedge is 150 metres long.

To convert this to metres squared, the conversion factor for hedges in the table above should be used.

Length of hedge 150m multiplied by a conversion factor of 5 = 750m².

To convert 750m² hectares, divide by 10,000 square metres = 0.075 hectares.

50% of 0.075 hectares is 0.0375 hectares.

The sheugh is also 150 metres long. To convert this to metres squared, the conversion factor for sheughs in the table above should be used.

Length of sheugh 150m multiplied by a conversion factor of 3 = 450m².

To convert 450m² hectares, divide by 10,000 square metres = 0.045 hectares.

The arable area of the holding is 17 hectares. Farmer A's EFA requirement is calculated as follows:

5% of the combined total of the arable area of the holding plus 50% of the converted area of hedge declared as EFA that is located on non-arable land and adjacent to arable land plus the entire area of the sheugh.

The arable area of the holding is 17 hectares.

50% of the converted area of hedge declared as EFA is 0.0375 hectares.

100% of the converted area of the sheugh declared as EFA is 0.045 hectares.

17 hectares + 0.0375 hectares + 0.045 hectares = 17.0825 hectares.

EFA requirement is 5% of 17.0825 hectares = 0.8541 hectares.

Short Rotation Coppice

Areas with short rotation coppice with no use of mineral fertiliser and/or plant protection products are classified as permanent crops and are, therefore, not located on arable land.

Therefore, areas of short rotation coppice declared as EFA must be added to the arable area of the holding in the calculation of the 5% EFA requirement.

Example 1:

Farmer A declares 30 hectares of arable land and 5 hectares of short rotation coppice on his SAF 2 field datasheet. Farmer A also declares all of the short rotation coppice as EFA. Farmer A's EFA requirement is calculated as follows:

5% of the arable area of the holding plus the area of short rotation coppice declared as EFA.

The arable area of the holding plus the area of short rotation coppice declared as EFA is 35 hectares (30 hectares + 5 hectares).

5% of 35 hectares = 1.75 hectares.

Example 2:

Farmer A declares 30 hectares of arable land and 5 hectares of short rotation coppice on his SAF 2 field datasheet. Farmer A declares 2 hectares of short rotation coppice as EFA. Farmer A's EFA requirement is calculated as follows:

5% of the arable area of the holding plus the area of short rotation coppice declared as EFA.

The arable area of the holding plus the area of short rotation coppice declared as EFA is 32 hectares (30 hectares + 2 hectares).

EFA requirement is 5% of 32 hectares = 1.6 hectares.

Example 3:

Farmer A declares 20 hectares of arable land and 9 hectares of short rotation coppice on his SAF 2 field datasheet. Farmer A does not declare short rotation coppice as EFA. Farmer A's EFA requirement is calculated as follows:

5% of the arable area of the holding.

The arable area of the holding is 20 hectares.

EFA requirement is 5% of 20 hectares = 1 hectare.

Afforested Areas

Afforested areas used to claim SFP in 2008, are not classified as permanent grassland, arable or permanent crops. They are denoted as unclassified forestry; therefore, they are not located on arable land.

Therefore, afforested areas used to claim SFP in 2008 that are declared as EFA must be added to the arable area of the holding in the calculation of the 5% EFA requirement.

Example 1:

Farmer A declares 20 hectares of arable land and 9 hectares of afforested area on his SAF 2 field datasheet. Farmer A also declares all of the afforested area as EFA. Farmer A's EFA requirement is calculated as follows:

5% of the arable area of the holding plus the afforested area declared as EFA.

The arable area of the holding plus the afforested area declared as EFA is 29 hectares (20 hectares + 9 hectares).

EFA requirement is 5% of 29 hectares = 1.45 hectares.

Example 2:

Farmer A declares 20 hectares of arable land and 9 hectares of afforested areas on his SAF 2 field datasheet. Farmer A declares 7 hectares of afforested area as EFA. Farmer A's EFA requirement is calculated as follows:

5% of the arable area of the holding plus the afforested area declared as EFA.

The arable area of the holding plus the afforested area declared as EFA is 27 hectares (20 hectares + 7 hectares).

EFA requirement is 5% of 27 hectares = 1.35 hectares.

Example 3:

Farmer A declares 20 hectares of arable land and 5 hectares of afforested area on his SAF 2 field datasheet. Farmer A does not declare afforested area as EFA. Farmer A's EFA requirement is calculated as follows:

5% of the arable area of the holding.

The arable area of the holding is 20 hectares.

EFA requirement is 5% of 20 hectares = 1 hectare.

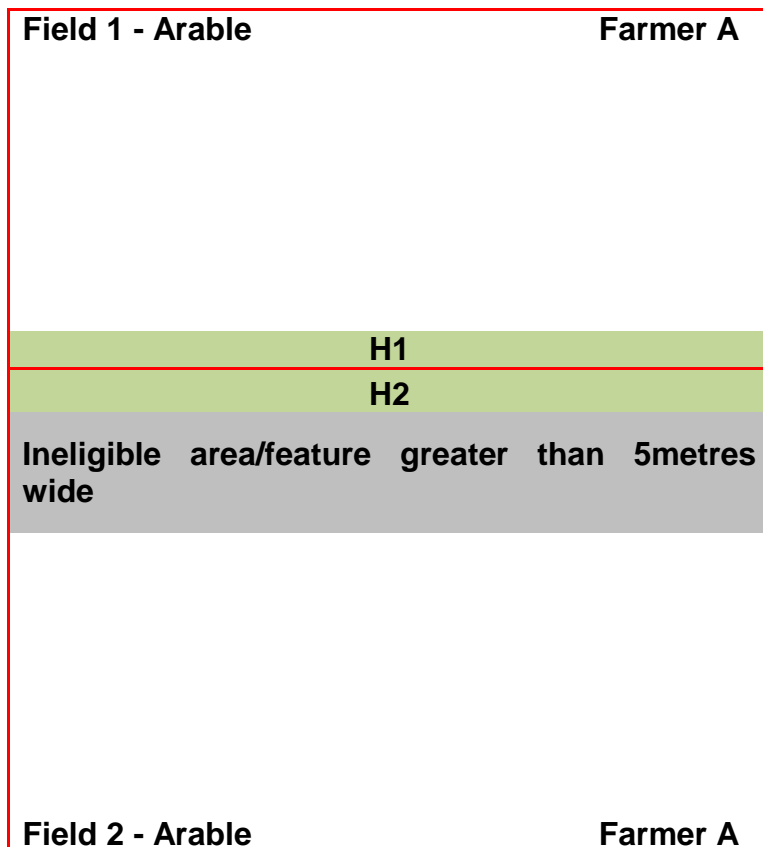
Ineligible Areas

As outlined above, the area of any landscape features located on non-arable land, i.e. permanent grassland (including permanent grassland sensitive), permanent crops, unclassified land, or ineligible areas, that are adjacent to arable land and declared as EFA must be added to the arable area of the holding in the calculation of the 5% EFA requirement.

The example below demonstrates a section of hedge (labelled H2) which is located on ineligible land and separated from the arable surface of a field (field 2) by an ineligible area/feature with a width greater than 5 metres. As the distance between the hedge (H2) and the arable surface of the field 2 is greater than 5 metres, the hedge (H2) cannot be declared as EFA against arable field 2. I.e. as a result of the 5m buffer rule.

(See section 3.3.4 of the 2016 Guide to the Greening Payment for further details

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/guide-greening-payment-2016>)



However, farmer A is entitled to and wants to declare the entire hedge. To do so, he/she can increase the declared percentage for H1 from 50% to 100%.

In the example above, as 50% of the landscape feature is located on non-arable land and adjacent to arable land, this area must be added to the arable area of the holding in the calculation of the 5% EFA requirement.

The hedge is 100 metres long.

To convert this to metres squared, the conversion factor for hedges in the table above should be used.

Length of hedge 100m multiplied by a conversion factor of 5 = 500m².

To convert 500m² to hectares, divide by 10,000 square metres = 0.05 hectares.

50% of 0.05 hectares is 0.025 hectares.

The arable area of the holding is 20 hectares. Farmer A's EFA requirement is calculated as follows:

5% of the combined total of the arable area of the holding plus 50% of the converted area of hedge declared as EFA that is located on non-arable land and adjacent to arable land.

The arable area of the holding is 20 hectares.

50% of the converted area of hedge declared as EFA is 0.025 hectares.

20 hectares + 0.025 hectares = 20.025 hectares.

EFA requirement is 5% of 20.025 hectares = 1.0013 hectares.