



The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development:  
Europe investing in rural areas



## United Kingdom - Rural Development Programme (Regional) - Northern Ireland

<b>CCI</b>	2014UK06RDRP002
<b>Programme type</b>	Rural Development Programme
<b>Country</b>	United Kingdom
<b>Region</b>	Northern Ireland
<b>Programming period</b>	2014 - 2020
<b>Managing authority</b>	DAERA – Rural Development Programme Management Branch
<b>Version</b>	5.2
<b>Version status</b>	Adopted by EC
<b>Last modification date</b>	19/12/2017 - 14:52:43 CET

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# 1. TITLE OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

United Kingdom - Rural Development Programme (Regional) - Northern Ireland

## 1.1. Amendment

1.1.1. Type of amendment R.1305/2013

b. Decision Article 11(a)(ii) or (iii)

1.1.2. Amendment modifying information provided in the PA

1.1.3. Amendment related to the third sub-paragraph of Article 4(2) of R.808/2014 (not counting against the limits set in that Article):

1.1.4. Consultation of the monitoring committee (Article 49(3) of R.1303/2013)

*1.1.4.1. Date*

27-10-2017

*1.1.4.2. Opinion of the monitoring committee*

Members of the Monitoring Committee were consulted on the proposed changes to the Programme at the Monitoring Committee meeting on 27th October. There was some discussion and explanation provided about changes in financial allocations and contribution rates.

## 1.1.5. Amendment description - Article 4(1) of R.808/2014

### 1.1.5.1. Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014 - 2020 Modification 4

#### 1.1.5.1.1. Reasons and/or implementation problems that justify the amendment

A number of changes are being proposed to the programme as follows:

##### Change A – Financial Allocations

This proposed change aims to allocate funds under the Programme in line with expenditure declared to date and expected demand. Projected expenditure for the measures and schemes that make up the NIRDP 2014-2020 is closely monitored.

It is proposed to transfer expenditure under M4 ‘Investment in physical assets (art 17)’ (3A) to M4 ‘Investment in physical assets (art 17)’ (2A). While this change will reduce the allocation of EAFRD under Measure 4 (3A) it does not indicate a drop in expected levels of demand. We will be opening a new scheme under this M4.2 which will be financed solely from national money and we are therefore reallocating the remaining EAFRD to focus area 2A.

In order to ensure sufficient funds are available to meet greater than anticipated forecast spend on the non-productive investments element of the Environmental Farming Scheme, it is proposed to transfer expenditure under Measure 10 ‘Agri-environment-climate (art 28)’ (P4) to Measure 4 ‘Investment in physical assets (art 17)’ (P4). While this change will reduce the allocation of EAFRD under Measure 10 it does not indicate a drop in expected levels of demand.

In order to bring the Forestry Schemes in line with expected demand it is proposed to transfer expenditure under Measure 16 ‘Co-operation (art 35)’ (P5E) to Measure 8 ‘Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21 – 26)’ (P5E).

##### **Justification**

The financial amendments proposed are to bring allocations in line with expected demand. The amount of funding required by each measure can vary due to factors such as delayed implementation and further refinement of schemes.

##### Change B – EAFRD contribution rates

It is proposed to change the EAFRD contribution rate for all measures under Article 59(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 (Transition regions other than those referred to in Article 59(3)(b)) to 27%.

It is further proposed to change the EAFRD contribution rate for those measures under Article 59(4)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 – Operations contributing to the objectives of climate change mitigation and adaptation under Article 17 (Investments in physical assets), points (a) and (b) of Article 21(1) (woodland creation and agro-forestry systems), Articles 28 (agri-environment-climate), 29 (organic farming), 31 (payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints) and 34 (forest – environmental and climate services and forest conservation) to 75%.

These proposals are in line with maximum EAFRD contribution detailed in Commission Regulation 1305

(2013) Article 59 (3)(c) and (4)(b).

The total amount of funding allocated to the NIRDP 2014-2020 is €228,425,088. As of 30th June 2017, a total of €78,676,776 expenditure had been declared to the European Commission. This equates to 34.44% of the EAFRD available.

Projected expenditure for the measures and schemes that make up the NIRDP 2014-2020 is closely monitored. The most recent expenditure profiles and changes in the exchange rate indicate that we are not on track to draw down our full allocation of euro under the Programme.

### **Justification**

The increases in the EAFRD contribution rates are required to ensure the draw down of the full allocation of euro under the programme and are necessary due mainly to the delay in opening the Environmental Farming Scheme (M10) and the Farm Business Investment Scheme (M4).

### **Change C – State Aid**

A minor change to the State Aid tables within the Programme is also proposed. The state aid table will be amended to reflect the fact that there will be no activity under sub-measure 16.8.

### **Change D – Others**

The change under sub-measure 1.1 Business Development Groups (page 179) is as follows:

The proposed outcomes of the programme are:

- For 30% of participants to obtain a qualification at Level 3 or above.
- For the gross margin differential between BDG members and similar non members to be increased by 5%.

The second proposed outcome should read:

- For the gross margin differential between BDG members and similar non members to be increased by 5 percentage points.

The change under sub-measure 1.3 is to remove the forestry element of the farm innovation visits.

Under Measure 8.1 in the Indicator Plan the total area to be afforested (establishment) in P4 should read 600ha and in P5E should read 1,200ha.

### **Justification**

The changes to sub-measure 1.1 and 8.1 in the Indicator Plan are for the correction of typos.

The changes to sub-measure 1.3 are due to a decision not to proceed with the forestry element of the Farm Innovation Visits as this need is being met by other organisations outside of the Programme.

### 1.1.5.1.2. Expected effects of the amendment

There are no changes to any measure or scheme targets associated with the changes in financial allocations.

There are no changes to any measure or scheme targets associated with the changes in EAFRD contribution rates.

There are no expected effects from the other changes proposed.

The new scheme to be opened under Measure 4.2 will be focussed upon micro and small and medium sized enterprises. It is possible that there might be a slight change in the output target (number of enterprises supported) but this will be dependent upon the scheme securing approval from the Department of Finance and our Minister. The associated change in the EAFRD allocation to focus area 3A and 2A necessitated a small change to the performance reserve figures for these focus areas. We will continue to review progress on the development of the scheme and advise of any changes in due course.

We will also continue to monitor development and uptake of all schemes within the programme with a view to a strategic modification in 2018.

#### Summary of financial changes

The proposed amendments will result in the following changes to the allocation of EU funds at Measure level:

Measure	EAFRD	
	Increased allocation (€)	Reduced allocation (€)
M01		
M02		
M04	20,000,000	
M07		
M08	17,073	
M10		20,000,000
M11		
M13		
M16		17,073
M19		
M20		
Total	20,017,073	20,017,073

The revised allocations are shown in the table below and these will meet the minimum expenditure requirements detailed in Commission Regulation (EC) No 1305 (2013) Article 59 (6).

Measure	Proposed revised allocation of EAFRD	% of total EAFRD allocation
	(€)	%

M01	7,926,829	3.47
M02	304,878	0.13
M04	32,073,171	14.04
M07	2,682,927	1.17
M08	12,531,707	5.49
M10	96,383,625	42.19
M11	2,041,463	0.89
M13	47,560,976	20.82
M16	1,260,975	0.55
M19	16,585,366	7.26
M20	9,073,171	3.97
Total	228,425,088	100

Summary of financial changes by Focus Area

Focus Area	EAFRD	
	Increased Allocation (€)	Reduced allocation (€)
FA 2A	618,950	
FA 3A		618,950
FA 4ABC		
FA 5E		
FA 6B		
Total	618,950	618,950

Focus Area	Proposed revised allocation of EAFRD (€)	% of total allocation of EAFRD %	% of total allocation of EAFRD prior to proposed modification %
FA 2A	17,504,315	7.66	7.39
FA 3A	2,288,367	1.00	1.27
FA 4ABC	172,654,357	75.58	75.58
FA 5E	7,880,488	3.45	3.45
FA 6B	19,024,390	8.33	8.33
M20	9,073,171	3.97	3.97
Total	228,425,088	100	100

The proposed amendments will result in a revised overall programme value of up to €605m total public expenditure.

#### 1.1.5.1.3. Impact on the change on indicators

The indicator plan has been updated to reflect the changes in total public expenditure associated with the revised EAFRD contribution rates and to correct Measure 8.1 Total Area Afforested.

#### 1.1.5.1.4. Relationship between the change and the PA

There is no change to the Partnership Agreement as a result of this modification.

## 2. MEMBER STATE OR ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

### 2.1. Geographical area covered by the programme

Geographical Area:

Northern Ireland

Description:

Northern Ireland (NI) is one of four regions of the United Kingdom (UK). It is bounded by the Atlantic Ocean to the North, the North Channel and Irish Sea to the east and shares a land border with the Republic of Ireland (RoI) to the south and the west. It is located on the North-West periphery of the European Union (EU).

NI covers an area of some 1.35[1]m hectares and its population stands at just over 1.8 million which represents 3% of UK total population. In comparison with other countries, NI has a relatively young population with approximately one third of persons aged between 0-24 years old. Almost two fifths of the population live within the Belfast Metropolitan Area with another sizeable concentration of population around Derry ~ Londonderry.

Figures for 2012 show that NI accounts for 2.2% of UK GVA while GVA per capita is 75.7% of the UK average. Northern Ireland has been severely impacted by the global economic downturn and there are concerns that the recovery in the region is lagging behind the rest of the UK.

Whilst disparities can exist when comparing data at a sub-regional or local level NI remains one of the most deprived regions of the UK. This is a result of a number of factors including a young population (hence higher dependency rates), low labour market participation rates, a high rate of economic inactivity, a larger share of employment in sectors of low productivity and below average wages.

Rural areas in NI are home to some 37 per cent of the population), based on the Department's rural-urban classification. Details of the rural-urban classification are provided in Chapter 8.

[1] Statistical Review of NI Agriculture, NI DARD

### 2.2. Classification of the region

Description:

Northern Ireland qualifies for funding as a transition region as defined in Council Implementing Decision of 18 February 2014 setting out the list of regions eligible for funding from the European Regional



Development Fund and the European Social Fund and of Member States eligible for funding from the Cohesion Fund for the period 2014-2020 (notified under document C(2014) 974) (2014/99/EU).

### 3. EX-ANTE EVALUATION

#### 3.1. Description of the process, including timing of main events, intermediate reports, in relation to the key stages of RDP development.

The evaluation commenced with an inception meeting between RSM McClure Watters and DARD on 25 February 2013.

The Ex Ante Evaluation was conducted in accordance with the Guidelines for the Ex Ante Evaluation of 2014–20 RDPs[1]. The Ex Ante Evaluators were engaged from an early stage in the programme development process working in parallel with this and providing feedback through its three main stages:

- The analysis of the SWOT;
- The setting up of the objective hierarchy, the programme targets and the intervention logic and;
- The fine tuning of measures and delivery mechanisms.

The initial SWOT and Needs Assessment was provided in April 2013 and the Ex Ante Evaluator engaged in a series of iterative and interactive rounds of feedback on various stages of the programme as they were developed taking on the important role of ‘critical friend’ to DARD. Feedback was provided in the form of approximately 17 informal reports (in May 2013, August 2013, January 2014, June and August 2014) backed up with regular meetings and phone calls to discuss various issues, suggesting areas for development and providing constructive feedback aimed at ultimately improving the design of the RDP. All elements of the RDP were reviewed several times during this process and there was contact at least monthly between DARD and the evaluators. A draft final ex-ante evaluation report was provided in September 2014 and agreed in October.

The Ex Ante Evaluation report presents a final assessment of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme (NIRDP) 2014-20. It summarises the Ex Ante evaluation findings and is based on the most recent version of the programme document (Rural Development Programme master Copy version 11 - 6th October 2014) provided to the Ex Ante Evaluator on 6th October 2014. A separate Environmental Report has been prepared to address the SEA requirements.

[1]The European Evaluation Network for Rural Development, Getting the most from your RDP: Guidelines for the Ex Ante Evaluation of 2014-2020 RDPs, Draft August 2012

**3.2. Structured table containing the recommendations of the ex-ante evaluation and how they have been addressed.**

<b>Title (or reference) of the recommendation</b>	<b>Category of recommendation</b>	<b>of</b>	<b>Date</b>
Confirm input to design of new Computer System	Other		25/09/2014
Consider SEA recommendations	SEA recommendations	specific	25/09/2014
Detail the processes to monitor equality and non-discrimination	Other		25/09/2014
Develop Action Plan for NRN	Programme arrangements	implementing	10/10/2014
Develop Communication Plan for NRN	Programme arrangements	implementing	25/09/2014
Develop Internal Monitoring and Evaluation Plan	Other		25/09/2014
Develop Project Reports to meet requirement	Other		25/09/2014
Develop a Resource Development Plan	Other		25/09/2014
Develop a Risk Management Plan	Other		25/09/2014
Develop comprehensive application forms	Other		25/09/2014
Develop operating rules	Other		25/09/2014
Development of Communications Strategy	Programme arrangements	implementing	10/10/2014
Development of a Communication Plan for the NRN	Programme arrangements	implementing	25/09/2014
Development of a LEADER Operation Manual	Programme arrangements	implementing	25/09/2014
Development of processes in relation to LAGs	Programme arrangements	implementing	10/10/2014
Development of selection criteria in relation to the appointment of LAG members	Programme arrangements	implementing	25/09/2014
Further development of details for the NSU	Programme arrangements	implementing	10/10/2014

Further development of technical assistance detail	Programme implementing arrangements	10/10/2014
Internal Coherence should be monitored	Construction of the intervention logic	25/09/2014
Involve appropriate bodies in setting-up of monitoring system	Other	25/09/2014
Members of the NRN to have specific knowledge and expertise	Programme implementing arrangements	25/10/2014
Set out a timeframe for implementation of the Web-Based Computer System for Monitoring	Programme implementing arrangements	10/10/2014
Set out indicators for equality of opportunity between men and women	Other	25/09/2014
Specific selection criteria relating to skills required by LAGs	Programme implementing arrangements	25/09/2014
The Intervention Logic should be complete	Construction of the intervention logic	25/09/2014
The SWOT analysis and needs assessment should be consistent with the SEA	The SWOT analysis, needs assessment	25/09/2014
Training Needs Analysis to be carried out	Programme implementing arrangements	10/10/2014
Training Plan to be developed	Programme implementing arrangements	10/10/2014
Undertake an analysis of advisory needs	Other	25/09/2014
Work with NSU to develop the NRN	Programme implementing arrangements	25/09/2014

### 3.2.1. Confirm input to design of new Computer System

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 25/09/2014

Topic: Monitoring and Evaluation

Description of the recommendation

The Ex Ante Evaluator recommends that DAERA confirms, by including a statement in the RDP, that they

have actively provided input to the design of the new Structural Funds Computer System to ensure compatibility.

How recommendation has been addressed or justification as to why not taken into account

Accepted.

### 3.2.2. Consider SEA recommendations

Category of recommendation: SEA specific recommendations

Date: 25/09/2014

Topic: SEA

Description of the recommendation

The Ex Ante Evaluator recommends that DAERA considers Section 6 of the Final Environmental Report (version provided to DARD 8th October 2014.)

How recommendation has been addressed or justification as to why not taken into account

DAERA will consider the SEA recommendations as part of programme implementation as many of the mitigation and potential enhancement measures are appropriate for inclusion in the scheme guidance. This will include an assessment of whether the recommendations are included in current national and EU legislations on the environment and if not, the inclusion of additional requirements in contracts and letters of offer to beneficiaries.

DAERA will implement the specific SEA mitigation measures at Programme level, more detail has been provided in the General Conditions in Section 8.1 under Common Provisions for Investment.

### 3.2.3. Detail the processes to monitor equality and non-discrimination

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 25/09/2014

Topic: Adequacy to Promote Equal Opportunities and Prevent Discrimination

#### Description of the recommendation

The Ex Ante Evaluator recommends that DAERA details the processes that are in place to monitor the promotion of equality and non-discrimination.

#### How recommendation has been addressed or justification as to why not taken into account

DAERA proposes to develop an Equality Action Plan for programme implementation. The purpose of the Plan will be to ensure that the mitigating actions proposed in the EQIA are considered and a strategy is put in place to ensure the mainstreaming of equality and non-discrimination. This action plan will consider monitoring and the development of appropriate indicators.

#### 3.2.4. Develop Action Plan for NRN

Category of recommendation: Programme implementing arrangements

Date: 10/10/2014

Topic: NRN

#### Description of the recommendation

The Ex Ante Evaluator recommends that DAERA should include details on how the NRN will facilitate capacity building, exchange of expertise and good practice dissemination as part of the Action Plan to be developed for the NRN.

#### How recommendation has been addressed or justification as to why not taken into account

Accepted. DAERA will work with the support unit to develop the Network Action Plan and the communication plan.

#### 3.2.5. Develop Communication Plan for NRN

Category of recommendation: Programme implementing arrangements

Date: 25/09/2014

Topic: NRN

#### Description of the recommendation

The Ex Ante Evaluator recommends that DAERA includes information in the Communication Plan so that

the procedures for the exchange of relevant research activities and results are clear.

How recommendation has been addressed or justification as to why not taken into account

Accepted. DAERA will work with the support unit to develop the Network Action Plan and the communication plan.

### 3.2.6. Develop Internal Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 25/09/2014

Topic: Data Quality

Description of the recommendation

The Ex Ante Evaluator recommends that DAERA includes the information on the data that will be required in order to carry out the monitoring and evaluation activities in the monitoring and evaluation plan. This should be developed after the programme has been submitted to the EC.

How recommendation has been addressed or justification as to why not taken into account

Accepted.

### 3.2.7. Develop Project Reports to meet requirement

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 25/09/2014

Topic: Monitoring and Evaluation

Description of the recommendation

The Ex Ante Evaluator recommends that with regard to specification and design of Project Reports, these should be designed so that it is clear what information is required for completion of the report and which will capture progress of programme including contribution to output and result indicators.

How recommendation has been addressed or justification as to why not taken into account

Accepted.

### 3.2.8. Develop a Resource Development Plan

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 25/09/2014

Topic: Adequacy of Human and Administrative Capacity for Management

Description of the recommendation

The Ex Ante Evaluator recommends that DAERA develop a Resource Development Plan after the programme has been adopted which will ensure that so that all resource that is needed for the successful implementation and delivery of the programme as well as the monitoring and evaluation can be in situ to correspond with the opening of each particular scheme.

How recommendation has been addressed or justification as to why not taken into account

Accepted. DAERA have highlighted that schemes will not all open at the same time. The availability of resources will be part of whatever oversight structures are put in place once the CAP Reform programme Board completes its objectives.

### 3.2.9. Develop a Risk Management Plan

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 25/09/2014

Topic: Monitoring and Evaluation

Description of the recommendation

The Ex Ante Evaluator recommends that DAERA develops a Risk Management Plan which sets out the risks associated with the proposed Web Based System and clearly sets out the mitigation procedures should the risks highlighted affect the implementation.

How recommendation has been addressed or justification as to why not taken into account

Accepted.



### 3.2.10. Develop comprehensive application forms

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 25/09/2014

Topic: Evaluation

Description of the recommendation

The Ex Ante Evaluator recommends that with regard to specification and design of application forms, these should seek to capture all required basic data at the application stage, as it is generally more efficient to do this before funding is awarded.

How recommendation has been addressed or justification as to why not taken into account

Accepted.

### 3.2.11. Develop operating rules

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 25/09/2014

Topic: Monitoring and Evaluation

Description of the recommendation

The Ex Ante Evaluator recommends that the operating rules are put into practice by DAERA for the NIRDP 2014-2020 to ensure the quality and timeliness of monitoring data

How recommendation has been addressed or justification as to why not taken into account

Accepted.

### 3.2.12. Development of Communications Strategy

Category of recommendation: Programme implementing arrangements

Date: 10/10/2014

Topic: Implementation Plan

Description of the recommendation

The Ex Ante Evaluator recommends that a robust set of selection criteria are developed in relation to the appointment of the LAG members. This should include information on requirements in relation to skills and capacity to deliver the scheme. This will require the LAGs to demonstrate that they have the requisite capacity to deliver.

How recommendation has been addressed or justification as to why not taken into account

Accepted and will be completed for programme implementation.

3.2.13. Development of a Communication Plan for the NRN

Category of recommendation: Programme implementing arrangements

Date: 25/09/2014

Topic: NRN

Description of the recommendation

The Ex Ante Evaluator recommends that DAERA develops the communication plan for the NRN once the Network Support Unit (NSU) has been appointed.

How recommendation has been addressed or justification as to why not taken into account

Accepted. DAERA will develop a ToR which will set out the requirements of the NSU e.g. resources required, main activities etc. Once the contract is awarded, DAERA will work with the support unit to develop the Network Action Plan and the communication plan.

3.2.14. Development of a LEADER Operation Manual

Category of recommendation: Programme implementing arrangements

Date: 25/09/2014

Topic: LEADER

Description of the recommendation

The Ex Ante Evaluator recommends that DAERA include information in the LEADER Operational

Manual on:

- The procedures for collecting monitoring and evaluation data
- The evaluation procedures for the LEADER Approach as part of the Enhanced AIRs submitted to the Commission in 2017 and 2019; and

The facilitation of Inter-territorial co-operation.

How recommendation has been addressed or justification as to why not taken into account

Accepted.

### 3.2.15. Development of processes in relation to LAGs

Category of recommendation: Programme implementing arrangements

Date: 10/10/2014

Topic: Implementation Plan

Description of the recommendation

The Ex Ante Evaluator recommends that DAERA develop an Implementation Plan for the Programme which includes the following in relation to LEADER (LAGs)

- A description of the decision making process to be used in the selection of LAG members;
- The allocation of roles in the delivery chain;

The selection criteria for LAGs which will ensure that LAGs are representative of Local Areas and that they provide a 'bottom-up' approach to rural development and that this is fully reflected in their LAG decision making processes and structures

How recommendation has been addressed or justification as to why not taken into account

Accepted and will be completed for programme implementation

### 3.2.16. Development of selection criteria in relation to the appointment of LAG members

Category of recommendation: Programme implementing arrangements

Date: 25/09/2014

Topic: LEADER

Description of the recommendation

The Ex Ante Evaluator recommends that a robust set of selection criteria are developed in relation to the appointment of the LAG members. This should include information on requirements in relation to skills and capacity to deliver the scheme. This will require the LAGs to demonstrate that they have the requisite capacity to deliver.

How recommendation has been addressed or justification as to why not taken into account

Accepted and will be completed for programme implementation.

3.2.17. Further development of details for the NSU

Category of recommendation: Programme implementing arrangements

Date: 10/10/2014

Topic: Implementation Plan

Description of the recommendation

The Ex Ante Evaluator recommends that DAERA develop an Implementation Plan for the Programme which includes the following in relation to NRN:

For the NSU, detailing the number of permanent staff required, the skills they need to possess, the number of experts required and the required areas of expertise.

How recommendation has been addressed or justification as to why not taken into account

Accepted. DAERA will complete an implementation plan for the NRN in the development of the Terms of Reference and public procurement of the NSU.

DARD is currently considering the preparation of a detailed Terms of Reference for the procurement of the Rural Network Support Unit. The content of this Terms of Reference and the work programme for the NRN will determine the resources required.

3.2.18. Further development of technical assistance detail

Category of recommendation: Programme implementing arrangements

Date: 10/10/2014

Topic: Implementation Plan

Description of the recommendation

The Ex Ante Evaluator recommends that DAERA develop an Implementation Plan for the Programme which will include the actions proposed for technical assistance detail and how the RDP will support the reporting responsibilities of each of the delivery agents.

How recommendation has been addressed or justification as to why not taken into account

The Implementation Plan will be developed and presented to the Programme Monitoring Committee within six months of programme adoption

3.2.19. Internal Coherence should be monitored

Category of recommendation: Construction of the intervention logic

Date: 25/09/2014

Topic: Internal Coherence

Description of the recommendation

The Ex Ante Evaluator recommends that DAERA continues to monitor the internal coherence between the schemes of the programme to ensure that no contradictions occur.

How recommendation has been addressed or justification as to why not taken into account

DAERA is considering the oversight structures required for implementation once the objectives of the CAP Reform Programme Board have been achieved. This will also be required for the completion of the scheme level Business Cases. The new structures will ensure there is internal coherence between the programme's constituent parts.

3.2.20. Involve appropriate bodies in setting-up of monitoring system

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 25/09/2014

Topic: Monitoring and Evaluation

Description of the recommendation

The Ex Ante Evaluator recommends that DAERA ensures that intermediate bodies, the paying agency and the LAGs are involved in the set-up of the monitoring system after they have been appointed.

How recommendation has been addressed or justification as to why not taken into account

Accepted.

3.2.21. Members of the NRN to have specific knowledge and expertise

Category of recommendation: Programme implementing arrangements

Date: 25/10/2014

Topic: NRN

Description of the recommendation

The Ex Ante Evaluator recommends that DAERA ensures that members of the NRN have specific knowledge and expertise on innovation.

How recommendation has been addressed or justification as to why not taken into account

Accepted.

3.2.22. Set out a timeframe for implementation of the Web-Based Computer System for Monitoring

Category of recommendation: Programme implementing arrangements

Date: 10/10/2014

Topic: Implementation Plan

Description of the recommendation

The Ex Ante Evaluator recommends that DAERA develop an Implementation Plan for the Programme which includes the following in relation to the Web-Based Computer System for Monitoring:

Set out a clear timeframe for the implementation to ensure it is in place and operational by the issue of the first Letters of Offer

How recommendation has been addressed or justification as to why not taken into account

DAERA accepts there will be an implementation plan for the Computer System however no assurance can be given that the system will be in place for the issue of the first letters of offer. DAERA can provide assurance that all information will be added to the system once it becomes operational

3.2.23. Set out indicators for equality of opportunity between men and women

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 25/09/2014

Topic: Adequacy to Promote Equal Opportunities and Prevent Discrimination

Description of the recommendation

The Ex Ante Evaluator recommends that DAERA set out indicators which will be used to demonstrate the impact of the RDP on equality of opportunities between women and men and non-discrimination.

How recommendation has been addressed or justification as to why not taken into account

DAERA proposes to develop an Equality Action Plan for programme implementation. The purpose of the Plan will be to ensure that the mitigating actions proposed in the EQIA are considered and a strategy is put in place to ensure the mainstreaming of equality and non-discrimination. This action plan will consider monitoring and the development of appropriate indicators.

3.2.24. Specific selection criteria relating to skills required by LAGs

Category of recommendation: Programme implementing arrangements

Date: 25/09/2014

Topic: LEADER

Description of the recommendation

The Ex Ante Evaluator recommends that DAERA considers the different skill sets which will be required by LAGs due to potential difficulties arising from the large population differentials between LAG Areas. Specific selection criteria should be developed to deal with this issue.

How recommendation has been addressed or justification as to why not taken into account

Accepted and will be completed for programme implementation.

### 3.2.25. The Intervention Logic should be complete

Category of recommendation: Construction of the intervention logic

Date: 25/09/2014

Topic: Intervention Logic

Description of the recommendation

The Ex Ante Evaluators recommend that information on ANC and Farmland Birds is included in the programme when it is made available

How recommendation has been addressed or justification as to why not taken into account

Accepted. Information will be added when it is available.

### 3.2.26. The SWOT analysis and needs assessment should be consistent with the SEA

Category of recommendation: The SWOT analysis, needs assessment

Date: 25/09/2014

Topic: SWOT and Needs Assessment

Description of the recommendation

The Ex Ante Evaluator recommends that DAERA continues to negotiate with the Department of Finance on the monitoring arrangements for environmental sustainability across all the ESI funds.

How recommendation has been addressed or justification as to why not taken into account

DAERA is committed to establishing a monitoring system in conjunction with all the ESI funds to assess environmental sustainability.

### 3.2.27. Training Needs Analysis to be carried out

Category of recommendation: Programme implementing arrangements



Date: 10/10/2014

Topic: Training

Description of the recommendation

The Ex Ante Evaluator recommends that a Training Needs Analysis should be carried out so that DAERA understands what training is required by whom and by when so they can adequately target training at particular groups and bodies involved in the programme.

This may include (list is not exhaustive):

- All external delivery bodies;
- LAGs;
- NSU;
- Intermediary Bodies; and
- The Paying Agency.

This should cover all aspects of the programme including: monitoring and evaluation, use of web-based IT system (to access relevant information for reporting requirements), equality matters, NSU/NRN, etc.

How recommendation has been addressed or justification as to why not taken into account

Accepted. This will be taken forward in conjunction with the new Programme Monitoring Committee.

3.2.28. Training Plan to be developed

Category of recommendation: Programme implementing arrangements

Date: 10/10/2014

Topic: Training

Description of the recommendation

The Ex Ante Evaluator recommends that, based on the outcome of the previous Recommendation, a Training Plan should be developed for approval by the Programme Monitoring Committee once the programme has been submitted to the EC to ensure that training is structured around the needs identified and that any capacity or skills development work is carried out when required.

How recommendation has been addressed or justification as to why not taken into account

Accepted. This will be taken forward in conjunction with the new Programme Monitoring Committee.

### 3.2.29. Undertake an analysis of advisory needs

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 25/09/2014

Topic: Adequacy of Human and Administrative Capacity for Management

Description of the recommendation

The Ex Ante Evaluator recommends that DAERA undertake an analysis of advisory needs (including the advisory needs in relation to sustainable development), to gain an understanding of the needs of delivery bodies (including LAGs) who may need additional advisory support to deal with changes between the programming periods and then develop an action plan to detail the proposed actions to address the needs identified.

How recommendation has been addressed or justification as to why not taken into account

Accepted.

### 3.2.30. Work with NSU to develop the NRN

Category of recommendation: Programme implementing arrangements

Date: 25/09/2014

Topic: NRN

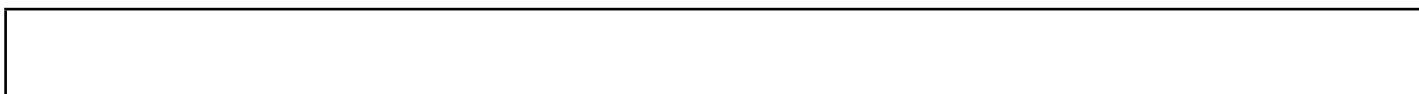
Description of the recommendation

The Ex Ante Evaluator recommends that DAERA work with NSU to develop the network, ensuring that membership of the NRN is as open as possible and that specific effort is made to encourage memberships from the groups mentioned above.

In addition there should be clear actions planned to achieve and maintain this throughout the lifetime of the network. These criterion should be included in the Terms of Reference for the NSU

How recommendation has been addressed or justification as to why not taken into account

Accepted.



### 3.3. Ex-ante Evaluation report

## 4. SWOT AND IDENTIFICATION OF NEEDS

### 4.1. SWOT

4.1.1. Comprehensive overall description of the current situation of the programming area, based on common and programme-specific context indicators and other qualitative up-to-date information

This section provides an analysis of the current situation in rural Northern Ireland highlighting the main characteristics and specificities. It provides an overview of evidence with reference to the six priority areas and the three cross-cutting objectives of environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation and innovation.

#### **EU Objective 1 – The Competitiveness of Agriculture - Priorities 1, 2 and 3**

Agriculture plays a more important role in the economy of NI (1.1 % of GVA) than in the UK as a whole (0.7 % of total GVA). However, the relative contribution of agriculture to the economy in NI has been falling over time. Nevertheless, agriculture provides important input to the food processing industry which has been growing well over the last 10 years. Taken together agriculture and food (and drinks) processing normally account for around 4 % of the total GVA in NI and more than 6 % of employment.

Of the total NI land area of 1.35 million hectares [1], approximately 82% is used for agriculture and forestry. These activities define the character of the rural landscape. The number of farms in NI has fallen by over 40% since 1980, from 42,000 to just over 24,000 in 2012. This reflects the on-going re-structuring of the industry in response to rising labour productivity and competitive pressures.

Of the 24,000 farms 88% are dairy, beef and sheep with more than 47,000 people including 41% full time, 36% part-time, 10% seasonal workers and 13% spouses involved in farming.

The total number of persons working on farms in 2012 was almost 47,500 [2], though many of these have part time or casual involvement and do not record themselves in the Labour Force Survey and the Population Census as having their principal occupation in agriculture. The Labour Force Survey estimates the agriculture, forestry and fishing workforce at 25,000 (First quarter of 2012); this equates to 3.1% of civil employment in NI. There are 27,000 people whose main employment (part time and full time) is in the food processing sector [3].

The average farm size in NI is 41 hectares - smaller than the UK average of 77 hectares, but approximately one third larger than the EU15 average of 28 hectares. In NI, 89% of farms are categorised as small or very small. Dairy farms account for the majority of large farms, whilst most of the very small farms are cattle and sheep farms in the current Less Favoured Areas.

DARD carried out a Whole Farm Needs Assessment (WFNA) online survey in April 2015 to provide farmers with an opportunity to inform the Department of the barriers they face in meeting their future business objectives (over the next 5 year period) and to scope their capital investment needs to overcome those barriers. Information gathered from the survey, together with a review of recent farm statistics and evidence from reviews of previous schemes, has helped DAERA assess the type and level of government support needed by farmers to meet their business objectives and to assist with the design of the proposed Business Investment Scheme (BIS).

Key findings from the survey confirmed that farmers were keen to increase their business viability through

improved resource and production efficiency. They also recognised that focusing on improving their energy usage and enhancing Animal Health and Welfare would be key to achieving this. There was a very significant level of responses (86%) showing that farmers felt their buildings were outdated and had insufficient capacity.

The weather extremes experienced over a number of years in NI, and in particular the events of spring 2013, exposed the ageing structure of many of the farm buildings and their insufficient resilience to withstand extreme weather conditions and provide adequate shelter to animals. The fodder shortage crisis in the same poor spring and the surpluses produced as a result of good weather in 2014 have highlighted a lack of fodder storage capacity.

In the WFNA survey farmers recognised that a major barrier to viability was their inability to increase their supply chain integration opportunities and access new markets. Spend profiles from the survey suggest that they are willing to invest in areas that will improve their ability to meet current and developing market requirements. In the livestock sectors their focus is on improving their facilities to enhance animal health and welfare and reducing the reliance on antibiotic use for issues like pneumonia. Ventilation and flooring systems were identified as critical areas for improvement in the livestock sector, as well as expenditure on equipment to improve safe handling, precision feeding, enhanced milking facilities and welfare friendly housing.

Horticulture and Arable sectors are also keen to improve their ability to meet customer requirements and improving their product storage whilst also adopting precision agriculture equipment to enhance their product quality and improve their resource efficiency.

NI has an abundance of carbon rich soils, a temperate climate and a long grass growing and grazing season which means that livestock enterprises such as dairying, beef and sheep tend to dominate agricultural land use. The grass-based sectors, dairy, beef and sheep, accounted for 71% of NI aggregate gross margin in 2012, while pigs and poultry account for almost 13%. Cereals were found on only 5% of land farmed in 2012 and there was a 2.6 per cent decrease, to 53,000 hectares in the total cropped area between June 2011 and 2012. The total area of cereals decreased by 2.3 per cent compared to 2011. Over the 10 year period since 2002 the area of land in potatoes decreased by 30%. The poultry sector has grown steadily, with the value of output increasing from £66.7m in 1995 to £244.8m in 2012. This has introduced an increasing problem with disposal of poultry litter. This is currently being addressed through a government/industry project for the Sustainable Use of Poultry Litter (SUPL). In 1980, cattle were found on 70% of farms, but by 2012, this had risen to 84%.

Farmers operating in areas designated as Less Favoured Areas(LFA) and in the Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDA) usually face significant handicaps from factors such as difficult topography and climate and poor soil conditions. In these conditions, sheep and/or suckler cow production are among the few farming enterprises that can be sustained. These farmers tend to have fewer farming alternatives, lower farm productivity and, often, higher unit production costs than farmers in lowland areas. Without financial support to these farm businesses, the ongoing lower return from farming could lead to economic hardship and a significant threat to the future business viability. Should such businesses collapse there is the real possibility that significant land abandonment could emerge resulting in accompanying unacceptable environmental consequences such as ingress of scrub and development of a dense mat of sward and ungrazed herbage. These developments restrict growth of sensitive plant species, allow for the development of aggressive species such as bracken and can cause build up of soil acidity. This reduces the range of plants

that can grow therefore restricting the range and species of ground dwelling invertebrates and nesting birds.

### **Generational Renewal**

In 2010, 55% of farmers were aged 55 and over, with only 20% under 45 years of age [4]. The age profile of farmers has not changed significantly over the 2000 to 2010 period. Some 8% of farmers were under 35 years old in 1995, while 5% were under 35 years old in 2010. The age breakdown of farmers in NI is similar to the breakdown at EU-15 level.

### **Competitiveness of agriculture**

Despite the growth in many agricultural sectors in recent years there was a 50% decline in total income from farming (TIFF) in 2012. This decline, which followed a period of increase between 2009 and 2011, shows the volatility that the agricultural industry faces. The level of aggregate agricultural income is affected strongly by the sterling/euro exchange rate. Other factors contributing to the income decline include high feed costs, increasing energy costs and poor weather in 2012.

Provisional figures indicate that the 'Total Income from Farming' (TIFF) in Northern Ireland decreased by 16% (17% in real terms) from £336 million in 2013 to £283 million in 2014.)

Agricultural Total Factor Productivity (TFP), a volume based productivity measure that takes account of all factors/resources used in production, shows a 4.4% reduction in Northern Ireland over the five year period 2008-2012. This reduction follows a period when agricultural TFP improved in NI and at a higher rate than in the UK as a whole.

### **Education and Training**

Jack and Wallace (2009) [5] note that farm workers in NI between the ages of 25 and 65 have lower levels of educational attainment compared with males in the wider population. Stakeholders from the Agri-food sector are of the view that it is very difficult to attract high academic achievers to their sector. Research by LANTRA [6] reports that 5.9% of firms surveyed reported at least one skills gap in their workforce which equates to more than 5,000 people across the industry requiring additional training to become fully competent in their jobs. Farm businesses reported the highest number of skills gaps. The LANTRA study (2010) indicates that some 62% of working farm owners and 40% of farm employees do have any formal qualifications.

A study by Jack et al.(2012) [7] based on the NI agri-food and drinks sector found that companies with long term vacancies experienced a lack of people with management, problem solving, customer handling and general business management skills in the applicants for these vacancies.

The LANTRA study also found that just under half of all businesses reported that they had never funded or arranged training for their staff, while 37% had done so in the last 5 years. The percentage of farms having funded or arranged training for staff in the last two years was low at just over 17%. The most common reasons cited by business for not providing training were cost, lack of time and no perceived need.

### **Supply Chains**

A large proportion of the inputs to the food and drinks processing industry are sourced from local agriculture (as well as other industries such as energy, transport, packaging, etc) and, as a result, the multiplier impacts

of growth in this industry are considerable. It is not just the scale of the agri-food industry that is important to the NI economy, it is also its regional distribution. A significant proportion of NI's economic activity is clustered in and around the Greater Belfast Area however for agriculture activity is spread right across the region. The food and drinks processing sector is also dispersed outside the greater Belfast area.

Stakeholders views are that food processors and producers do not cooperate well and farmers have weak bargaining power and that there is poor supply chain communication and integration. They believe that price premiums for higher quality produce are not always available or consistent. The Ulster Farmers Union has also highlighted farmers' concern and frustration at the growing discrepancies between retail and farm gate prices.

NI sells the vast majority of its agricultural produce (~70%) to Great Britain or as exports. Reliance on external markets is made more difficult by the need for sea crossings for accessing markets. NI producers are at a greater distance from main markets relative to other EU producers.

The importance of the Agri-Food industry to the Northern Ireland economy is recognised in both the Programme for Government 2011-15 and Economic Strategy 2011-15. This is in line with the Government's aim to rebalance the economy through increasing economic competitiveness and building a larger and more export-driven private sector.

In May 2012, DARD and DETI appointed the industry led Agri-Food Strategy Board (AFSB) to develop a strategic plan with recommendations in respect of the growth targets, strategic priorities and associated actions for the agri-food industry. The AFSB undertook extensive consultation with the agri-food industry and other stakeholders and developed a report, "Going for Growth", which includes more than 100 recommendations aimed at accelerating the growth of farming, fishing and food and drink processing in Northern Ireland to 2020 and beyond.

In response to Going for Growth, the NI Executive agreed an action plan, outlining actions to be progressed across relevant Departments and Agencies. As well as being wide-ranging, the majority of the proposals are interdependent, with sustainable growth reliant on actions being delivered through a collective approach, both within individual sectoral supply chains and between industry and government. The detailed response to each of the government-led recommendations, and the specific actions to be taken to deliver these, are set out in the plan, along with the responsible Department and timeframe for delivery. The Executive has committed to work in partnership with the agri-food sector to help deliver the industry-led recommendations.

Going for Growth aims to improve the sustainability and competitiveness of farms and the wider agri-food industry, so it is appropriate that the Rural Development Programme will be a key tool for delivery and, in particular, proposals for a 'Farm Business Improvement Scheme' of up to £250m to be taken forward as part of the RDP 2014-2020. There are a range of other actions which are complementary to the aims of the RDP and other proposed schemes within the RDP that will address Going for Growth recommendations.

## **EU Objective 2 – The Sustainable Management of Resources and Climate Actions - Priorities 4 and 5**

Northern Ireland has a large area of conservation value land and there are nine Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty classified as Protected Landscapes, in addition, the Giants Causeway is a World Heritage Site. The protection of cultural values, the promotion of public enjoyment and the fostering of the social and economic well being of local communities sit alongside nature conservation.

Northern Ireland has an historic environment. Most notable are the sites and monuments in state care and the buildings listed for their special architectural or historic interest. It is this historic environment that makes not only a unique landscape in which to live, but creates a distinctive sense of place that is attractive to those living elsewhere and who may wish to visit, invest, or come to live. The historic environment is a major contributor to the NI economy, creating and sustaining circa 5,400 Full Time Equivalent jobs (both direct and indirect jobs and 'out of state' visitor expenditure only). The historic environment generates circa £287m of output per annum and £135m of GVA each year (both direct and indirect expenditure and 'out of state' visitor expenditure only [8]).

### **Landscape of the Region**

Northern Ireland has a land area of 13,542 km<sup>2</sup> - lowland landscapes are 67% and upland landscapes 33%. With 80% of the Northern Ireland landmass in agricultural and forestry use, agriculture has a significant impact on the flora and fauna of the rural environment, with much of the rural landscape reflecting centuries of agricultural activity.

Predominant habitats are perennial ryegrass and other agricultural grassland. Covering a smaller area, mainly in the uplands, is the ecologically important wet bog. Other, less widespread, habitats of particular importance for their biodiversity are calcareous grassland, species-rich grasslands, broadleaf semi-natural woodland and heath. Hedges and earth (or 'sod') banks are common characteristic elements of the countryside. Land ownership is highly fragmented with an average farm size of around 40 hectares.

### **Woodland**

In the past most of Northern Ireland's natural vegetation was woodland and many terrestrial native species are dependent on this habitat. However today Northern Ireland is one of the least wooded areas in Europe with only 8% of the land area under tree cover [9], compared to 13% of the UK as a whole.

### **Forest policy**

A review of forest policy (Forest Service 2006) stated that forestry was a devolved matter within the UK, that it operates in a global economy and needs to take account of the international context. That context includes commitments to apply sustainable forest management practices in NI and to ensure that wood in trade comes from sustainably managed forests. Forest policy was re-stated as the sustainable management of existing woods and forests, and a steady expansion of tree cover to increase the many diverse benefits that forests provide.

The Forestry Act (NI) 2010 gave the DARD modern powers to implement forestry policy. The Explanatory Notes to the Act explain that the Department owns and, through the Forest Service, manages substantial forestry assets. They explain that modern forestry has developed from policies intended to create a strategic reserve of timber and to maintain a timber supply to something that is "*a complex and multi-functional enterprise, with increasing economic, social and environmental purposes and benefits*", in which "*the modern Forest Service must balance these diverse and sometimes competing functions in an integrated and balanced way, and strive to maximise the benefit of the public estate*". The Act placed a general duty on DARD to promote forestry, so that the traditional role of developing afforestation, the supply of timber, and the maintenance of growing trees which was the emphasis of the 1953 Act was extended to include protection of the environment, biodiversity, climate change and social and recreational use. The approach to delivery of these diverse functions is described in the UK Forestry Standard and associated guidelines on biodiversity, climate change, the historic environment, people, soil, water and the landscape. The UK



Forestry Standard applies to all forests in the UK and is a requirement for Forest Service managed woodland and woodland grant aided under the Rural Development Programme. In addition, Forest Service and some privately managed woodlands are independently certified under a voluntary woodland assurance standard to verify sustainable woodland management including requirements for conservation and enhancement of wildlife. In 2013 58% of all woodland in NI was certified under the Forest Stewardship Council scheme and required forest management plans. All Forest Service managed woodland was certified and 6% of non-state woodland was certified (Woodland Area, Planting and Restocking. Forestry Commission, 2013). In addition 8% of non-state woodland is in receipt of woodland support under the Rural Development Programme and requires forest plans. Under the new Rural Development Programme woodland support for areas of 0.2 hectares and greater will require a forest management plan.

New regulatory powers controlling the felling of trees increased the assurance that forests would be sustainably managed. Previously, the main assurance came from the DARD's ownership of most forests and the political direction about how those forests should be managed. DAERA now has powers to enter into most of the common forms of legal agreements with others so that, for example, private capital may be used to finance forestry activity and local government can use DAERA assets for local authority purposes.

### **Policy outcomes**

In 1940 there was less than 17,000 ha of forest, by 1975 there were 59,000ha of forest (Graham, 1981), and by 2013 there was 111,000ha of forest (Forestry Commission, 2014) covering 8% of the land area of NI, suggesting a rate of expansion of 1300ha/year since 1940 (Figure 1). Prior to 1980 the major expansion in planting was in the state sector, when the DARD bought numerous farms in areas of severe agricultural limitation because of water-logging, low soil fertility and exposure. The government's policy towards forestry changed after 1987, when land purchase for state planting reduced (in NI it stopped altogether in 2004/05), and fiscal advantages for private forestry were removed in favour of increased direct grant support for planting. Since 1980, non-state forest increased by almost 1000ha/year, of which 40% has been grant aided and 60% has occurred naturally.

The 55% of all forests which are Forest Service managed supply 58% of the requirements of the home-grown timber industry. The balance comes from growers in the ROI and Scotland (38%) and the NI non-state sector (4%), reflecting the high proportion of coniferous woodlands in the state sector. In the absence of that supply from the current state sector there is no economic reason for the continuance of a local wood processing industry. Non-state woodlands have limited economic potential other than for biomass production but, as observed by the Countryside Survey, make an important contribution to lowland biodiversity. State forests on the Causeway Coast, the Mourne and the Fermanagh Geo-park are important for tourism because they are popular tourist destination areas as places to camp, to walk and cycle, and to enjoy the countryside.

Many non-state forests also deliver public benefits, sometimes as a commercial undertaking. The larger non-state forests are often used for traditional sporting purposes (hunting) and, more recently, active pursuits including camping, mountain biking, and motorsports. Many forests, especially in the non-state sector, were planted with native tree species specifically to improve bio-diversity. Since the early 1990s afforestation policy recognised the environmental risks of introduction of woodland on unsuitable sites such as active blanket bog and species rich grasslands and environmental criteria were put in place to discourage the afforestation of such sites.

By 2014 28% of Forest Service managed woodland and 6% of non-state woodland had been designated as

part of the Natura 2000 network. Forest Service investment to protect and enhance biodiversity is now an integral part of the forestry programme. One example of this is in the Special Protection Areas for Hen Harrier and Merlin which together extend over 14,000 hectares of Forest Service managed land. In these areas wherever possible Forest Service will plan forest operations outside the breeding season to avoid disturbing these protected species. Where this is not possible, Forest Service will liaise with the Northern Ireland Raptor Study Group and if necessary will conduct surveys and carry out an assessment of current breeding activity before deciding on whether to undertake a forestry operation at a particular location.

A public Opinion survey in 2014 found that 96% of respondents believed that forestry was worth supporting, to provide places for wildlife to live and for recreation. 79% of respondents said that they would like to see more woodland locally.

There is a continuing need for forest expansion (12% forest cover of land area by 2050 (Forest Service, 2006)), to ensure that both public and privately owned forests are managed in a sustainable way to deliver a broad, balanced range of ecosystem services (UK National Ecosystem Assessment, Chapter 8: Woodlands, 2011) including timber, public access, biodiversity and actions to address climate change, as well as action to address the problems associated with forests of the wrong kind in the wrong locality, scarcity of timber supply and the impact of timber traffic on rural communities.

### **Biodiversity**

Although the average farm size has increased while the number of farm businesses has fallen there is still is a highly fragmented system of land ownership with a relatively small average farm size in NI.

Agricultural intensification and specialisation over many decades has affected a large number of habitats and species. The number of livestock farms growing cereals has declined significantly. Arable farming is concentrated in several areas and covers less than 5% of the total land. The landscape is dominated by grassland.

These factors have resulted in a net loss of habitat and a decline in biodiversity.

Although NI has the highest density of hedgerows in the UK, which support biodiversity by providing a valuable habitat for many species, significant boundary removal has taken place. In addition, many traditional hedges or banks have been replaced by post and wire fencing. Poor hedge management has also reduced wildlife, with hedges trimmed either too often or not enough, or at the wrong time of year. The lack of space for field biodiversity is an issue on intensive grassland farms.

Some 51 priority habitats have been designated under the Habitats Directive and are particularly important for biodiversity in NI. Several habitats are very well represented compared to other parts of the UK and Europe namely, peatlands such as lowland raised bogs and grasslands such as purple-moor grass and rush pasture. There are almost 500 Northern Ireland priority species identified as requiring conservation action which include species listed under the Habitats and Birds Directives [10], this includes 112 Marine Species found in marine and coastal areas.

Within Northern Ireland there are 57 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), designated under the Habitats Directive to protect the most seriously threatened habitats and species in Europe. These cover all habitat types, including significant areas of peatland. Seventeen Special Protection Areas (SPAs) have been designated to protect internationally important areas for breeding, over-wintering and migrating birds. SPAs and SACs are collectively known as Natura 2000 sites. These include priority habitats such as

grassland, heathland, upland, peatland and wetlands which are impacted by agricultural practices.

Priority habitats and species and Natura 2000 sites are heavily influenced by land-use change either directly or indirectly. Drainage, peat-cutting for fuel and over-grazing are major factors in the reduction of the extent and quality of peatlands in Northern Ireland. Overgrazing of blanket bogs by upland sheep has been a problem in the past. However, despite sheep numbers declining in recent years, many peatlands have not shown any significant improvement. Priority grasslands and their priority species such as breeding waders have declined greatly in recent years whilst native woodland has increased in area. Indirect impacts on habitats include aquatic and aerial pollution. An overall reduction in chemical fertiliser application is starting to benefit some freshwater habitats although aerial nitrogen pollution is now an important biodiversity issue.

94% of Natura 2000 sites have no management plans. While there is no obligation to implement a Natura 2000 site management plan in NI, the Prioritised Action Framework recognises that specific Natura 2000 management plans are needed because the current approach is not delivering action by land managers. [11]

Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) are designated sites which are protected under NI law for their nature and earth science value. They are selected based on specific qualifying features which include earth science features, habitats and species. The condition of these features is assessed over a six year monitoring programme. Over 1,000 features have now been assessed, including features re-assessed as part of the second six-year cycle, in addition to a number of new features on recently declared ASSIs. The results show a similar picture to previous years, with 68% of the features in favourable condition and 30% of features in unfavourable condition, the same proportions as 2013 [12].

Declines and range contraction in farmland bird populations throughout Europe is well-documented [13], have occurred since at least the mid-1970s [14] and have paralleled intensification in agricultural production [15]. A general progressive loss of arable cropping and changes within remaining arable systems has been implicated as a major underlying cause of declines in granivorous species including the now UK/Ireland red-listed yellowhammer *Emberiza citronella* and tree sparrow *Passer montanus*. In particular, the loss of winter seed through a switch from spring to autumn sowing of cereal crops and the increased use and effectiveness of herbicides has caused significant reductions in availability of weed-rich over-winter stubbles [16] with consequent reductions in over-winter bird survival rates [17]. Whilst summer nesting and feeding habitat are clearly important, the presence of suitable winter habitat is probably limiting population growth [18].

NI's wild bird population is monitored as part of the UK BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey, which is undertaken annually at just over 3,000 sites across the UK. Due to the nature of the data analysis, the number of species for which trends are available can vary year-on-year. In 2013 information on trends was available for 35 of the most common species. This includes trends for two new species for 2013, Buzzard and Lesser Redpoll. This indicates an expansion in range and probable increase in the population of both species.

Between 1994 and 2013, the wild bird population has increased by 40% but the underlying bird populations are not all increasing. For example, while the Blackcap has shown a very large increase since 1994, the Mistle Thrush and Skylark continue to show decreases. Between 1994/95 and 2012/13, the total wetland bird population is estimated to have decreased by 26%. Over that time, coastal populations declined by 18% while freshwater populations declined by 39%.

Invasive non-native plants can cause problems for native UK species and reduce biodiversity and are now widely recognised as the second biggest threat to biodiversity worldwide. Three prolific non-native plants in NI are Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed. Japanese knotweed can block footpaths

and damage concrete, tarmac, flood defences and the stability of river banks. Himalayan Balsam competes with native plants in ecologically sensitive sites, particularly river banks, leaving them bare and exposed to erosion in winter months. Giant hogweed can cause harm to human health.

### **Water quality**

A range of measures to improve water quality have been introduced since 2006 after NI adopted a 'total territory' approach to implementation of the Nitrates Directive. The Nitrates Action Programme (NAP) Regulations therefore apply to all farmers. The NAP has been accompanied by capital assistance for manure storage and advanced slurry spreading systems as well as training and advisory support resulting in improvements in water quality.

However farming continues to be a significant source of water pollution, both diffuse, such as from fertiliser and pesticides spread on the land, and point sources such as runoff from farmyards. The main areas of concern are eutrophication of rivers and lakes caused primarily by phosphorus and sedimentation. Contamination by pesticides is a problem in some catchments. In general the coastal waters of NI show few signs of nutrient enrichment although specific 'hotspots' related to known man-made inputs can be detected.

Many of NI's watercourses have been physically altered by drainage schemes, water abstraction, impoundment to create reservoirs, navigation, fisheries management and fish farming. Pressures on water quantity and flow can result from abstractions and impoundments used for drinking water supply, industrial use, use in the food and drink industry, hydropower generation, agricultural use and recreational use.

Poorly designed or managed impoundments can impede migratory fish movement, cause build up of sediment leading to changes in river bed habitat and other changes in river morphology. Main agricultural pressures on river morphological status include lack of buffer strips, poaching by livestock and channel straightening.

The vast majority of surface freshwaters and groundwaters in NI continue to have nitrate levels well below 25 mg NO<sub>3</sub>/l. For the 2008-2011 reporting period under the Nitrates Directive, the annual average nitrate concentration for surface freshwaters and groundwaters was 5.01 mg NO<sub>3</sub>/l and 6.77 mg NO<sub>3</sub>/l respectively. 99.9 % of surface water sites and 94.9 % of groundwater sites had an annual average nitrate concentration below 25 mg/l.

In relation to phosphorus, 72 % of river monitoring sites had annual average phosphorus (SRP) concentrations in excess of 0.02 mg/l, the level above which is considered to be at risk from eutrophication. 17 % of these sites had concentrations above 0.1 mg/l SRP - indicative of nutrient enrichment. 100 % of river sites showed a decrease or stabilisation in annual average SRP concentrations since the previous reporting period 2004-2007.

A Nitrates Action Programme (NAP) across the whole of Northern Ireland was introduced in 2007 and has been reviewed twice. The most recent review was completed in 2014 and the NAP for 2015 to 2018 was agreed with the Commission.

Key conclusions of the NAP Review in March 2014 were:

1. Nitrate levels in surface freshwaters and groundwater are generally low and stable or decreasing.
2. Long-term trend analysis shows that the monthly trends in average nitrate and phosphorus concentrations in rivers in Northern Ireland are predominantly decreasing or stable.

3. There is still evidence of eutrophication in a significant proportion of rivers, lakes and transitional and coastal marine waters.
4. It will take time for a related response to reductions in nutrient inputs to be detected in biological indicators of trophic status, particularly in lakes and marine waters.
5. Reductions in chemical fertiliser use and improved utilisation of manures have significantly increased overall nitrogen and phosphorus efficiency.
6. Compliance with measures is generally high.
7. Some key areas require ongoing action and training to raise awareness and improve compliance.
8. DARD and the DOE continue to provide guidance, advice and training to increase awareness and understanding of the requirements of the NAP, SSAFO and P Regulations and to promote good agricultural practice for nutrient efficiency and environmental protection.

### **Water Framework Directive (WFD) Status**

Although the NAP has improved chemical status, there has not as yet been a significant change in overall WFD status of rivers and lakes. For 575 river bodies, 23% were classed as high or good in 2013, compared with 22% in 2012 and 23% in 2011.

Based on current assessments, approximately 38% of river water bodies have failures of diatoms, aquatic plants and or phosphorus indicating nutrient enrichment pressure from agricultural runoff is a problem. Around 35 % have failures in invertebrates, dissolved oxygen and ammonia, due to pressures from discharges such as Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW), agricultural runoff, septic tanks and urban runoff.

For lakes 5 out of 21 lake water bodies were classed a good status in 2013, 3 in 2012 and 5 in 2011. Based on current assessments, 5 out of 21 lake water bodies are good status.

There are three River Basin Districts (RBD) in NI:- The Neagh Bann, the North Eastern and the North Western. The North Western and Neagh Bann are international River Basin Districts with ROI. Each RBD is covered by a Management Plan for the period 2009-2015. Updated River Basin Management Plans for the second WFD cycle are currently the subject of a public consultation and will be implemented from 2016.

The main agricultural pressures in each of these river basins are:

- Nutrient enrichment from excess phosphorus and nitrogen on agricultural land and farming practice.
- Sediment loss caused by livestock poaching and river bank erosion by livestock.
- Diffuse organic pollution arising from farmyards.

The Neagh Bann river basin district has the main areas of poor status due to agricultural pressures. Nutrient pressures are also present in several estuarine waters, and localised impacts of agricultural pollution have been demonstrated in some bathing waters, mostly in the North Eastern District.

### **Soil Quality**

Pressure on soils from land uses, including agriculture, and climate change can impact on soils and their ability to perform vital functions such as nutrient cycling, filtering pollutants and water, storing carbon,

supporting plant and animal life and biodiversity.

As the majority of agricultural soils in NI support grassland, the impact of cultivation is less of an issue than it would be in areas with a high proportion of soils farmed for arable crops and potentially offers greater opportunity to store carbon as a result. However 57% of soils are gleys with poor levels of drainage and compaction is also identified as an issue. Increases in the intensity of rainfall as a result of climate change has the potential to exacerbate these issues.

The UK National Ecosystem Assessment for NI (2011) found that overall soil degradation is low compared to other parts of the UK. Soil erosion by wind and water is not a major problem, however, soil erosion and sediment loss is a problem in certain catchments and impacts on rivers where, for example, the Fresh Pearl Water Mussel is present. Wind erosion is confined mostly to the light, sandy soils of Magilligan and Comber. The assessment found that many agricultural soils have elevated nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) levels and are a source of these nutrients to surface waters. The Nitrates Directive and the WFD have increased control of N and P inputs from agriculture, resulting in decreased chemical fertiliser use and more efficient use of manures. There have been improvements in soil phosphate levels in recent years. However there is still a major surplus in many soils, especially those under intensive grassland. It also found basic nutrient and water cycles are generally functioning well, but human activities are having impacts on these in some areas.

The estimated stock of carbon (C) held in NI's soils is 386 megatonnes. Total vegetation stores of carbon are relatively higher in agricultural soils than in Great Britain (36% vs 10% of total carbon store) and lower in woodland (55% vs 80%) due to differences in land cover percentages. Land use changes have impacted upon these values over time.

Levels of soil organic matter range from 8-20% depending on previous cropping. More comprehensive information is needed on soil structure, pH and nutrient profiles and there is limited information on the current status of peatland. The optimal pH value for arable crops is 6.5 for arable crops and 6.0 for grassland. In NI 50% of soils have a pH < 6.0 and 25% of soils have a pH < 5.5. Low pH status reduces the efficiency of nutrients applied to agricultural soils so that greater amounts of chemical fertiliser are required to reach a given yield. Improving knowledge around soil functions, agricultural practice and nutrient status, such as increasing organic matter, reducing compaction and efficient use of nutrients, will therefore help to support soil health and bring environmental benefits and productivity gains.

### **Air Quality**

While NI's ammonia emissions have decreased by 6% from 1990-2012, they remain an issue of significant concern. In 2012 NI's total ammonia emissions represented approximately 11% of total UK emissions, with the majority of these coming from agricultural activities, such as manure and slurry storage, handling and spreading. The majority of the total land area within ASSIs (ca. 70%) and SACs (ca. 80%) in NI is shown to be at risk of damage from nutrient nitrogen, primarily ammonia emissions.

Slurry contains up to 50% of its nitrogen content in the form of ammonium which is readily lost as ammonia. The amount of nitrogen contained in the slurry and available for swards to utilise will depend on the type of cattle housing, slurry storage facilities and slurry spreading methods. Land spreading is where the largest loss of ammonia occurs from livestock slurry. Spreading techniques minimising the surface area of the slurry exposed to air reduce the loss of ammonia to the atmosphere. The NAP regulations prohibit the use of upward facing splash plates and other high emission spreading methods.

Uptake of low emission slurry spreading equipment, namely band spreaders, trailing shoe and soil injection systems, has been promoted through the Manure Efficiency Technology Scheme (METS) in the 2007-2013 RDP. In the WFNA farmers expressed a continued interest in improving their ability have more precision in their slurry handling ability. Many expressed an interest in investing in modern emission reducing storage systems and spreading equipment to help improve their effect on climate change.

### **Agricultural Land Use Strategy**

A key recommendation of the Going for Growth report is the development of an Agricultural Land Use Strategy led by an expert working group which includes representatives from the farming and broader agri-food sector and environmental bodies, as well as officials from DAERA. The aim will be to develop a strategy and plan which strikes an appropriate balance between improving the profitability of farming and encouraging enhanced environmental sustainability. This is due to report in 2016.

### **Relevant legislation, policies and strategies**

- Directive on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe
- EU clean air package
- National Emission Ceilings Directive (NECD)
- Habitats Directive – Article 17 reporting on the status of protected habitats
- UK Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland was developed to improve air quality and reduce pollutants. The Pollution Prevention And Control Regulations (2013) – regulate ammonia emissions from intensive agricultural installations.

### **Climate Change Mitigation**

29% of total GHG emissions in NI are related to agriculture, which is the most significant source sector for methane and nitrous oxide, accounting for 84% and 93% of total emissions respectively. This is due to the nature and dominance of agriculture in the NI economy and the lack of heavy industry or significant fossil fuel generation seen in other regions.

Livestock emissions include two main sub-categories: enteric fermentation and manure management. Total methane emissions from beef and dairy cattle account for 85% of all methane emissions.

Nitrous oxide emissions are largely driven by fertiliser nitrogen use, manure applications and grazing returns to soils and accounted for 79% of total nitrous oxide emissions in 2012.

GHG emissions from agriculture have reduced from a high of 7412.99 Kt of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent in 1998 to 6321.66 Kt of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent in 2012, representing a 15% reduction from peak GHG production and 8% reduction from base year (1990). This is due to a reduction in livestock numbers but also as a result of interventions such as the Nitrates Action Programme which increased controls around the use of inputs.

To fulfil the obligations of EU Climate and Energy 2020 Package (the 2030 framework was agreed in 2014 which will increase these targets), the UK Climate Change Act 2008, which applies to NI, set a target to reduce GHGs by 34% by 2020 and 80% by 2050. This is supported by a local target set by the Executive in its Northern Ireland Programme for Government to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 35% on 1990 levels by 2025.

Government, the agri-food industry and the environmental sector have established a strategic partnership

known as the Greenhouse Gas Implementation Partnership (GHGIP) to address the issue of GHG emissions within farming. The GHGIP are currently implementing their agreed Action Plan, "Efficient Farming Cuts Greenhouse Gases." The partnership has identified a significant number of on-farm efficiency measures which they wish to see more widely adopted throughout Northern Ireland. These include enhanced nutrient management, improvements in livestock management and investment in on-farm technologies to enable enhanced production efficiency and greater energy savings, as well as appropriate use of renewable energy on-farm.

Whilst tangible progress has been made in key areas such as BVD eradication, nutrient management planning and enhanced slurry spreading, further encouragement is necessary to increase the implementation of these measures throughout the agricultural industry. Effective methods of knowledge transfer are seen as vital to enable behavioural change. A key goal of the Partnership's work is to equip farmers with the necessary information to make the business decisions which will boost farm profitability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Local research, undertaken primarily by the Agri-Food Biosciences Institute, in this area has focused on:

- Developing the evidence base on GHG emissions from agri-food, fisheries and forestry in NI;
- Assessing the potential impact of EU, UK and NI climate change legislation on the local agri-food industry;
- Developing business efficient mitigation strategies to reduce GHG emissions, particularly from the ruminant livestock sector;
- Evaluating the role of grassland and forests as a carbon sink and opportunities to enhance and exploit this;
- Evaluating the risk of emerging plant, animal and fish diseases and pests arising from climate change;
- Evaluating opportunities arising from climate change, including for new crops or to increase the output of existing crops; and
- Carbon life-cycle analysis of different food production systems and the development of technical solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to create product differentiation.

Research results are published and knowledge transfer is undertaken by the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE), who offer a broad range of environment training across all sectors such as animal and plant health, energy efficiency and renewable energy, nitrates, pesticides, cross-compliance, farm wastes and organic production.

While energy generation incentives are available for renewable energy via the DETI, a weak grid infrastructure with limited capacity coupled with prohibitive connection costs has limited the uptake of on-farm renewable energy in large geographical areas of NI. Increasing the adoption of energy saving and conservation techniques offer low cost alternatives to save energy and reduce the carbon footprint of farm businesses and there may be potential to explore innovative means of electricity storage as a means of overcoming infrastructure limitations.

The GHGIP has also identified the importance of quantifying and enhancing the agriculture sector's unique



ability to store carbon in its farming systems. Woodland is an effective means of sequestering carbon, however as previously stated NI is one of the least wooded areas in Europe. The report *Combating Climate Change - a role for UK forests* sets out the forestry sector's potential contribution to climate change mitigation through carbon sequestration in growing biomass – particularly that associated with new woodland – carbon storage in harvested wood products and through wood products substituting for materials with high embodied carbon and woodfuel substituting for fossil fuels directly. Protecting and increasing the carbon stored in forests, soils, grassland, hedges, peatlands and other agricultural systems is of vital importance to the agri-food sector's efforts to reduce its carbon footprint. NI benefits from productive grasslands, abundant hedges and important peatland habitats. There is a clear need to educate and incentivise farmers on the management techniques which will protect and enhance agriculture's unique carbon stores. SRC willow is grown as a source of biomass fuel for generation of renewable heat and is a fast growing plant with a very high evapotranspiration rate. This combination of evaporation and transpiration means that willow takes up large volumes of water from the soil and at the same time absorbs the soluble nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus. Willow is therefore ideally suited as a candidate for the bioremediation of effluents or biosolids.

The UK has challenging targets to increase energy production from renewable sources. In NI, DETI have targets of 40% electricity from renewable sources by 2020 (currently ~ 14%) and 10% heat from renewable sources (currently ~1.8%). Technologies including wind, photovoltaics, tidal and anaerobic digestion all have potential to contribute to the electricity target. [LL1] The treatment of wastewater in conventional Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTWs) is highly effective and in modern works will produce an effluent which is non-damaging, when discharged into waterways. However, WWTWs are very expensive to build and to run. They require major electrical power inputs to run pumps, aerators and other equipment - water utilities are, in many countries, the single greatest users of electricity. For example in the UK the water utilities use around 3% of the total energy produced. In addition to financial costs most of this energy is coming from fossil fuel sources and water treatment is therefore contributing large quantities of damaging greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere. Large WWTWs are required to treat the municipal effluent from large towns and cities. There are however hundreds of small treatment works dealing with effluent, often from only a few homes and people living in small rural settlements. It is essential to develop cost effective, environmentally friendly, sustainable approaches to wastewater management appropriate to rural communities. These factors, in conjunction with the tightening regulations dictating the treated effluent discharge quality (pressure from the WFD and the Wastewater Treatment Directive), result in the requirement for discharge improvement. The use of fast growing woody plants such as SRC willow for the bioremediation / phytoremediation of wastewater is a potentially useful approach to this problem [20].

### **Climate Change Adaptation**

The Northern Ireland Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) analyses the risks and opportunities arising from climate change, including those specifically relating to agriculture. Overall climate projections for NI show that we can expect warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers. Extreme weather events, such as short periods of intense rainfall, are also likely to become more variable and more frequent, leading to greater risk of flooding and associated impacts.

Changing climatic conditions may increase the threat from pests and diseases, as well as from invasive non-native species. Future conditions may favour generalist species, pests, diseases and invasive non-native species, leading to a reduction in biodiversity and disrupting ecosystem services. Changes in migration patterns and phenological mismatch (which may lead to disruption of food webs) may put species and ecosystem services at further risk. Peat soils (an important carbon store), grassland and woodland may face

an increased threat from wildfires. Reduced summer river flows and higher water temperatures are projected to adversely affect the freshwater environments. In coastal and marine environments, tidal flooding and coastal erosion could potentially endanger intertidal habitats and grazing marshes, impacting coastal species and migration patterns.

The main threats facing agriculture are flooding of agricultural land and livestock pests and diseases. River flooding is anticipated to be a particular problem for some agricultural areas, whilst the report stated that warmer summers and milder winters could cause an increase in plant pests and diseases. Climate change could alter livestock disease spread patterns. Exotic vector borne diseases in particular, those not currently found within the EU could potentially spread to NI given favourable climatic conditions. However, potential opportunities for the agriculture sector are identified as an increase in grass and wheat yields based upon projections for warmer conditions which can extend the growing season.

The CCRA for NI highlighted particular issues for forestry including the threat of pests and diseases, drought, changes in the suitability of forestry tree species and risk of wildfire as the key threats posed by climate change. Key adaptation measures include:

- Species diversification (to address threats from both climate change and pest and diseases);
- Uptake of low impact silvicultural systems of management;
- Bringing more woodland into management to allow adaptation measures to be implemented.

In January 2014, the Climate Change Adaptation Programme was published in response to the priority issues identified in the CCRA and in support of related strategies and policies including the EU Adaptation Strategy and Floods Directive. The NI Adaptation Programme highlights the following priority areas for action related to agriculture and forestry:

- Increase awareness of climate change adaptation and develop best practice for land managers;
- Research and identify climate resilient grasses and crops;
- Identify measures to support adaptation in agriculture;
- Improve the resilience of woodland; and
- Support and encourage land managers in reducing the risk of and impacts from wildfires.

### **Organic Farming**

There is currently around 9,000ha of land within NI that is certified organic. This represents approximately 0.9% of the total agricultural area. Higher commodity prices in recent years have resulted in limited premiums at the farm gate for organic produce. This has led to a reduction in the number of organic producers from 224 in 2006 to 150 currently.

Since 2010, the area of agricultural land that is either organic or in-conversion to organic has dropped 40% from 15,000ha. DAERA has provided advisory support to the organic sector from the early 2000s. Conversion and maintenance payments were provided through the 2007 – 2013 RDP, and a capital grant scheme assisted conversion of animal housing to meet organic standards.

Under RDP 2007 - 2013 the Organic Farming Scheme (OFS) offered financial support to farmers to convert

to organic farming practices. An Organic Maintenance Option (OMO) within the NI Countryside Management Scheme (NICMS) was also offered on land that was certified organic.

Although small, the organic sector in NI is comprised of committed organic producers. They have recently formed a producer group to represent and develop the local organic sector.

### **Environmental improvement through RDP**

Funding through the NIRDP will provide an opportunity to make a significant investment in the environment. This expenditure will contribute to achieving a broad range of inter-connecting international, EU and domestic commitments and policy ambitions. These include:

Internationally:

- meeting significant legal obligations such as Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds and Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora: including delivery for those Annex 1 habitats and Annex 2 species prioritised for conservation action under the Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000;
- EU 7th Environmental Action Programme (Decision No. 1386/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 November 2013 on a General Union Environment Action Programme to 2020 “Living well, within the limits of our planet”);The Biodiversity 2020 Strategy (European Parliament resolution of 20 April 2012 on our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 (2011/2307(INI)); EU Forestry Strategy; Regulation 1143/2014 on invasive alien species, Resource efficiency: [http://ec.europa.eu/resource-efficient-europe/pdf/resource\\_efficient\\_europe\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/resource-efficient-europe/pdf/resource_efficient_europe_en.pdf); EU 2020 targets for climate change
- Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water in particular to be delivered through measures in the second round of River Basin Management Plans;
- the Convention on Biological Diversity and the EU Biodiversity Strategy (through supporting the aims of Biodiversity 2020) including delivery for those prioritised for conservation action under the Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000;
- Ramsar Convention and European Landscape Convention

Domestic legislation on:

- climate change adaptation and mitigation (Climate Change Act (2008));
- Nitrates Action Programme 2015-2018;
- The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (NI) 2003
- The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002; and
- The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012

### **EU Objective 3 – Territorial Development of Rural Areas - Priority 6**

#### **Rural Population**

There are different definitions of rural which reflect different perceptions or the geographical basis upon

which statistical data is available. DAERA's preferred definition is the 'settlement patterns' definition whereby those settlements defined as small towns and above (i.e. a population above 5,000) would be classified as urban and those settlements with populations below 5,000 would be classified as rural. This equates to around 37% of the population living in rural areas. However, DAERA recognises that there needs to be a degree of flexibility used when defining rural areas.

In 2011, using the Local Government District (LGD) based definition of the rural population, 33 % of the total population are less accessible rural, 31 % are more accessible rural and overall 64% are rural. These figures differ from the settlements definition of rural since the LGD based definition classifies a much greater proportion of the population as rural.

A census of the population takes place every ten years and estimates for the years in-between are produced at the LGD level. The urban population is expected to remain close to current levels over the projection period, while the accessible rural and less accessible rural populations are expected to increase.

### **Earnings**

Average gross weekly earnings increased in 2012 in accessible and less accessible rural areas. From 2007 to 2012 the average gross weekly earnings of people in rural areas were consistently below those living in urban areas. Between 2011 and 2012 the gap decreased between those living in urban and less accessible rural areas it also decreased between those living in accessible rural areas and those living in less accessible rural areas.

Table 1 (attached): Average Gross Weekly Earnings per Person [21] expressed as £ per week.

### **Rural Business**

In 2012 Agriculture was the dominant industry group in the Accessible Rural and Less Accessible Rural areas, accounting for 23 and 35 %, respectively, of total VAT registered businesses. Businesses involved in construction were second most prevalent, while those involved in retail were the third most prevalent.

### **Rural Employment**

NI is a small business economy, with micro businesses (<10 employees) accounting for 89% of the total number of firms. Given the importance of agriculture in rural areas (normally farmers are sole traders with few or no PAYE employees) it is a little surprising that the distribution of micro business is not more skewed between rural/urban areas. In fact while around 91% of rural businesses have fewer than 10 employees, the number of micro businesses, as a share of total businesses in the urban zone, is also very high at 83%.

### **Diversification into non-agricultural activities**

One source of non-farm income is diversification e.g. commercial activities that use farm resources such as land, buildings and machinery for non-agricultural purposes. Data on the popularity of these activities has only been collected since 2000, when 5% of farms were found to have some type of non-agricultural diversification. The most recent information available is for 2010 and shows no change, with 5% of farms recording some non-agricultural use of farm resources.

The three most popular diversified activities are tourism, direct sales of farm products, and equine sports.

However, diversification is considerably lower in Northern Ireland than is the case for England where, using a similar definition, about 18% of farms were found to have some diversified activity in 2010.

### **Access to Services**

Research undertaken by AFBI [22] in 2012 involved a survey of some 2,500 urban and rural households across NI which focused on identifying what difficulties, if any, those living in rural areas encounter when accessing public services compared to their urban counterparts. One of the aims of the study was to examine the 'experiences of service access' for those in relatively more deprived households.

The survey identified that, for rural dwellers in general accessing public services can cost more and take longer travel time, compared to individuals living in urban areas. Most rural dwellers access key services by private transport (car), due to a lack of suitable public transport. On the whole, in accessing key services and employment, rural households pay more towards their weekly motoring costs than their urban counterparts.

Evidence also suggests that for vulnerable low income rural households, those with young children and the elderly, accessing services can be more difficult (see Rural Households' Experience of Accessing Public Services in Northern Ireland, Preliminary Findings, 2012).

The attached map in Figure 1 shows the Proximity to Services Domain ranks for NI. The distribution of proximity to services deprivation is unlike all of the other domains and captures an important aspect of deprivation. The highest concentrations of deprivation with respect to proximity to services occur outside of towns and cities.

### **Tourism**

According to the government department with responsibility for Tourism an estimated 40,000 jobs are sustained by tourism or 5.6% of the total NI workforce (June 2012). The economic importance of tourism to the various regions of the UK has recently been analysed by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) [23]. The tourism ratio for NI [24], which shows the importance of tourism expenditure in driving output, was estimated to be 2.4%. This was the lowest of the twelve UK regions, and well below areas such as Cornwall (11.0%), where the economy is highly dependent on tourism. The same research estimated that the contribution to the NI economy in 2008 in terms of direct GVA was £0.7bn. With NI lagging behind even the UK average, this demonstrates the potential to increase the contribution tourism makes to the economy.

Rural areas support a higher concentration of tourism jobs although stakeholders are of the view that there is a lack of coordination across the rural tourism sector and there are opportunities to develop cultural and outdoor recreational tourism. Statistics published by the NI Statistics and Research Agency [25] indicate that much of the external tourism is concentrated around Belfast. There were nearly 1 million external visitors per year (2011 and 2012) to the Belfast City and Greater Belfast Key Destination Area (KDA) accounting for 52% of all visitors' spend in NI. Fewer external visitors (369,000 or 18%) made an overnight visit to Local Government Districts (LGD) in the Causeway Coast and Glens, with the Mourne (166,000 or 8%) and Derry/Londonderry (158,000 or 8%) being the next most visited destinations. After Belfast City and Greater Belfast KDA (89%), serviced accommodation in Derry/Londonderry KDA was the next most reliant on external visitors, with such visitors accounting for some 61% of nights spent in hotels, guesthouses, B&Bs, etc. This is consistent with the visitor survey sources which showed Derry/Londonderry LGD capturing a larger share of the external visitor market. In contrast, areas such as Strangford (22%), the Mourne (26%) and Fermanagh (30%) had a lower percentage of nights in serviced accommodation

accounted for by external visitors.

### **Communication Technologies**

Connectivity is an essential requirement to support the economic, social and industrial development of NI. Telecommunications is viewed as a basic necessity to support the development of communications, innovation, social inclusion and global competitiveness. In 2005 NI became the first region in Europe to have 100% access to first generation broadband (512kbps). The most recent survey undertaken by NISRA indicates that some 71% of households have access to the internet and of those that do, 95% have a broadband connection.

Whilst 2G mobile coverage in NI is comparable with the rest of the UK (88% of premises have outdoor coverage from all three 2G networks), coverage of 3G appears to be less extensive. Analysis by Ofcom suggests that only 56% of premises in NI are served by all four 3G networks compared to the UK average of 77%. It is estimated that 12% of premises are unable to receive a reliable signal from any 3G operator in NI compared with only 0.9% for the UK as a whole (see Table 2 below)

Table 2 (attached): 3G coverage by UK nation

Only 13% of NI rural premises have signal from all 3G operators compared to the UK average of 23%. Just over one in three premises in rural areas (34.8%) have no 3G coverage at all compared to only 6.3% in the UK. NI also lags behind the UK in terms of semi-urban 3G coverage. Only one in five premises has signal from all 3G operators (compared to over 51% in the UK) whilst 6.5% have no 3G coverage.

Table 3 (attached): 3G coverage by urban, semi-urban and rural areas

### **Equality and Non-discrimination**

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act (1998) requires public authorities to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity and the promotion of good relations across a range of nine population groups (religion, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender, disability and dependants). An Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) was carried out on the RDP proposals to assess the likely impact of the RDP on these groups and to suggest what measures or alternative policies should be considered to mitigate any adverse impacts identified, where possible. The results of the equality analysis have been incorporated into the SWOT analysis.

**Figure 1: Forest extent, hectares by year, after (Graham, 1981) and (Forestry Commission, 2014)**

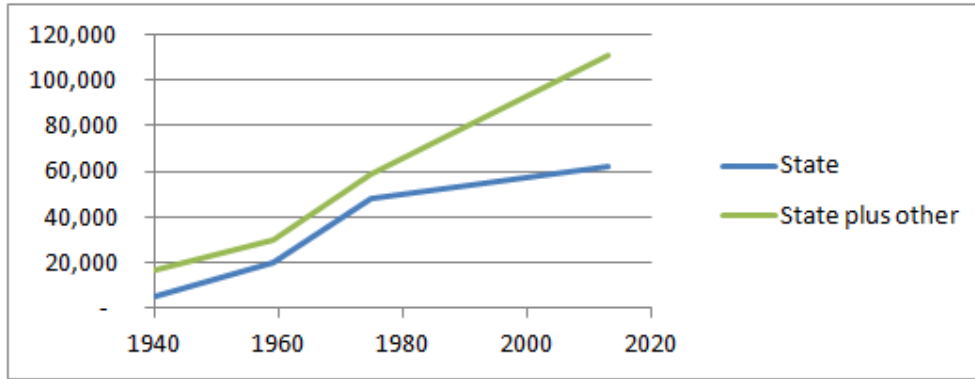


Figure 1: Forest extent, hectares by year, after (Graham, 1981) and (Forestry Commission, 2014)

**Table 1: Average Gross Weekly Earnings per Person<sup>23</sup> expressed as £ per week.**

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Urban	473.52	486.77	499.55	520.68	532.97	523.48
Accessible Rural	439.11	454.80	480.26	472.43	490.21	504.39
Less Accessible Rural	405.51	432.18	439.53	451.97	428.78	452.24

Average weekly earnings

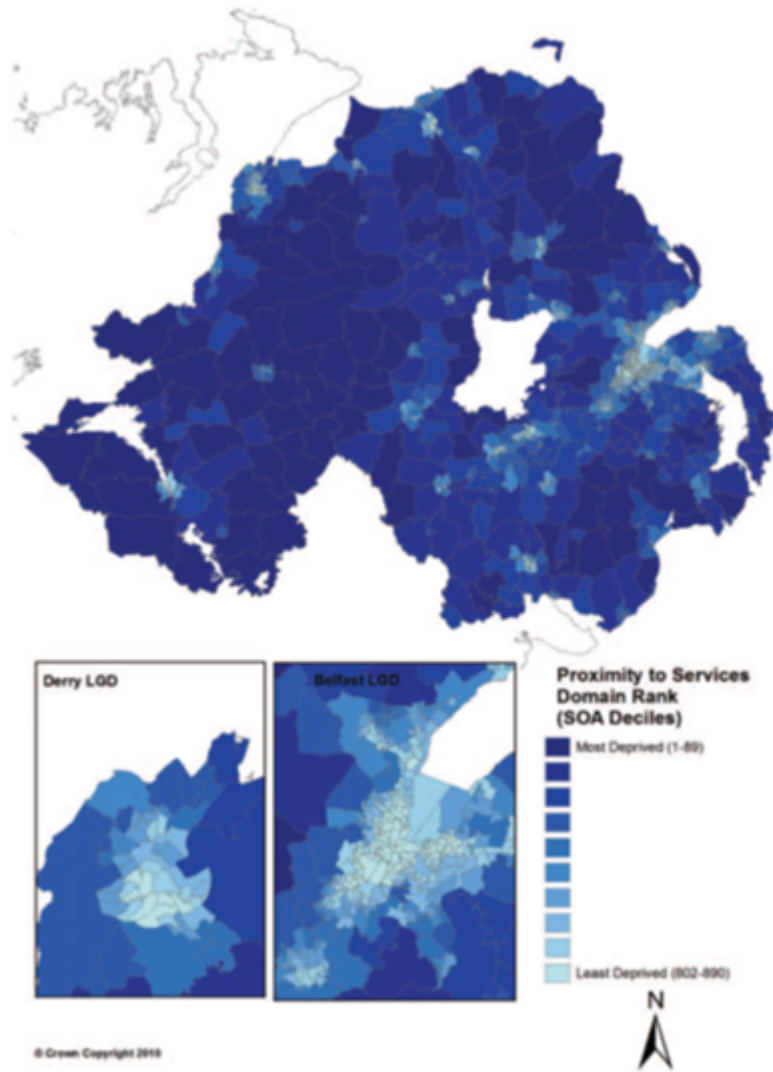


Figure 2 - Map showing proximity to services

Map showing proximity to Services



**Table 2: 3G coverage by UK nation**

	3G			
	Geographic Coverage		Premises Coverage	
	No signal from any operator	Signal from all operators	No signal from any operator	Signal from all operators
England	6.0%	31.3%	0.3%	80.5%
Scotland	50.8%	5.2%	3.0%	68.0%
Northern Ireland	49.4%	10.5%	11.7%	55.9%
Wales	22.1%	9.8%	2.4%	52.4%
UK	24.3%	19.9%	0.9%	77.3%

Source: Ofcom / Operators



**Table 2: 3G coverage**

**Table 3: 3G coverage by urban, semi-urban and rural areas**

	Urban		Semi-urban		Rural	
	No signal from any operator	Signal from all operators	No signal from any operator	Signal from all operators	No signal from any operator	Signal from all operators
England	0.0%	96.5%	0.1%	54.7%	2.1%	25.3%
Scotland	0.0%	92.0%	0.3%	42.1%	15.1%	12.0%
Northern Ireland	0.0%	93.4%	6.5%	20.7%	34.5%	13.0%
Wales	0.0%	87.2%	0.4%	34.9%	10.2%	12.2%
UK	0.0%	95.3%	0.3%	51.2%	6.3%	23.0%



**Table 3: 3G coverage by urban, semi-urban and rural areas**

3G Coverage

- [1] Statistical Review of NI Agriculture, NI DARD
- [2] Statistical Review of NI Agriculture, NI DARD
- [3] Northern Ireland Agri-Food Sector Key Statistics June 2012, NI DARD
- [4] EU Farm Structure Survey, NI, DARD
- [5] Jack, C.G. and M.T. Wallace (2009) Educational Attainment of Farm Operators in Northern Ireland: Results from the AFBI Farm Household Survey 2008. AFBI Research Report.
- [6] LANTRA (2010) A Skills Assessment for the Environmental and Land based Sector in Northern Ireland.
- [7] Jack, C.G., D. Anderson and N. Connolly (2012) Innovation and Skills: Implications for the Agri-food Sector. AFBI Policy Brief.
- [8] Study of the Economic Value of Northern Ireland's Historic Environment, Department of the Environment 2012
- [9] Statistical Review of Northern Ireland Agriculture, 2013 (DARD NI 2014)
- [10] DARD NI 2012
- [11] Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 Northern Ireland
- [12] DOENI, Northern Ireland Environment Agency
- [13] Gibbons et al. 1993; Siriwardena et al. 1998; Gregory et al. 2004
- [14] Fuller et al. 1995
- [15] Newton 2004; Wilson et al. 2009
- [16] Wilson et al. 2009
- [17] Peach et al. 1999; Siriwardena et al. 2007
- [18] Gillings et al. 2005; Whittingham et al. 2005
- [19] Caslin, B., Finnan, J., Johnston, C., McCracken, A. R., Walsh, L. (eds). 2015. Short Rotation Coppice Willow Best Practice Guidelines. (ISBN 1-84170-610-8)
- [20] "Use of Short Rotation Coppice (SRC) willow for the bioremediation of effluents and leachates: current knowledge", published by the ANSWER (Agricultural Need for Sustainable Willow Effluent Recycling) project. 2014
- [21] LGD based definition of Rural Areas is used. Source: NISRA (NINIS website: <http://www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk/>) NB Survey methodology changed in 2004 and 2006 therefore creating discontinuity in the time series; data for previous years therefore are not directly comparable. Source: DETI, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings.

SWOT references (1)

- [22] AFBI (2012) Rural Households' Experience of Accessing Public Services in Northern Ireland, Preliminary Findings, 2012.
- [23] The Sub-Regional Value of Tourism in the UK in 2008, October 2011, ONS
- [24] The Tourism Ratio is a measure of the economic importance of the tourism sector within regions as it shows the relationship between tourism demand and supply. For further details see the ONS publication as referenced above.
- [25] [http://www.detini.gov.uk/tourism\\_statistics\\_by\\_local\\_government\\_district\\_2011-2012.pdf?rev=0](http://www.detini.gov.uk/tourism_statistics_by_local_government_district_2011-2012.pdf?rev=0)

#### 4.1.2. Strengths identified in the programming area

##### **The Competitiveness of Agriculture**

**Significant Education and Training Provision** - DAERA, through CAFRE (College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise), commits significant resource (circa £20 million annually) to education and training and provides a broad range of interventions targeted at people entering or within the land based, food and rural sectors, including a broad range of people development programmes.

**Strong local research base and support for innovation** with significant industry engagement, coupled with examples of established technology exchange infrastructure. There is an existing University-Industry-Government relationship and facilities for entrepreneurs wishing to establish new innovative food businesses and established food businesses wishing to develop, test and commercialise new concepts without impacting on current factory operations.

**Quality Natural Resources and Growing Food Profile** NI has significant natural resources such as water, carbon rich soils and high quality grassland. There is a strong history and tradition of grass based livestock production systems. NI has an established and growing food product profile within the UK and the rest of Europe e.g. PGI Status for Lough Neagh Eels, Comber Potatoes and Armagh Bramley Apples.

**Large and growing agri-food sector** which accounts for a significant proportion of economic activity within NI. The sector accounts for almost a quarter of all manufacturing jobs and exports two thirds of its output to GB, Ireland and beyond. 90% of raw materials are sourced from local industry. The industry structure provides the flexibility to respond rapidly to market signals/new customer requirements.

##### **The Sustainable Management of Resources and Climate Actions**

**NI Government has devolved responsibility** for many areas of rural affairs, including agriculture and forestry and is able to respond regionally and locally to opportunities and threats and there is a strong legislative framework in place around notifiable plant and tree diseases. DAERA has a general duty in the Forestry Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 to promote afforestation and sustainable forestry. In relation to state forests this duty must be carried out in such a way to promote social benefits.

**NI has a large area of conservation value** land much of which is relevant to Natura 2000. In 2012 over 40% of agricultural land within Northern Ireland was under agri-environment agreement. Existing forests have a disproportionate contribution to nature conservation (about 25% of state forest and 10% of non state forest is within a designated area).

**NI is, for its size, one of the most geologically diverse regions of the world.**

**There are 9 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty** classified as “Protected Landscapes” and many upland blanket bogs and lowland raised bogs are designated Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) or given other protected status.

**NI has the highest density of hedgerows in the UK** which support biodiversity by providing a valuable

habitat for many species.

**The chemical quality of rivers has improved over the last decade.** Industrial discharge quality has also improved in recent years whilst drinking water quality remains the highest level of compliance since 2004, at 99.8%.

**Peatland covers 12% of the land area** of Northern Ireland. It is an important environmental resource in terms of distinctive upland and lowland landscapes, conserving biodiversity, and affecting river catchment hydrology.

**Established local coniferous timber-using industries,** with good access to consumer markets and increased social use of both state and non-state woodland.

**Good availability of natural resources** for potential use in renewable energy technologies.

**Over 90% of the agricultural area is grassland.** The temperate climate means the growing season is long and grass yields are high.

Although small, **the organic sector in NI is comprised of committed organic producers.** They have recently formed a producer group to represent and develop the local organic sector.

### **Territorial Development of Rural Areas**

**Integrated approach within government** with rural policy initiatives such as the Rural White Paper Action Plan and the Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation framework. Councils also have an established track record of proactivity and development.

**Established networks of LEADER groups and community support networks** in rural areas have strong track records of piloting and mainstreaming new approaches to service delivery.

**Rural areas exhibit a strong sense of community and local identity** with a strong and well developed community infrastructure.

**Attractive rural landscape and unspoilt environments,** numerous Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and ASSI designations and major tourism attractions in the Giant's Causeway, the Mourne Mountains and the Glens of Antrim.

**Rich natural and cultural heritage** – natural and manmade landscapes, land quality, architecture and heritage.

**Rural economy based primarily on the SME sector** with a variety of strong indigenous businesses.

**Strong Urban-Rural Linkages** - a rural proofing policy has been signed up to by all government departments.

#### 4.1.3. Weaknesses identified in the programming area

##### **The Competitiveness of Agriculture**

**Wide range of skills gaps** across the sector - farm workers in Northern Ireland (between 25 and 65), in general, have lower levels of educational attainment compared with males in the wider population[1] and 62% of working owners and 40% of farm employees do not hold any formal qualifications[2]. There is an inability to attract high academic achievers into the agri-food sector.

**Lower incomes on farms** - compared with the equivalent male working population, farm operators with off farm employment have a lower hourly wage. There is a lack of training and employment opportunities for young people in rural areas.

**Ageing on-farm infrastructure** which is not climate resilient and does not have sufficient capacity.

**Religious gap** between two main religious groups (Catholic and Protestant) is wider in rural areas and among farmers than NI as a whole.

**Limited awareness of research** across all sectors and smaller companies lack in-house resource to adopt innovative technologies.

**Relatively low level of genetic progress** being achieved, in particular in the beef and sheep sectors.

**Predominance of very small farm businesses** with many farms managed on a part time basis, farmed by those over 65, or in combination with off farm employment.

**Lack of market intelligence** and awareness of emerging markets within farming and relatively long lead in times to adjust production systems. Limited marketing and technical knowledge of woodland owners. Shortage of integrated land management skills and independent advice.

**Forestry commits land for the long term** and limits flexibility in farm planning. Combined with small land holdings farmers cannot afford to take land out of annual agricultural production and commit it to forestry. High costs during the establishment phase are incurred whilst benefits from forests are only significant in the long term.

**Knowledge transfer styles** are not sufficiently adapted to the target groups[3] and there is low evidence of peer group learning and development to support technology transfer activity[4].

**Generational renewal** – many farms are farmed by those over 65 and a farm can often be required to support more than one generation of farm family.

**Stakeholder view** that there has been limited capital investment in farms in recent years because of the prevailing economic climate and that the approach to capital grants is not joined up.

**Inability of large-scale productive farms to access extra land.**

**Production performance in the sector is variable** and there is a tendency toward low-tech production and local markets.

**Low levels of co-operation and collaboration** amongst local supply chain actors means the potential for

efficiency and growth is limited and there is increasing pressure for low margins.

**Greater distance from main markets** relative to other EU producers.

**Lack of economies of scale** within the industry relative to strong retailers and export customers.

**Lack of consumer awareness** about food production issues.

### **The Sustainable Management of Resources and Climate Actions**

**Environmental management is often considered a separate** rather than integral part of production systems and stakeholders cite a lack of environmental knowledge transfer and innovation. There is evidence that farmers are reluctant to join agri-environment schemes due to potential penalties incurred for non-compliance.

**Lack of integration of environmental skills** to ensure that farmers and agri-food businesses can comply with legislation.

**Weak forestry culture** within the land management sector.

**A high proportion of Natura 2000 sites are in unfavourable condition** status. 94% of Natura 2000 sites have no management plans.

**The Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000 (PAF)** notes that agri-environment schemes in the 2007-2013 programming period have provided relatively limited benefits for Natura 2000. Of the 51 priority habitats, 18 are in declining status, with the other remaining static.

**Limited information** on the current status of peatland and on soil structure, pH and nutrient profiles.

**Agricultural land under environmental stewardship is fragmented and expected to decline** in future due to a reluctance of some farmers to join.

**The highly fragmented system of land ownership** makes it difficult to get agreement on how land is managed at a landscape scale.

**Diffuse phosphorous pollution by agriculture** is a major contributor to the eutrophication of lakes and rivers. The biological quality of some rivers has not improved despite improvements in chemical quality.

**In 2013 only 34% of river waterbodies and 24% of lakes in NI were classed as having high or good overall classification under the Water Framework Directive** and there has been little improvement in recent years.

**The Freshwater Pearl Mussel** population is declining steadily in Northern Ireland with only three medium-sized populations remaining. Over many decades damage to suitable areas of streambed by river engineering and drainage operations and modern intensive agricultural practices leading to nutrient enrichment and pollution are two of the main causes of the decline.

**Hen harriers** suffered a large decline in numbers across Europe between 1970 and 1990 and the condition of the harriers' upland breeding grounds is the main concern, including some proposed wind farm developments. There is limited information available about the status of forest biodiversity, implementation

of sustainable forest management or the evaluation of forest ecosystem services.

**Lowest level of tree cover in Europe** - only 8%, it is the lowest of any of the UK regional territories with an overall decline in new planting limiting opportunities for carbon sequestration

**Low added value to timber** from previously unmanaged woodlands.

**Lack of time for forestry** businesses to address marketing, product development and growth.

**Woodland habitats and species are more vulnerable to climate change** because of the highly fragmented nature of many semi-natural woodlands. Current low rate of afforestation and generally small block sizes and fragmented distribution with limited species diversity limits scope to adjust to impacts from climate change and plant diseases.

**The nature of the grass-based agriculture sector**, which suits the local conditions, results in a high proportion of naturally occurring GHGs through the process of rumination. Less than 1% of the agricultural area in NI is currently farmed under organic certification. This is well below the EU average of 5.4%.

**Absence of nutrient management** plans on livestock farms.

**Inefficient application of nutrients** causes additional expense for farm businesses and results in greater than necessary GHG emissions.

**Lack of coordination across features** such as rivers, peatlands etc. and a lack of joining up to create wildlife corridors.

**Risk of land abandonment** on land classified as less favoured.

**Lack of understanding of the impacts of climate change** issues at farm level.

**High capital cost** of some equipment and facilities on farms to take climate change friendly actions e.g. renewable energy and slurry management.

**Electricity grid infrastructure** is weak and the costs associated with connection are high.

### **Territorial Development of Rural Areas**

**Pockets of high unemployment** and a limited range of employment opportunities in non traditional industries coupled with an ageing population.

**Lower average earnings** and higher costs of living and poverty in rural areas can be hidden and undocumented.

**Key barriers for minority groups** include language, cultural difference and underrepresentation on decision making organisations.

**Lack of co-ordination across grant/funding streams.**

**Lack of coordination across the rural tourism sector** and much of the external tourism concentrated on

cities and main tourist attractions.

**Poor appearance of many rural areas and places** including illegal dumping and rubbish along roadside.

**Lower level of business start up** in some rural areas.

**Poor access to key services** – access to local transport services can be limited in terms of routes and frequency; rural transport provision is often uncoordinated. Older people face potential inequality particularly in health and other social services.

**Quality of Broadband** is variable and very poor in some rural areas.

**Border regions**, and other parts of rural NI continue to suffer from the legacy of the conflict and continue to experience unlinked back to back development by both jurisdictions. This has contributed to a high degree of segregation and ‘single identity’ rural communities.

[1] AFBI Report at ([www.dardni.gov.uk/educational\\_attainment\\_of\\_farm\\_operatives\\_in\\_northern\\_ireland.pdf](http://www.dardni.gov.uk/educational_attainment_of_farm_operatives_in_northern_ireland.pdf))

[2] <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/research-reports-related-education-and-learning>

[3] The AFBI study suggested that ‘*providers of technology transfer must account for the age profile of the target group they are trying to engage with when designing advisory programmes*’, page 13

[4] The AFBI study commented that ‘*the proportion of producers attending farm based events, training courses and discussion groups was relatively low...the utilisation of these technology transfer routes was lower for smaller farms, part time farms and varied farm type therefore engaging with these groups may be more difficult*’ page. 74

#### 4.1.4. Opportunities identified in the programming area

##### **The Competitiveness of Agriculture**

**Encouraging innovators** and early adopters (of new products, processes, markets and business organisation) within farming and building on research/industry links established by AFBI, CAFRE, universities and the agri-food sector. Developing multi-disciplinary groups to advance innovation in the agriculture sector.

**Develop the organic sector** through producer co-operation and marketing, as well as supply chain development, to access markets that appreciate high quality produce from sustainable sources.

**Developing a joined up approach** to research and development and innovation initiatives across agri-environment, forestry and rural development through EU LIFE and Horizon 2020 programmes.

**Supporting European Innovation Partnership** operational groups to increase innovation and



dissemination of research and development in the food and drink sector in NI.

**Modernising farming** by developing productivity and incomes by improving practices, processes and business performance through increased use of technology and transfer of knowledge, including genetic improvement programmes aimed at improving competitiveness, environmental impact and increasingly health and welfare of livestock. Benchmarking to highlight the benefits of knowledge transfer. Further development of agricultural stakeholder networks and supply chains to support agricultural modernisation. Providing opportunities to share information and experience by enhancing supply chain transparency and linkages.

**Improving farm sustainability** by encouraging adoption of new approaches to farming and encouraging industry generational renewal by mentoring and training young people.

**Development of training** and different delivery methods to suit the learning style and different working patterns of the target beneficiary. Training for generic business skills such as record keeping, basic computing or IT, accounts, planning and organising, and communication skills.

**Reducing costs** by increasing ‘collective’ operations – sharing of resources/ equipment.

**Sharing best practice** and knowledge transfer across the EU through the European Innovation Partnership. Growing indigenous food processing businesses using successful entrepreneurs as mentors and positive examples. Many farmers have gained experience over many years and have valuable experience to share with other farmers.

**Developing methods of peer learning** through farm exchange visits to other Member states.

**Developing capital investment schemes** for coordinated infrastructure support. Programme supports early investment costs to establish woodland and allows the owner and society to benefit from longer term gains.

**Increasing the proportion of NI agricultural raw material that is processed in NI** and providing support and advice on new product development for higher value added products. Achieving premium prices on quality products by improving promotion and labelling and increasing development of internal and export markets for local products.

**Increasing awareness of NI as a Food Tourism destination**, expanding NI’s food product profile within Europe (and further afield) and developing a future mechanism of brand support to build on and increase the use of brand names across all food production.

### **The Sustainable Management of Resources and Climate Actions**

**Promoting environmental sustainability encompassing all of the following issues:**

**Targeting support towards the most naturally constrained land** to encourage continued sustainable agricultural activity and in turn support delicate ecosystems.

**Supporting and enhancing biodiversity**, including the management of Natura 2000 land, farmland habitat creation, maintenance and enhancement.

**Supporting the creation of areas of cereal, woodland and hedgerows** on farms will provide a mosaic of

habitats within the landscape that is largely grassland. This will provide space for field biodiversity.

**The improvement of the conservation status of Natura 2000 habitats and species** through land management and habitat restoration, and halting the loss of peat-land habitat.

**Provision of training on environmental issues** and specialist mentoring support for designated sites, priority species and habitats.

**Promoting** greenhouse gas reduction by implementing a series of on-farm efficiency measures which reduce the carbon intensity of local food production and also boost farm profitability. Climate change adaptation can also be addressed by adopting measures on farms to reduce the impact of extreme weather events on agricultural production systems.

**Reducing diffuse pollution** and sedimentation caused by agriculture to improve the biological quality of rivers and lakes to help achieve WFD targets. The Pesticides National Action Plan applies from 1 January 2014. It specifies the regulatory requirement for professional pesticide users to be certified or work under the supervision of a certificate holder, and that certification must include training on IPM.

**Safeguarding soils** by promoting more efficient application of nutrients, including organic fertilisers, as well as improvement of soil structure and pH levels. Improved nutrient management will contribute to better water quality and reduced GHG emissions.

**Developing an agricultural land use policy** to maximise the benefit derived from Northern Ireland's agricultural land base, identifying principles to ensure the most effective utilisation of all available land, taking into account the need for sustainable intensification and also the potential for land to contribute to shared objectives on biodiversity, sequestration and climate change adaptation. Promote afforestation on land with agricultural limitations and especially where woodland creation does not result in a loss of productive agricultural land.

The forecast is **increasing demand for organic food** provides an opportunity to increase the area of land farmed organically in NI and the resulting environmental benefits linked to organic farming methods.

**Maximising the amount of carbon locked within farming and forestry systems** through sequestration by supporting enhanced management of our agricultural carbon stores, soils, grass, hedges and woodland.

**Increasing woodland cover and encouraging sustainable management of existing woodland to sequester carbon.** Encouraging the management of undermanaged woodland through promotion of the wood fuel market. Encouraging small woodland creation on farms through agri-environment schemes, planting on marginal land and increasing the recreational use of woodland. 4,000 hectares (8%) of non-state woodland is in receipt of woodland support under the 2007-2013 Rural Development Programme.

**Increasing adoption of energy saving and conservation techniques** to improve resource efficiency such as carrying out energy audits to match usage to optimum tariffs.

**Rising fossil fuel costs** may have a limiting impact on fertiliser usage and encourage more use of organic material.

**Territorial Development of Rural Areas**

**More joint working across government and engaging with the whole rural community** in tackling poverty and promoting social inclusion in rural areas. Joining up the approach with Invest Northern Ireland (INI) and Tourist Board for business support.

**Review of Public Administration increasing Council involvement** in community planning complementing the Rural Development Programme.

**Developing innovative solutions to service delivery** recognising and building upon the success of community networks that have delivered across a range of objectives and reducing inequality of access for older people.

**Building on the diversification of farming businesses into services and other sectors** increasing employment and training opportunities for young people.

**Developing cultural and outdoor recreational tourism** that is landscape and nature based and in line with Government Tourism priorities for NI.

**Improving the appearance of some areas and access to the countryside** to stimulate tourism in NI and capitalising on increased interest in walking and other 'low-key' activities and in local cultures.

**Maximising ICT and Broadband opportunities to compete in the global marketplace and support DAERA Online Services** which are free and have been developed to meet the needs of Northern Ireland farmers and growers.

**Developing young rural leaders and entrepreneurs** and strengthening existing community structures by developing a rural community development apprenticeship programme, increasing the number of skilled practitioners in rural communities.

**Increasing cross border and cross community cooperation.**

#### 4.1.5. Threats identified in the programming area

##### **The Competitiveness of Agriculture**

**Risks associated with innovative solutions** can deter companies from investing in research and development and increasing numbers of part time farmers means there is less time/focus for innovation on farm.

**Competing priorities for funding** will result in funds not being adequately focused on research and development and innovation.

**Resistance to adopting new technologies** or the benefits from increased knowledge in some sectors of the industry due to the current financial climate, difficulties securing financing etc. Smaller companies will face increasing difficulty in successfully supplying national retailers if they cannot adopt new technologies in their processes/products.

**Significant woodland expansion requires a major change in attitude** in land management to see forestry as a viable land use.

**Heavy reliance on support** from the Common Agricultural Policy and adapting to reform of the EU Common Agricultural Policy Post 2013, including the move to a flat rate Pillar 1 payment.

**Disruption due to climate change and extreme weather events** – in the short and medium term agricultural production can be affected for example through increased feed and fodder costs, damage to infrastructure and livestock and disease outbreaks.

**Effect of food scares**, for example, product authenticity (horsemeat) on consumer confidence and buying patterns.

**Vulnerability to fluctuations in the Euro** exchange rate, which can affect market prices and subsidies and have a major impact on business.

**Increasing regulation, global nature of market** and EU and local legislative proposals for regional approach to GHG reduction may hamper growth and lead to relocation of processors.

**Volatility of costs of production** – increasing cost of feed inputs is damaging industry competitiveness and eroding farm returns. Lack of raw materials to grow business.

**Continued consolidation of retail chains** on a national and global basis.

**Removal of dairy quotas in 2015** may lead to a surge in output, increasing competition and reducing returns.

### **The Sustainable Management of Resources and Climate Actions**

**Encouraging unsustainable or environmentally damaging practices** through unintended consequences of drive for competitiveness and growth.

**Introduction of new pests and diseases** such as Phytophthora spp which may cause environmental, social and economic impacts across all rural sectors due to the increased movement of biological materials around the world for trade.

**Invasive non native species** reducing the value of our natural environment and its ecosystems

**Impact on sensitive woodland habitats and species** of small climate changes.

**Increased risk of land abandonment** as farmers see no value in continuing to farm smallholdings in areas classed as less favoured due to lower productivity and returns, and lack of alternative use.

**The number of organic producers and processors** in NI fell by 7.4% in 2013, with 150 organic producers and 39 processors. There is a threat that without adequate support the organic sector in NI could decline further.

**Impact of rising fossil fuel costs** on competitiveness, profitability and therefore sustainability.

**Possible re-banding and reform of electricity generating initiatives.**

**Further regulations if carbon reduction targets are not met. Failure to meet WFD targets** if further action is not taken to improve water management.

### **Territorial Development of Rural Areas**

**Increase in unemployment generally and amongst older men** - decreasing number of jobs available and ongoing decline in traditional industries that would have been strong in rural areas e.g. agriculture, construction and manufacturing.

**Outward migration of young people** – risk of local tradition of emigration reawakening due to economic downturn.

**Recession and depopulation contributing to a loss of skills in rural areas.**

**Hidden deprivation, poverty and social isolation** in marginal rural areas and communities and lack of monitoring data to identify impacts on minority groups.

**Lack of affordable housing and childcare.**

**Ongoing rationalisation and centralisation of key public services** including health and education.

**Reduction in public sector and grant funding.**

**Planning restrictions and lack of private match funding** limiting potential community and private sector investment.

**Continued high level of racism/sectarianism in some rural communities** – impacts on economies of scale for service provision and negative impact on rural sustainability in the long term.

**Protest/civil unrest** will continue to have a negative impact on the potential for tourism in the region.

#### 4.1.6. Common Context Indicators

<b>I Socio-economic and rural situation</b>					
<b>1 Population</b>					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total	Inhabitants	1,814,842	2012 p		
rural	% of total	23.2	2012 p		
intermediate	% of total	38.9	2012 p		
urban	% of total	37.9	2012 p		
specific rural definition used for targets T21; T22 and T24 (if relevant)	% of total				
<b>2 Age Structure</b>					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total < 15 years	% of total population	19.8	2012 p		
total 15 - 64 years	% of total population	65.4	2012 p		
total > 64 years	% of total population	14.9	2012 p		
rural <15 years	% of total population	21.4	2012 p		
rural 15 - 64 years	% of total population	54.9	2012 p		
rural > 64 years	% of total population	13.3	2012 p		
<b>3 Territory</b>					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total	Km2	14,130	2012		
rural	% of total area	46.4	2012		
intermediate	% of total area	46.9	2012		
urban	% of total area	6.8	2012		
<b>4 Population Density</b>					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total	Inhab / km2	132.6	2010		
rural	Inhab / km2	66.2	2010		
<b>5 Employment Rate</b>					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total (15-64 years)	%	66.2	2012		
male (15-64 years)	%	70.2	2012		
female (15-64 years)	%	62.3	2012		
* rural (thinly populated) (15-64 years)	%	68	2011		
total (20-64 years)	%	72	2012		
male (20-64 years)	%	76.4	2012		
female (20-64 years)	%	67.7	2012		
<b>6 Self-employment rate</b>					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total (15-64 years)	%	13.4	2012		
<b>7 Unemployment rate</b>					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total (15-74 years)	%	7.4	2012		
youth (15-24 years)	%	19	2012		

rural (thinly populated) (15-74 years)	%	5.1	2012		
youth (15-24 years)	%	12.6	2012		
8 GDP per capita					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total	Index PPS (EU-27 = 100)	86	2010		
* rural	Index PPS (EU-27 = 100)	68.3	2010		
9 Poverty rate					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total	% of total population	22.7	2011		
Comment: <i>national rate</i>					
* rural (thinly populated)	% of total population	17.1	2011		
Comment: <i>national rate</i>					
10 Structure of the economy (GVA)					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total	EUR million	33,986.5	2010		
primary	% of total	1.1	2010		
secondary	% of total	24.9	2010		
tertiary	% of total	74	2010		
rural	% of total	18.4	2010		
intermediate	% of total	34.3	2010		
urban	% of total	47.3	2010		
11 Structure of Employment					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total	1000 persons	762.3	2010		
primary	% of total	3.7	2010		
secondary	% of total	21.8	2010		
tertiary	% of total	74.4	2010		
rural	% of total	23.1	2010		
intermediate	% of total	40	2010		
urban	% of total	36.8	2010		
12 Labour productivity by economic sector					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total	EUR/person	44,584.2	2010		
primary	EUR/person	13,545.8	2010		
secondary	EUR/person	50,853.4	2010		
tertiary	EUR/person	44,299.2	2010		
rural	EUR/person	35,434.5	2010		
intermediate	EUR/person	38,177.3	2010		
urban	EUR/person	57,277.3	2010		

II Agriculture/Sectorial analysis					
13 Employment by economic activity					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total	1000 persons	799.2	2012		
agriculture	1000 persons	26.8	2012		
agriculture	% of total	3.3	2012		
forestry	1000 persons	0.4	2012		
Comment: <i>unreliable</i>					
forestry	% of total	0	2012		
Comment: <i>unreliable</i>					
food industry	1000 persons	21.6	2012		
food industry	% of total	2.7	2012		
tourism	1000 persons	36.2	2012		
tourism	% of total	4.5	2012		
14 Labour productivity in agriculture					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total	EUR/AWU	11,156.4	2009 - 2011 e		
15 Labour productivity in forestry					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total	EUR/AWU	214	2011 p		
16 Labour productivity in the food industry					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total	EUR/person	56,604.4	2010 e		
17 Agricultural holdings (farms)					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total	No	23,460	2010		
farm size <2 Ha	No	270	2010		
farm size 2-4.9 Ha	No	680	2010		
farm size 5-9.9 Ha	No	2,840	2010		
farm size 10-19.9 Ha	No	5,180	2010		
farm size 20-29.9 Ha	No	3,860	2010		
farm size 30-49.9 Ha	No	4,600	2010		
farm size 50-99.9 Ha	No	4,210	2010		
farm size >100 Ha	No	1,830	2010		
farm economic size <2000 Standard Output (SO)	No	200	2010		
farm economic size 2.000 - 3.999 SO	No	1,070	2010		
farm economic size 4.000 - 7.999 SO	No	3,440	2010		
farm economic size 8.000 - 14.999 SO	No	4,660	2010		



farm economic size 15.000 - 24.999 SO	No	3,910	2010		
farm economic size 25.000 - 49.999 SO	No	4,010	2010		
farm economic size 50.000 - 99.999 SO	No	2,410	2010		
farm economic size 100.000 - 249.999 SO	No	2,420	2010		
farm economic size 250.000 - 499.999 SO	No	1,010	2010		
farm economic size > 500.000 SO	No	330	2010		
average physical size	ha UAA/holding	41.6	2010		
average economic size	EUR of SO/holding	63,609.49	2010		
average size in labour units (persons)	Persons/holding	2.1	2010		
average size in labour units (AWU)	AWU/holding	1.2	2010		
18 Agricultural Area					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total UAA	ha	976,820	2010		
arable	% of total UAA	17.4	2010		
permanent grassland and meadows	% of total UAA	82.4	2010		
permanent crops	% of total UAA	0.2	2010		
19 Agricultural area under organic Farming					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
certified	ha UAA	3,050	2010		
in conversion	ha UAA	0	2010		
share of UAA (both certified and conversion)	% of total UAA	0.3	2010		
20 Irrigated Land					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total	ha	0	2010		
share of UAA	% of total UAA	0	2010		
21 Livestock units					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total	lsu	1,571,180	2010		
22 Farm labour force					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total regular farm labour force	Persons	50,310	2010		
total regular farm labour force	AWU	27,710	2010		
23 Age structure of farm managers					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total number of farm managers	No	23,450	2010		
share of < 35 y	% of total managers	4.9	2010		
ratio <35 / >= 55 y	No of young managers by 100 elderly managers	9.2	2010		
24 Agricultural training of farm managers					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
share of total managers with basic and full agricultural training	% of total	10.1	2010		
share of manager < 35 y with basic and full agricultural training	% of total	20.9	2010		
25 Agricultural factor income					

Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total	EUR/AWU	18,022.9	2009 e		
total (index)	Index 2005 = 100	112.3	2009 e		
<b>26 Agricultural Entrepreneurial Income</b>					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
Standard of living of farmers	EUR/AWU	9,717	2013 e		
Standard of living of farmers as a share of the standard of living of persons employed in other sectors	%	NA			
<b>27 Total factor productivity in agriculture</b>					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total (index)	Index 2005 = 100	102.5	2009 - 2011		
Comment: <i>national index</i>					
<b>28 Gross fixed capital formation in agriculture</b>					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
GFCF	EUR million	502.62	2009		
share of GVA in agriculture	% of GVA in agriculture	138.7	2009		
<b>29 Forest and other wooded land (FOWL) (000)</b>					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total	1000 ha	105	2012		
share of total land area	% of total land area	7.8	2012		
<b>30 Tourism infrastructure</b>					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
bed-places in collective establishments	No of bed-places	35,863	2011		
rural	% of total	50	2011		
intermediate	% of total	40	2011		
urban	% of total	10	2011		

III Environment/climate						
31 Land Cover						
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year	
share of agricultural land	% of total area	70.4	2006			
share of natural grassland	% of total area	7.8	2006			
share of forestry land	% of total area	4.3	2006			
share of transitional woodland shrub	% of total area	0.9	2006			
share of natural land	% of total area	8.1	2006			
share of artificial land	% of total area	4.3	2006			
share of other area	% of total area	4.2	2006			
32 Areas with Natural Constraints						
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year	
total	% of total UAA	70	2012			
mountain	% of total UAA	NA				
other	% of total UAA	NA				
specific	% of total UAA	NA				
33 Farming intensity						
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year	
low intensity	% of total UAA	47.4	2007			
medium intensity	% of total UAA	22.5	2007			
high intensity	% of total UAA	30.1	2007			
grazing	% of total UAA	0	2010			
34 Natura 2000 areas						
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year	
share of the territory	% of territory	7.8	2011			
share of UAA (incl. natural grassland)	% of UAA	1.8	2011			
share of total forestry area	% of forest area	17.8	2011			
35 Farmland Birds index (FBI)						
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year	
total (index)	Index 2000 = 100	NA				
36 Conservation status of agricultural habitats (grassland)						
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year	
favourable	% of assessments of habitats	0	2010			
Comment: <i>UK figures</i>						
unfavourable - inadequate	% of assessments of habitats	0	2010			
Comment: <i>UK figures</i>						
unfavourable - bad	% of assessments of habitats	100	2010			
Comment: <i>UK figures</i>						
unknown	% of assessments of habitats	0	2010			
Comment: <i>UK figures</i>						

37 HNV Farming						
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year	
total	% of total UAA	NA				
38 Protected Forest						
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year	
class 1.1	% of FOWL area	0.1	2010			
Comment: <i>UK figures</i>						
class 1.2	% of FOWL area	1.1	2010			
Comment: <i>UK figures</i>						
class 1.3	% of FOWL area	6.3	2010			
Comment: <i>UK figures</i>						
class 2	% of FOWL area	8.3	2010			
Comment: <i>UK figures</i>						
39 Water Abstraction in Agriculture						
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year	
total	1000 m3	0	2010			
40 Water Quality						
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year	
Potential surplus of nitrogen on agricultural land	kg N/ha/year	121	2012 p			
Potential surplus of phosphorus on agricultural land	kg P/ha/year	13.6	2012			
Nitrates in freshwater - Surface water: High quality	% of monitoring sites	100	2014			
Nitrates in freshwater - Surface water: Moderate quality	% of monitoring sites	0	2014			
Nitrates in freshwater - Surface water: Poor quality	% of monitoring sites	0	2014			
Nitrates in freshwater - Groundwater: High quality	% of monitoring sites	96	2014			
Nitrates in freshwater - Groundwater: Moderate quality	% of monitoring sites	2	2014			
Nitrates in freshwater - Groundwater: Poor quality	% of monitoring sites	2	2014			
41 Soil organic matter in arable land						
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year	
Total estimates of organic carbon content	mega tons	22	2005			
Mean organic carbon content	g kg-1	39	2005			
42 Soil Erosion by water						
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year	
rate of soil loss by water erosion	tonnes/ha/year	0.7	2008			
agricultural area affected	1000 ha	7,455	2008			
agricultural area affected	% of agricultural area	0.7	2008			
43 Production of renewable Energy from agriculture and forestry						
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year	
from agriculture	kToe	NA	2013 p			
Comment: <i>Total installed capacity of biomass generating 7.8MW</i>						
from forestry	kToe	NA				
44 Energy use in agriculture, forestry and food industry						

Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
agriculture and forestry	kToe	NA			
use per ha (agriculture and forestry)	kg of oil equivalent per ha of UAA	NA			
food industry	kToe	NA			
45 GHG emissions from agriculture					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total agriculture (CH4 and N2O and soil emissions/removals)	1000 t of CO2 equivalent	20	2011		
share of total GHG Emissions	% of total net emissions	28	2011		

#### 4.1.7. Programme-Specific Context Indicators

Sector	Code	Indicator name	Value	Unit	Year
III Environment/climate	PSCI02	Renewable energy generated by installed capacity	7.8	MW	2013
Comment: <i>Used in place of CI43</i>					
I Socio-economic and rural situation	PSCI01	Population	0	% of total	2011
Comment: <i>Indicator will be provided in keeping with the settlements definition once this data becomes available</i>					

## 4.2. Needs assessment

Title (or reference) of the need	P1			P2		P3		P4			P5					P6			Cross cutting objectives		
	1A	1B	1C	2A	2B	3A	3B	4A	4B	4C	5A	5B	5C	5D	5E	6A	6B	6C	Environment	Climate change mitigation and adaptation	Innovation
Need for capital investment in the industry to improve Animal and Plant Health and Health and Safety on farms				X								X		X					X	X	X
Need for capital investment in the industry to improve ability to be more climate and weather resilient				X								X		X					X	X	X
Need for capital investment in the industry to improve on-farm resource and production efficiency				X		X						X		X					X	X	X
Need for improved food units/ manufacturing facilities.				X		X															X
Need for improved genetic selection in the red meat sector		X		X		X								X					X	X	X
Need for improvement in the ecological statue of rivers and water catchments								X	X	X									X	X	
Need for increased efficiency in energy use												X	X						X	X	
Need for non-native invasive species action								X	X	X									X	X	
Need to address low levels of educational attainment and the skills gaps within the industry	X	X	X	X								X		X	X				X	X	X
Need to assist businesses located in rural areas																X	X				X
Need to combat poverty and social isolation in rural areas																X	X				X

Need to encourage cooperation between jurisdictions in border areas																	X				X	
Need to encourage diversification and entrepreneurship in rural areas																X	X					X
Need to encourage landowners to realise the economic benefits of their woodland				X											X				X	X		X
Need to encourage tourism in rural areas																X	X					X
Need to ensure generational renewal within the farming industry				X	X														X	X		X
Need to halt the loss of habitats								X	X	X									X	X		
Need to help preserve the cultural and social uniqueness and beauty of rural villages																		X				X
Need to improve infrastructure and access to basic services																	X	X				X
Need to improve management of land to increase efficiencies and contribute to improved environmental and/or climate outcomes								X	X	X				X	X				X	X		
Need to increase employment opportunities in rural areas																X	X					X
Need to increase industry awareness and engagement with research and innovation and facilitate the uptake of new technologies	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X				X	X		X
Need to increase opportunities for carbon sequestration															X				X	X		
Need to increase recreational access to woodland																	X		X	X		
Need to increase woodland cover								X	X	X					X				X	X		
Need to protect farmland birds								X											X	X		





#### 4.2.1. Need for capital investment in the industry to improve Animal and Plant Health and Health and Safety on farms

##### Priorities/Focus Areas

- 2A) Improving the economic performance of all farms and facilitating farm restructuring and modernisation, notably with a view to increasing market participation and orientation as well as agricultural diversification
- 5B) Increasing efficiency in energy use in agriculture and food processing
- 5D) Reducing green house gas and ammonia emissions from agriculture

##### Cross cutting objectives

- Environment
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Innovation

##### Description

Improved biosecurity and reduced threats from disease.

NI has through the SWOT and from the WFNA survey identified that there is a need to improve farm structures to improve the health of animals and plants. Farmers recognise that the facilities they currently have for the handling of animals are inadequate to provide for the welfare of animals and the health and safety of the herd keeper. Additionally, there is the need to continually modernise farming, develop productivity and incomes by improving practices, processes and business performance through increased use of technology and transfer of knowledge, including improving animal health and welfare, disease reduction and enhanced biosecurity. Farmer health and safety continues to be central to all proposed developments.

Farmers have indicated that they would like to invest in facilities that will provide an environment that will provide a higher degree of comfort to the modern day animal and husbandry methods.. Examples of investments that have been proposed include the enhancement of concrete slats with new comfort flooring systems which encourage more natural livestock lying behaviours therefore increasing the animals efficiency. The modern dairy cow is also beginning to outgrow the outdated cubicle housing systems and new structures would again provide a greater degree of comfort and improved animal health benefits by improving the ventilation. As the majority of livestock housing is seen to be greater than 15 years old and before effective ventilation systems and building standards were introduced. Farmers recognise that by providing a healthy environment they can produce an animal that meets the market requirements but also reduce their input costs. With regard to plant health, developments in equipment to allow for effective pest and nutrient management and improved structural facilities that allow for a greater degree of effective hygiene would lead to higher quality produce.

#### 4.2.2. Need for capital investment in the industry to improve ability to be more climate and weather resilient

##### Priorities/Focus Areas

- 2A) Improving the economic performance of all farms and facilitating farm restructuring and modernisation, notably with a view to increasing market participation and orientation as well as agricultural diversification
- 5B) Increasing efficiency in energy use in agriculture and food processing
- 5D) Reducing green house gas and ammonia emissions from agriculture

##### Cross cutting objectives

- Environment
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Innovation

##### Description

The poor weather events in 2012 and 2013, leading to emergency forage and hardship schemes, highlighted a significant need for improvements in farm structures. In the WFNA survey, a significant number of farmers expressed a desire to invest in roofing that would provide resilience to incidents of heavy snowfall and sustained periods of rainfall in tandem with providing other benefits. A high percentage of farmers also recognised that the age and capacity of their current buildings were not able to allow them to sustain longer periods of poor weather which prevented them from turning their animals out to pasture. There has been an identified need to improve their animal housing facilities and their fodder storage to improve their future viability.

The SWOT identifies a need to improve energy efficiency and reduce ammonia and GHG emissions. Capital support can make a contribution to meeting these needs by encouraging climate friendly investments, particularly those which address these types of emissions, for example improved slurry/manure management facilities, ammonia reducing livestock flooring systems the management and application of manures and fertilisers. Investment proposals will therefore be targeted at those that demonstrate a plan for the reduction in ammonia, and GHG emissions.

#### 4.2.3. Need for capital investment in the industry to improve on-farm resource and production efficiency

##### Priorities/Focus Areas

- 2A) Improving the economic performance of all farms and facilitating farm restructuring and modernisation, notably with a view to increasing market participation and orientation as well as agricultural diversification
- 3A) Improving competitiveness of primary producers by better integrating them into the agri-food chain through quality schemes, adding value to agricultural products, promotion in local markets and short supply circuits, producer groups and inter-branch organisations

- 5B) Increasing efficiency in energy use in agriculture and food processing
- 5D) Reducing green house gas and ammonia emissions from agriculture

#### Cross cutting objectives

- Environment
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Innovation

#### Description

Stakeholders indicate that the recent economic downturn has made it difficult to borrow from banks for capital investment in general. The fall in farm incomes in 2012 and the continuing high cost of feed have reduced the working capital on farms and financial management has become difficult. There is a strong view among stakeholders that capital investment has fallen behind where it needs to be in recent years. A recent survey also revealed that farmers identify ‘financial reasons’ as a barrier to adopting new technology.

In the Whole Farm Needs Assessment (WFNA) (DARD 2015) it was identified that 86% of the respondents stated that their buildings and equipment were both outdated and had insufficient capacity to support modern agriculture. Other challenges and barriers identified by respondents included 85% stating that their Lack of Profitability and 78% Improved Land Productivity were priorities that they wanted to improve for their business viability.

There is a need, where possible, to support investment within the farming and agri-food sectors to ensure continued sustainable growth\* and longer term competitiveness.

*\*Sustainable economic growth means a rate of growth which can be maintained without creating other significant economic problems, especially for future generations. There is clearly a trade-off between rapid economic growth today, and growth in the future. Rapid growth today may exhaust resources and create environmental problems for future generations, including the depletion of oil and fish stocks, and global warming.*

#### 4.2.4. Need for improved food units/ manufacturing facilities.

##### Priorities/Focus Areas

- 2A) Improving the economic performance of all farms and facilitating farm restructuring and modernisation, notably with a view to increasing market participation and orientation as well as agricultural diversification
- 3A) Improving competitiveness of primary producers by better integrating them into the agri-food chain through quality schemes, adding value to agricultural products, promotion in local markets and short supply circuits, producer groups and inter-branch organisations

#### Cross cutting objectives

- Innovation

#### Description

The NI Executive has identified Agri-food as a priority sector in the NI Economic Strategy and Programme for Government.

*Going for Growth*, the report of the DARD and DETI appointed Agri-Food Strategy Board, has highlighted the need for export-led sustainable growth. In order to compete in the global marketplace, it is vital that the industry is equipped to develop innovative and customer focussed raw materials and food and drink products.

Support for capital investment in food units/manufacturing facilities will allow agri-food companies of all sizes to develop innovative products and processes to ensure long-term sustainability of the agri-food sector.

Initial results from a current feasibility study completed on the need for additional food units/ manufacturing facilities across NI indicates there is a clear need for a package of support to be offered which would support continued innovation in the sector and lead to the continued growth of the Artisan sector.

#### 4.2.5. Need for improved genetic selection in the red meat sector

##### Priorities/Focus Areas

- 1B) Strengthening the links between agriculture, food production and forestry and research and innovation, including for the purpose of improved environmental management and performance
- 2A) Improving the economic performance of all farms and facilitating farm restructuring and modernisation, notably with a view to increasing market participation and orientation as well as agricultural diversification
- 3A) Improving competitiveness of primary producers by better integrating them into the agri-food chain through quality schemes, adding value to agricultural products, promotion in local markets and short supply circuits, producer groups and inter-branch organisations
- 5D) Reducing green house gas and ammonia emissions from agriculture

##### Cross cutting objectives

- Environment
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Innovation

#### Description

The NI Executive has identified agri-food as a priority sector in the NI Economic Strategy and Programme for Government. Within the agri-food industry red meat represents a key sector. Livestock genetic improvement is permanent, cumulative and is a proven method of improving the competitiveness and

environmental impact of beef and sheep production. Increasingly, genetic programmes are now also focussed on improving the health and welfare of livestock. In NI, genetic improvement programmes in the beef and sheep sectors are hindered by the small size of businesses, diverse methods of production, low level of ancestry and performance recording and fragmented breeding structures. There is an urgent need to develop support packages to enable performance recording to be embedded into the industry to enable the widespread adoption of genetic improvement, including the use of new genomic selection technologies to broaden out the range of production and health and welfare traits which can be improved through genetic selection.

A number of strategic reports on the red meat sector for NI have identified the need for the development of industry-wide genetic improvement programmes in the Northern Ireland red meat sector. Most recently the *Going for Growth* report produced by the Agri-Food Strategy Board highlighted the need to develop, and for the industry to adopt, improved genetic improvement programmes to underpin the sustainable growth of the red meat sector which has a target increase in turnover of 65% by 2020 (to a value of £1.6bn). In view of this, there is a strong need to overcome the barriers to genetic selection through the development of appropriate support measures to promote the development and widespread uptake of genetic evaluations. In doing so the competitiveness and environmental credentials of the sector will be improved and health and welfare enhanced.

The SWOT identifies the need to reduce ammonia and GHG emissions which relate to agriculture, livestock in particular. It is recognised that genetic improvement, as well as improving traits leading to increased competitiveness, can also lead to a reduction in GHG emissions through for example increased animal health and welfare; improved maternal and breeding traits and productivity gains.

#### 4.2.6. Need for improvement in the ecological status of rivers and water catchments

##### Priorities/Focus Areas

- 4A) Restoring, preserving and enhancing biodiversity, including in Natura 2000 areas, and in areas facing natural or other specific constraints and high nature value farming, as well as the state of European landscapes
- 4B) Improving water management, including fertiliser and pesticide management
- 4C) Preventing soil erosion and improving soil management

##### Cross cutting objectives

- Environment
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation

##### Description

The SWOT identifies that Agriculture is a significant source of water pollution, both diffuse, such as from fertiliser and pesticides spread on the land, and point sources such as runoff from farmyards.

The main areas of concern are eutrophication (nutrient enrichment) of rivers and lakes caused primarily

by phosphorus and sedimentation. Contamination by pesticides is a problem in some catchments.

Coastal waters show few signs of enrichment although specific hotspots caused by known man made inputs can be detected. However, nutrient pressures are present in several estuarine waters and localised impacts of agricultural pollution have also been identified in some bathing waters.

The main agricultural pressures on Water Framework Directive status are:

- Nutrient enrichment from excess phosphorus and nitrogen on agricultural land and farming practice.
- Sediment loss caused by poaching and river bank erosion by livestock
- Diffuse organic pollution arising from farmyards
- Lack of buffer strips, poaching by livestock and channel straightening impacting on river morphology.

Measures to address these pressures are needed to improve water quality in rivers and lakes and help achieve Water Framework Directive objectives.

#### 4.2.7. Need for increased efficiency in energy use

##### Priorities/Focus Areas

- 5B) Increasing efficiency in energy use in agriculture and food processing
- 5C) Facilitating the supply and use of renewable sources of energy, of by products, wastes, residues and other non food raw material for the purposes of the bio-economy

##### Cross cutting objectives

- Environment
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation

##### Description

Rising costs, including energy costs, are a dominant feature of the current economic environment for farmers and rural businesses. In addition the SWOT identifies that grid infrastructure in Northern Ireland is weak which has a limiting impact on potential uptake for renewable energy technologies as a result of grid capacity issues and prohibitive connection costs.

However rising costs can drive the need to improve efficiency and there are incentives available for energy generation via the Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment. Support which encourages the adoption of energy efficiency measures within the agriculture sector can also be offered through training and knowledge exchange, support for feasibility studies and capital investment in efficient equipment and

buildings.

#### 4.2.8. Need for non-native invasive species action

##### Priorities/Focus Areas

- 4A) Restoring, preserving and enhancing biodiversity, including in Natura 2000 areas, and in areas facing natural or other specific constraints and high nature value farming, as well as the state of European landscapes
- 4B) Improving water management, including fertiliser and pesticide management
- 4C) Preventing soil erosion and improving soil management

##### Cross cutting objectives

- Environment
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation

##### Description

Invasive non-native species are also known as invasive alien species. They are widely recognised as one of the biggest threats to our native biodiversity, second only to that caused by habitat destruction. This occurs when non-native species out compete or prey on native species or cause the introduction of disease. This can result in the loss of native species or gross changes in habitat. Freshwater habitats are particularly vulnerable.

#### 4.2.9. Need to address low levels of educational attainment and the skills gaps within the industry

##### Priorities/Focus Areas

- 1A) Fostering innovation, cooperation, and the development of the knowledge base in rural areas
- 1B) Strengthening the links between agriculture, food production and forestry and research and innovation, including for the purpose of improved environmental management and performance
- 1C) Fostering lifelong learning and vocational training in the agricultural and forestry sectors
- 2A) Improving the economic performance of all farms and facilitating farm restructuring and modernisation, notably with a view to increasing market participation and orientation as well as agricultural diversification
- 5B) Increasing efficiency in energy use in agriculture and food processing
- 5D) Reducing green house gas and ammonia emissions from agriculture
- 5E) Fostering carbon conservation and sequestration in agriculture and forestry



## Cross cutting objectives

- Environment
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Innovation

## Description

There is evidence that farm operators in Northern Ireland (between the ages of 25 and 65) have lower levels of educational attainment compared to those in the wider population. Some 62% of working owners and 40% of farm employees do not hold any formal qualifications. In addition, levels of educational attainment in NI are below UK average, generally. Evidence shows that an agricultural qualification generates an on-farm wage higher than that of unqualified farmers. Therefore, higher levels of educational attainment may be associated with higher levels of farm performance. It is also found to be the case that those with well defined business plans that avail of training and initiatives such as benchmarking show higher levels of performance. The 2010 Review of Financial Assistance to Young Farmers Scheme noted that more than two thirds of applicants said the process of developing a business plan helped with improving future farm viability. Higher levels of educational attainment are also associated with higher levels of adoption of new approaches, techniques and technologies in farming.

Need to assist farmers and farm family members to adapt to the changing needs of the industry and to assess the needs of the whole farm to ensure financial investment is correctly targeted. Evidence also shows that, within the food and drink sector in Northern Ireland, skills shortages have been identified in production and production management.

Consequently, educational provision as well as the targeting and provision of appropriate skills training are crucially important to maintain and improve competitiveness of the agri-food industry in NI.

The SWOT identifies a lack of understanding of the impacts of climate change issues at farm level and a lack of nutrient management plans. Education and training can build up the knowledge and skills to mitigate and build resilience to climate change.

### 4.2.10. Need to assist businesses located in rural areas

#### Priorities/Focus Areas

- 6A) Facilitating diversification, creation and development of small enterprises, as well as job creation
- 6B) Fostering local development in rural areas

## Cross cutting objectives

- Innovation

## Description

The Northern Ireland Economic Strategy highlights the rural economy as a sector with an important contribution to make to the wider Northern Ireland economy. The sustainability of rural Northern Ireland is inextricably linked to the success of the rural economy which in turn is heavily reliant upon sustainable, rural micro-businesses. 89% of all rural businesses are in the micro-enterprise category. Businesses located in rural areas face specific and well documented challenges that inhibit their ability to operate on an even footing with their urban-based competitors. Such inhibitors that under certain circumstances might provide a rationale for Government intervention include distance from major population centres, transport costs, poor infrastructure (road and energy), digital divide between rural and urban businesses (for example broadband and mobile internet connectivity), planning issues pertaining to development in the countryside and access to finance to name a few.

Furthermore, many rural micro-businesses operate in 'traditional' sectors such as farming, forestry and fishing which face additional problems due to volatile commodity markets and a need to modernise to compete effectively in the global marketplace. This has forced the operators of many such rural businesses to consider diversification into new sectors. The costs associated with diversification are high and so there is a case for potential Government support.

Hence, businesses operating in rural areas require support to help overcome the disadvantage they experience and to improve their longer-term sustainability, competitiveness and contribution to the economic output of Northern Ireland and the rural economy in particular.

### 4.2.11. Need to combat poverty and social isolation in rural areas

#### Priorities/Focus Areas

- 6A) Facilitating diversification, creation and development of small enterprises, as well as job creation
- 6B) Fostering local development in rural areas

#### Cross cutting objectives

- Innovation

## Description

There are a growing number of people in Northern Ireland choosing to reside in rural areas with around 35% of the population now living there. One of the Multiple Deprivation Measures (NIMDM) that government uses to help target those in need looks at 'proximity to services' and this links closely to the provision and accessibility of basic services. In rural areas, this indicator identifies particular problems with access which manifests in social isolation.

Furthermore, pressures on the agricultural sector, demographic change and the physical isolation leave many in rural communities in or at serious risk of poverty and compound the problem of social isolation. Deprivation measures for rural areas suggest that there are particular spatial pockets of need in the rural

## West and South.

The recession has had a major impact on employment in rural areas leading to a depletion of wealth and subsequent increase in those falling into poverty. Alongside these recessionary forces there are the effects of the much longer term processes of urbanisation and counter-urbanisation. The provision of basic services is at the heart of a viable rural population. Modern services and infrastructure should reverse trends of social and economic decline and lead to inclusion, economic growth and viability.

### 4.2.12. Need to encourage cooperation between jurisdictions in border areas

#### Priorities/Focus Areas

- 6B) Fostering local development in rural areas

#### Cross cutting objectives

- Innovation

#### Description

Many areas of rural Ireland, both north and south, face similar problems resultant from their rurality. There is a need to create an opportunity to link certain rural areas by way of progressing mutual, cross border projects to encourage sharing of knowledge and experience as well as to provide an opportunity for longer-term relations between communities that otherwise would never interact. In particular, Border regions, among other parts of rural NI, continue to suffer from the legacy of the conflict and the opportunity to engage in meaningful joint projects with similar communities in the south of Ireland. Furthermore, Border regions face a particular problem in relation to unlinked back to back development by both jurisdictions. This needs to be overcome by way of cognisance in approach possibly through joint north-south schemes.

### 4.2.13. Need to encourage diversification and entrepreneurship in rural areas

#### Priorities/Focus Areas

- 6A) Facilitating diversification, creation and development of small enterprises, as well as job creation
- 6B) Fostering local development in rural areas

#### Cross cutting objectives

- Innovation

#### Description

Average gross weekly earnings increased in 2012 in accessible and less accessible rural areas however

average gross weekly earnings of people in rural areas are consistently below those of people living in urban areas over the years from 2007 to 2012. Between 2011 and 2012 the gap decreased between those living in urban and less accessible rural areas. The gap in earnings also decreased between those living in accessible rural areas and those living in less accessible rural areas.

Agriculture is the dominant industry group in the Accessible Rural and Less Accessible Rural areas, accounting for 23 and 35 per cent, respectively, of total VAT registered businesses in these zones. Businesses involved in construction were second most prevalent in these rural areas, while those involved in retail were the third most prevalent.

Despite the growth in many agricultural sectors in recent years there was a 50% decline in total income from farming (TIFF) in 2012, although provisional estimates suggest that in 2013 some of that decline has been reversed. This decline, which followed a period of increase between 2009 and 2011, shows the volatility that the agricultural industry faces. The level of aggregate agricultural income is affected strongly by the sterling/euro exchange rate. Other factors contributing to the income decline include high feed costs, increasing energy costs and poor weather in 2012. These factors are beyond the farmer's control. The three most popular diversified activities are tourism, direct sales of farm products, and equine sports. However, the incidence of diversification is considerably lower in Northern Ireland than is the case for England where, using a similar definition, about 18% of farms were found to have some diversified activity in 2010.

#### 4.2.14. Need to encourage landowners to realise the economic benefits of their woodland

##### Priorities/Focus Areas

- 2A) Improving the economic performance of all farms and facilitating farm restructuring and modernisation, notably with a view to increasing market participation and orientation as well as agricultural diversification
- 5E) Fostering carbon conservation and sequestration in agriculture and forestry

##### Cross cutting objectives

- Environment
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Innovation

##### Description

The SWOT identifies a low level of afforestation and much of NI's woodland is fragmented and inaccessible. Coupled with the weak forestry culture in the land management sector and the limited marketing and technical knowledge of woodland owners there is a need to encourage landowners to realise the economic benefits for their businesses. Woodland enterprises which are economically strong have the potential to increase the opportunities for carbon sequestration and climate change adaptation.

#### 4.2.15. Need to encourage tourism in rural areas

##### Priorities/Focus Areas

- 6A) Facilitating diversification, creation and development of small enterprises, as well as job creation
- 6B) Fostering local development in rural areas

##### Cross cutting objectives

- Innovation

##### Description

Some rural areas of Northern Ireland are uniquely picturesque with stunning landscapes and scenery. However, the tourism infrastructure often does not match the potential of our rural areas to attract visitors to spend money in our rural businesses. The economic importance of tourism to the various regions of the UK has recently been analysed by ONS [1]. The tourism ratio for NI [2], which shows the importance of tourism expenditure in driving output, was estimated to be 2.4%. This was the lowest of the twelve UK regions, and well below areas such as Cornwall (11.0%), where the economy is highly dependent on tourism. The same research estimated that the contribution to the NI economy in 2008 in terms of direct GVA was £0.7bn. With Northern Ireland lagging behind even the UK average, this demonstrates the potential to increase the contribution tourism makes to the Northern Ireland economy.

Stakeholders view that many rural areas and places have a poor appearance and that there is a lack of coordination across the rural tourism sector. There is a need to ensure that rural areas have the infrastructure and support required to maximise their potential attract tourism revenue which in turn will contribute towards reducing poverty and improving sustainability.

There is an opportunity to encourage diversification from farming towards provision of tourism infrastructure that will in turn increase the sustainability of the rural economy.

[1]The Sub-Regional Value of Tourism in the UK in 2008, October 2011, ONS

[2]The Tourism Ratio is a measure of the economic importance of the tourism sector within regions as it shows the relationship between tourism demand and supply. For further details see the ONS publication as referenced above.

#### 4.2.16. Need to ensure generational renewal within the farming industry

##### Priorities/Focus Areas

- 2A) Improving the economic performance of all farms and facilitating farm restructuring and

modernisation, notably with a view to increasing market participation and orientation as well as agricultural diversification

- 2B) Facilitating the entry of adequately skilled farmers into the agricultural sector and, in particular, generational renewal

#### Cross cutting objectives

- Environment
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Innovation

#### Description

Agriculture plays a more important role in the economy of NI than is the case for the UK as a whole and provides important input to the food processing industry which has been growing well over the last ten years. In 2010, 55% of farmers were aged 55 and over, with only 20% under 45 years of age. Whilst the age profile of farmers has not changed significantly over the 2000 to 2010 period, some 8% of farmers were under 35 years old in 1995, while 5% were under 35 years old in 2010. The total number of persons working on farms in 2012 was almost 47,500 and there is evidence that farm operators with off-farm employment have lower average hourly wages compared with non farming males. Stakeholders have raised concerns about getting more young people into the industry and cited a key problem around generational renewal; the issue being that farms are often required to support more than one generation of farm family. Issues such as inheritance tax and Single Farm Payment also contribute to the problem.

There is a need to encourage generational renewal within farming in order to maintain and improve on the sustainability and competitiveness of the farming industry in NI.

#### 4.2.17. Need to halt the loss of habitats

##### Priorities/Focus Areas

- 4A) Restoring, preserving and enhancing biodiversity, including in Natura 2000 areas, and in areas facing natural or other specific constraints and high nature value farming, as well as the state of European landscapes
- 4B) Improving water management, including fertiliser and pesticide management
- 4C) Preventing soil erosion and improving soil management

#### Cross cutting objectives

- Environment
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation

#### Description

Economic forces have driven the intensification of agriculture. The average farm size has increased from 32 ha in 1980 to 41 ha in 2012, while the number of farm businesses has fallen from 42,000 in 1980 to just over 24,000 in 2012. Areas of agricultural land of low productivity, have been converted to grassland, involving extensive drainage programmes and infilling. This has led to a net loss of habitats, and a decline in biodiversity and landscape character. Lack of continuity in habitat creation has resulted in isolation of species, rather than the creation of wildlife corridors of continuous woodland and other priority habitats. These isolated habitats and species are more vulnerable to climate change and other adverse influences.

Many of Northern Ireland's watercourses have been physically altered by drainage schemes, water abstraction, impoundment to create reservoirs, navigation, fisheries management and fish farming. The historic lowering of water levels and current controls in the largest lakes has had an adverse impact on the biodiversity of such sites. Nitrate levels in rivers, lakes and groundwater are generally low. However eutrophication, caused primarily by phosphorus, is a problem in Northern Ireland's rivers and lakes.

Agri-environment schemes have achieved success in addressing the loss of some habitats, such as species-rich grasslands and moorland, through the management of grazing regimes. However increases in size and condition of woodland habitats have been minimal and the biological quality of some rivers has not improved despite the small improvement in chemical quality.

There is a need to maintain and restore priority habitats and create new habitats through the positive management of agricultural land.

#### 4.2.18. Need to help preserve the cultural and social uniqueness and beauty of rural villages

##### Priorities/Focus Areas

- 6B) Fostering local development in rural areas

##### Cross cutting objectives

- Innovation

##### Description

There is a need to encourage and enable residents of villages and surrounding areas to create a vision and an integrated action plan to ensure the full potential of their areas is achieved. There is a need to build on the overarching fabric of a village/town integrating with other funding from other government departments and agencies. Assistance should address rural dereliction and prioritise reuse of existing derelict buildings, particularly to provide community infrastructure. The renewal of village infrastructure will improve social well-being and encourage tourism both internal and out of state, leading to positive impacts for rural businesses.

#### 4.2.19. Need to improve infrastructure and access to basic services

##### Priorities/Focus Areas

- 6B) Fostering local development in rural areas
- 6C) Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies (ICT) in rural areas

#### Cross cutting objectives

- Innovation

#### Description

The provision of basic services is at the heart of a viable rural population. Modern services and infrastructure should reverse trends of social and economic decline and lead to inclusion, economic growth and viability.

Government has a key goal to strengthen the social and economic infrastructure of rural areas. One way in which to contribute towards this goal is to tackle rural poverty and social isolation. There are a growing number of people (35%) in Northern Ireland choosing to live in rural areas however not all rural areas suffer the same degree of disadvantage in accessing services and isolation. The population of accessible rural areas is 15.5% and less accessible rural areas account for 19.4% of the total population. The age structures of urban and rural populations are not dissimilar. The percentage of people under sixteen years of age is higher in less accessible rural areas compared to other areas of Northern Ireland and services need to be directed accordingly.

One of the Multiple Deprivation Measures (NIMDM) that government uses to help target those in need looks at 'proximity to services' and this links closely to the provision and accessibility of basic services. This indicator identifies particular problems for rural dwellers which can potentially have adverse impacts on vulnerable groups such as low income households, the elderly, children and young people, and those with disabilities. Under the Basic Services Measure, the Department will work with other service providers to provide opportunities for improving access such as improved broadband connectivity and for a community development approach for the delivery of key basic services which will improve the quality of life of rural dwellers.

4.2.20. Need to improve management of land to increase efficiencies and contribute to improved environmental and/or climate outcomes

#### Priorities/Focus Areas

- 4A) Restoring, preserving and enhancing biodiversity, including in Natura 2000 areas, and in areas facing natural or other specific constraints and high nature value farming, as well as the state of European landscapes
- 4B) Improving water management, including fertiliser and pesticide management
- 4C) Preventing soil erosion and improving soil management
- 5D) Reducing green house gas and ammonia emissions from agriculture



- 5E) Fostering carbon conservation and sequestration in agriculture and forestry

#### Cross cutting objectives

- Environment
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation

#### Description

The SWOT identifies that in the mostly grass-based agricultural systems of NI, soil quality is sub-optimal and there are significant water quality issues. The soil organic matter level, which is critical to a soil's ability to sequester carbon, ranges from 8-20% depending on previous cropping. There is limited information on the current status of peatland. More information is needed on the chemical, physical and biological components of soil including structure, pH and nutrient profiles. The optimal pH value for arable crops is 6.5 and 6.0 for grassland. In NI 50% of soils have a pH < 6.0 and 25% of soils have a pH < 5.5. Low pH status reduces the efficiency of nutrients applied to agricultural soils so that greater amounts of chemical fertiliser are required to reach optimal yields. Improving the pH status of land and encouraging better nutrient management planning will reduce the amount of chemical fertiliser applied, lowering the carbon intensity of the food produced, as well as enhancing the productivity of the land. Evidence suggests that many farmers are inefficiently applying nutrients and producing crops with nutrient content which is too high at certain stages of the year but deficient at others. Matching nutrient application to requirement is a key way to improve farmers knowledge on their soils, improve land management practices, reduce GHG emissions and enhance environmental status.

Maintenance of good levels of productivity requires the application of nutrients such as fertilizers or manures. Increasing the nutrient supply to land also increases the relative risk of nutrient loss to water. Soil has a finite capacity to hold Phosphorus and this can cause eutrophication of rivers and lakes.

The Freshwater Pearl Mussel population is declining steadily in NI with only three medium-sized populations remaining. Damage to suitable areas of streambed by river engineering and drainage operations and modern intensive agriculture leading to nutrient enrichment and pollution are two of the main causes of the decline.

#### 4.2.21. Need to increase employment opportunities in rural areas

##### Priorities/Focus Areas

- 6A) Facilitating diversification, creation and development of small enterprises, as well as job creation
- 6B) Fostering local development in rural areas

#### Cross cutting objectives

- Innovation

#### Description

With approximately 35% of the total population of Northern Ireland choosing to reside in rural areas there is a need for Government to help create sustainable and appropriate employment in those areas. This will potentially impact upon traffic congestion on arterial routes to major conurbations and reduce associated pollution. It will also improve quality of life for rural dwellers and have a multiplier effect on local businesses improving sustainability of those areas.

The economy of Northern Ireland can be characterised as a small business economy, with micro businesses (those with less than 10 employees) accounting for 89 per cent of the total number of firms. Given the importance of agriculture in rural areas (normally farmers are sole traders with few or no PAYE employees), it is a little surprising that the distribution of micro business is not more skewed. In fact while around 91 per cent of rural businesses have fewer than 10 employees, the number of micro businesses, as a share of total businesses in the urban zone, is also very high at 83 per cent.

In summary, small and micro businesses dominate in rural areas in NI. The majority of new start-ups (VAT registrations) are in rural areas, though net VAT registrations have fallen in recent years reflecting the recent downturn in the economy. Farming, construction and retail are the most prevalent type of business; however, there is a good spread of all types and sizes of firms across rural areas.

Stakeholders state that there are pockets of high unemployment and a limited range of employment opportunities in non-traditional industries in rural areas. Diversification has an important role to play in increasing employment opportunities.

4.2.22. Need to increase industry awareness and engagement with research and innovation and facilitate the uptake of new technologies

#### Priorities/Focus Areas

- 1A) Fostering innovation, cooperation, and the development of the knowledge base in rural areas
- 1B) Strengthening the links between agriculture, food production and forestry and research and innovation, including for the purpose of improved environmental management and performance
- 1C) Fostering lifelong learning and vocational training in the agricultural and forestry sectors
- 2A) Improving the economic performance of all farms and facilitating farm restructuring and modernisation, notably with a view to increasing market participation and orientation as well as agricultural diversification
- 2B) Facilitating the entry of adequately skilled farmers into the agricultural sector and, in particular, generational renewal
- 3A) Improving competitiveness of primary producers by better integrating them into the agri-food chain through quality schemes, adding value to agricultural products, promotion in local markets and short supply circuits, producer groups and inter-branch organisations

- 4A) Restoring, preserving and enhancing biodiversity, including in Natura 2000 areas, and in areas facing natural or other specific constraints and high nature value farming, as well as the state of European landscapes
- 4B) Improving water management, including fertiliser and pesticide management
- 4C) Preventing soil erosion and improving soil management
- 5B) Increasing efficiency in energy use in agriculture and food processing
- 5C) Facilitating the supply and use of renewable sources of energy, of by products, wastes, residues and other non food raw material for the purposes of the bio-economy
- 5D) Reducing green house gas and ammonia emissions from agriculture
- 5E) Fostering carbon conservation and sequestration in agriculture and forestry

#### Cross cutting objectives

- Environment
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Innovation

#### Description

Agriculture and food processing are important sectors in the NI economy and combined they contribute around £1 billion in Gross Value Added which is equivalent to around 4% of total NI GVA. The NI Executive Programme for Government has identified and prioritised the agri-food industry in Northern Ireland, recognising its value to the local economy and the potential for it to grow, creating jobs and prosperity.

However, despite the growth in many sectors in recent years there was a 50% decline in total income from farming in 2012 following a period of increase showing the volatility that the agricultural industry faces. Rising costs are a dominant feature of the current economic environment and there is a need to improve efficiency and reduce overall costs within the industry in order to remain competitive. It is well accepted that innovation and adoption of new technology is important to improving competitiveness, growth and development.

There is a strong local research base supporting agriculture and food processing in NI and attendance at Knowledge and Transfer events indicate that there is a rich appetite for innovation within the agri-food industry. However, a recent report indicates that while there is considerable research activity ongoing in NI there is evidence that awareness of recent and ongoing research activity is low across all sectors and that there are many barriers to uptake of new technology and participation in knowledge transfer activity. Therefore there is a need to develop different methods of knowledge and transfer styles in order to increase awareness of research and adoption of innovation within the industry. There is also a need to make use of new and alternative delivery methods to suit the varied learning styles and work patterns of beneficiaries.

The SWOT analysis also identifies that environmental management is seen as separate and not integrated to agriculture practices and there is a lack of awareness around climate change impacts and soil quality And nutrient management. There is therefore a need to equip farmers with the knowledge and skills to address

these issues.

#### 4.2.23. Need to increase opportunities for carbon sequestration

##### Priorities/Focus Areas

- 5E) Fostering carbon conservation and sequestration in agriculture and forestry

##### Cross cutting objectives

- Environment
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation

##### Description

The current low levels of afforestation present a limited opportunity for carbon sequestration. Northern Ireland is one of the least wooded areas in Europe with only 8% of the land area under tree cover, compared to 13% of the UK as a whole. Combined with an overall decline in new planting this leads to limited opportunity for carbon sequestration. As agriculture is responsible for 29% of Northern Ireland's GHG emissions, there is a need to reduce the emissions emanating from agricultural systems. Developing an agricultural land use policy including enhanced grassland management, improved soil structure, extra woodland planted in buffer strips and hedges and increased forestry cover would increase the amount of carbon locked up in the ground through carbon sequestration. Increasing woodland cover and encouraging sustainable management of existing woodland would also contribute positively to increased carbon sequestration. Training on environmental issues and on-farm efficiency measures will address the lack of integration of environmental skills and the lack of understanding of the impacts of climate change issues at farm level

#### 4.2.24. Need to increase recreational access to woodland

##### Priorities/Focus Areas

- 6B) Fostering local development in rural areas

##### Cross cutting objectives

- Environment
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation

##### Description

Much of NI's woodland is fragmented and inaccessible. There is a need to increase recreational access to woodland to stimulate tourism and take advantage of the changing leisure trends which include increased

interest in walking and other low key activities.

#### 4.2.25. Need to increase woodland cover

##### Priorities/Focus Areas

- 4A) Restoring, preserving and enhancing biodiversity, including in Natura 2000 areas, and in areas facing natural or other specific constraints and high nature value farming, as well as the state of European landscapes
- 4B) Improving water management, including fertiliser and pesticide management
- 4C) Preventing soil erosion and improving soil management
- 5E) Fostering carbon conservation and sequestration in agriculture and forestry

##### Cross cutting objectives

- Environment
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation

##### Description

In the past most of Northern Ireland's natural vegetation was woodland and many terrestrial native species are dependent on this habitat. However today Northern Ireland is one of the least wooded areas in Europe with only 8% of the land area under tree cover, compared to 13% of the UK as a whole.

The area of state forestry has remained relatively constant since 1995 at around 61,500 ha. However, the area of non-Forest Service forest has increased over the same time period to 43,700 ha.

As agriculture is responsible for 29% of Northern Ireland's GHG emissions, there is a need to reduce the emissions emanating from agricultural systems. The planting of woodland is a means of contributing to this goal as woodland increases the amount of carbon locked up in the ground through carbon sequestration.

2011 by Forest Research, Woodland for Water: Woodland measures for meeting Water Framework Directive objectives This review provides strong evidence to support new proposals to expand woodland in appropriate locations for soil and water benefits. Main drivers for woodland expansion include sustainable flood management, water bodies remaining at risk of failing its objective despite improvements in agricultural land practices, and the need to mitigate the effects of climate change. The benefits are potentially greatest for the planting of riparian and floodplain woodland, which can help to reduce diffuse pollution, protect river morphology, moderate stream temperature and aid flood risk management, as well as meet Biodiversity Action Plan targets for the restoration and expansion of wet woodland. The contribution to tackling diffuse pollution includes both a barrier and interception function, where the presence of trees reduces the risk of direct contamination by agricultural activities on the adjacent land, and helps to trap and retain nutrients and sediment in polluted run-off. Riparian and floodplain woodland benefits for protecting river morphology and moderating stream temperatures are well proven, while a good case can also be made for mitigating downstream flooding. Planting SRC or SRW in these locations could help to maximise some

benefits but also present some risks.

#### 4.2.26. Need to protect farmland birds

##### Priorities/Focus Areas

- 4A) Restoring, preserving and enhancing biodiversity, including in Natura 2000 areas, and in areas facing natural or other specific constraints and high nature value farming, as well as the state of European landscapes

##### Cross cutting objectives

- Environment
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation

##### Description

Declines and range contraction in farmland bird populations throughout Europe is well-documented. These declines, which have occurred since at least the mid-1970s, have paralleled intensification in agricultural production. A general progressive loss of arable cropping and changes within remaining arable systems has been implicated as a major underlying cause of declines in granivorous species including the now UK/Ireland red-listed yellowhammer *Emberiza citronella* and tree sparrow *Passer montanus*. In particular, the loss of winter seed through a switch from spring to autumn sowing of cereal crops and the increased use and effectiveness of herbicides has caused significant reductions in availability of weed-rich over-winter stubbles with associated reductions in over-winter survival rates. Whilst summer nesting and feeding habitat are clearly important, the absence of suitable winter habitat is one of the most important factors restricting population growth [1].

In Northern Ireland, populations of the All-Ireland red-listed lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* have been increasingly under threat. Changes in arable cropping regimes, predation and the reduction in wetland habitat mainly through drainage, are attributed to its significant decline.

There is a need to conserve farmland bird populations by targeting agri-environment schemes.

[1] Species Action Plan Yellow Hammer *Emberiza citronella* – March 2005.

#### 4.2.27. Need to protect native breeds that are under threat

##### Priorities/Focus Areas

- 4A) Restoring, preserving and enhancing biodiversity, including in Natura 2000 areas, and in areas facing natural or other specific constraints and high nature value farming, as well as the state of European landscapes

## Cross cutting objectives

- Environment
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation

## Description

The Irish Moiled Cattle breed, which is the only traditional cattle breed that is native to Northern Ireland, is currently on the Rare Breeds Survival Trust Endangered List. Therefore, there is a need to provide protection to this breed in order that it does not become extinct.

## 4.2.28. Need to protect priority habitats and species and Natura 2000 sites

### Priorities/Focus Areas

- 4A) Restoring, preserving and enhancing biodiversity, including in Natura 2000 areas, and in areas facing natural or other specific constraints and high nature value farming, as well as the state of European landscapes
- 4B) Improving water management, including fertiliser and pesticide management
- 4C) Preventing soil erosion and improving soil management
- 5E) Fostering carbon conservation and sequestration in agriculture and forestry

## Cross cutting objectives

- Environment
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation

## Description

Some 51 priority habitats have been identified for Northern Ireland (NI) and they are particularly important for biodiversity. Several habitats are very well represented compared to other parts of the UK and Europe, namely peatlands such as lowland raised bogs and grasslands such as purple-moor grass and rush pasture. In addition there are 481 NI priority species identified as requiring conservation action which include species listed under the Habitats and Birds Directives.

Within NI 57 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are designated under the Habitats Directive to protect the most seriously threatened habitats and species in Europe. These cover all habitat types. 17 Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are designated to protect internationally important areas for breeding, over-wintering and migrating birds. SPAs and SACs are collectively known as Natura 2000 land, which covers agricultural habitats such as grassland, heathland, upland, peatland and wetlands.

Priority habitats and species and Natura 2000 sites are heavily influenced by land-use change either directly or indirectly. At present, approximately half of designated sites in Northern Ireland are not in “favourable” condition and require appropriate remedial action.

Water Quality monitoring is carried out routinely against national standards for the Water Framework Directive (WFD). A key feature of the WFD is the implementation of River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs). In NI there are 3 main RBDs. The North Eastern RBD is fully internal to Northern Ireland, and the Neagh Bann and North Western are international RBDs with the Republic of Ireland. The Shannon international RBD also has a small area within NI.

In 2013 23 % of monitored river water bodies achieved good or high status. 21 lakes are monitored, of which 5 achieved a good status in 2013. Groundwater is currently of a high quality, with 65 of NI's 67 groundwater bodies at good status.

#### 4.2.29. Need to reduce Ammonia emissions from agriculture

##### Priorities/Focus Areas

- 5D) Reducing green house gas and ammonia emissions from agriculture

##### Cross cutting objectives

- Environment
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation

##### Description

The SWOT identifies emissions from agriculture, in particular livestock, as a weakness. Ammonia emissions from animal manures can cause acidification and eutrophication, particularly of sensitive natural ecosystems. The nature of the effects include changes in plant species composition, such as increases in grasses and a decline in heather species, sensitive woodland herbs, mosses and lichens. Slurry contains up to 50% of its nitrogen content in the form of ammonium which is readily lost as ammonia. Evidence indicates that critical loads for nitrogen deposition (much of which is due to ammonia) are exceeded in a large proportion of protected habitats in NI. Critical loads and levels are set by scientists under the auspices of the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution. They are derived from empirical evidence from experiments and field studies across Europe. Training on environmental issues and on-farm efficiency measures will address the lack of integration of environmental skills and the lack of understanding of the impacts of climate change issues at farm level.

#### 4.2.30. Need to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions from agriculture

##### Priorities/Focus Areas

- 5D) Reducing green house gas and ammonia emissions from agriculture
- 5E) Fostering carbon conservation and sequestration in agriculture and forestry



## Cross cutting objectives

- Environment
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation

## Description

The SWOT identifies emissions from agriculture, in particular livestock, as a weakness. Of all NI's Sectors, Agriculture is the highest emitter of naturally occurring GHGs due to its dominant livestock sector. This is consistent with other countries with a similar reliance. The 2011 Programme for Government (PfG) contains a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 35% below 1990 levels by 2025. This target was revised upward from 25% and while there is no specific target or carbon budget for Northern Ireland in the Climate Change Act 2008, it is implicit that Northern Ireland contributes to the UK effort. The latest GHG Inventory estimates indicate that agriculture accounted for 29% of Northern Ireland emissions in 2013, with methane from livestock and nitrous oxide from natural and chemical fertilisers being the main source of emissions. An industry / government partnership has an "Efficient Farming Cuts Greenhouse Gases" strategy in place which aims to reduce the carbon intensity of food production. Environmental management is often considered a separate rather than integral part of production systems therefore there is a need to support training in the wider implementation of the farming practices which can reduce the carbon footprint of local agriculture.

### 4.2.31. Support to areas facing natural or other specific constraints

#### Priorities/Focus Areas

- 4A) Restoring, preserving and enhancing biodiversity, including in Natura 2000 areas, and in areas facing natural or other specific constraints and high nature value farming, as well as the state of European landscapes

## Cross cutting objectives

- Environment
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation

## Description

Farmers operating in areas designated as Less Favoured Areas, in particular those farming in Severely Disadvantaged Areas (SDAs) usually face significant handicaps deriving from factors such as difficult topography, poor soil conditions and difficult climate. In these conditions, sheep and/or suckler cow production are among the few farming enterprises that can be sustained. Thus these farmers tend to have fewer farming alternatives. These farmers tend to have lower farm productivity and, often, higher unit production costs than farmers in lowland areas.

An examination of farm business income data on SDA and lowland cattle and sheep farms over the five years 2008/9–2012/13 shows that incomes on SDA farms, were on average, £101 per hectare lower than on

lowland farms (this is even when single farm payment subsidies are taken into account).

Without financial support to these farm businesses, the ongoing lower return from farming would lead to economic hardship and a significant threat to the future viability of these businesses. Should such businesses collapse there is the real possibility that significant land abandonment could emerge. This would result in accompanying unacceptable environmental consequences such as ingress of scrub and development of a dense mat of sward and ungrazed herbage. These developments restrict growth of sensitive plant species, allow development of aggressive species such as bracken and can cause build up of soil acidity consequently the conservation value of unmanaged upland habitats would reduce and become unsuitable for priority species such as breeding waders and other ground nesting birds. These farms also play a key role in rural communities maintaining the social fabric of rural areas via social capital (roles in local organisations and contribution of entrepreneurial skills) and cultural capital (maintenance of value sets and cultural traditions). Any significant loss of such farms would inevitably have a negative impact on such communities.

#### 4.2.32. The need for adoption of efficient effective group-working

##### Priorities/Focus Areas

- 1A) Fostering innovation, cooperation, and the development of the knowledge base in rural areas
- 1B) Strengthening the links between agriculture, food production and forestry and research and innovation, including for the purpose of improved environmental management and performance
- 1C) Fostering lifelong learning and vocational training in the agricultural and forestry sectors
- 2A) Improving the economic performance of all farms and facilitating farm restructuring and modernisation, notably with a view to increasing market participation and orientation as well as agricultural diversification
- 3A) Improving competitiveness of primary producers by better integrating them into the agri-food chain through quality schemes, adding value to agricultural products, promotion in local markets and short supply circuits, producer groups and inter-branch organisations

##### Cross cutting objectives

- Innovation

##### Description

This need covers both micro-businesses and SME's as well as primary producers.

Northern Ireland has an increasingly successful artisan sector. In order to sustain this growing sector, there is a requirement to develop scale through horizontal supply chain relationships between micro businesses and SME's. Areas which will benefit from collaborative working include marketing, innovation and logistics where traditionally, micro businesses and SME's do not have the resources to develop.

Producers are a key element on the supply chain, but hold little leverage in the decisions made further up the chain. Developing and maintaining relationships through group working will develop increased co-operation

and communication. This will in turn develop sufficient scale to greater influence decisions which will therefore strengthen the supply chain. Efficient working within groups will also allow greater access to innovative production methods, knowledge transfer, business development, all of which will increase the sustainability of the wider supply chain.

There is a need for adoption of efficient effective group-working, in contrast to the traditional individual focus, considering business led models and also university/ college led projects. This would include soft skills training, distribution and marketing for food clusters and would also include increased opportunities for establishing formal producer groups or others seeking EU Protected Food Name status.

#### 4.2.33. The need to support and develop supply chain partners in order to increase competitiveness

##### Priorities/Focus Areas

- 1A) Fostering innovation, cooperation, and the development of the knowledge base in rural areas
- 1B) Strengthening the links between agriculture, food production and forestry and research and innovation, including for the purpose of improved environmental management and performance
- 1C) Fostering lifelong learning and vocational training in the agricultural and forestry sectors
- 2A) Improving the economic performance of all farms and facilitating farm restructuring and modernisation, notably with a view to increasing market participation and orientation as well as agricultural diversification
- 3A) Improving competitiveness of primary producers by better integrating them into the agri-food chain through quality schemes, adding value to agricultural products, promotion in local markets and short supply circuits, producer groups and inter-branch organisations

##### Cross cutting objectives

- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Innovation

##### Description

The NI Executive has identified Agri-food as a priority sector in the NI Economic Strategy and Programme for Government. In order to compete in the global marketplace, it is vital that all parts of the supply chain are focussed on meeting the needs of the market. This can only be achieved through effective, robust and responsive supply chains. This was the key message from *Going for Growth*, the report of the DARD and DETI appointed Agri-Food Strategy Board, to deliver export-led sustainable growth.

There is a need for those involved in the agri-food sector to have better understanding and management ability of the supply chain. Training in, and development of, effective supply chain management e.g. infrastructure to collate, interpret and disseminate market intelligence information along the supply chain and skills development activities focused on delivering market-focused added value innovative products would meet this need. This would place increased emphasis on integrating farming and business with development of management skills, lead to improved relationships between producers and processors and

increased access to markets in order to improve efficiency and growth which will lead to increased competitiveness within the agri-food sector.

## 5. DESCRIPTION OF THE STRATEGY

**5.1. A justification of the needs selected to be addressed by the RDP, and the choice of objectives, priorities, focus areas and the target setting based on evidence from the SWOT and the needs assessment. Where relevant, a justification of thematic sub-programmes included in the programme. The justification shall in particular demonstrate the requirements referred to in Article 8(1)(c)(i) and (iv) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013**

Following an assessment of the current situation within N I, an assessment of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats and the identification of the development needs the following key aims and objectives were identified as a priority for support in the NIRDP

- To improve the competitiveness of the agri-food industry through;
  - Improving the skills and knowledge and stimulating innovation, needed for business continuity and growth.
  - Improving resource efficiency by reducing operating costs.
  - Investing in capital equipment and buildings to ensure the long-term viability of the industry.
  - Improving the health and welfare of animals through increased knowledge and skills.
- To improve the natural environment;
  - Ensuring the growth of the agri-food industry is sustainable through the reduction of GHGs and ammonia emissions.
  - Supporting those that own and actively manage the land and woodlands to develop practices which improve biodiversity.
  - Supporting farming practices which improve water and soil quality.
  - The planting of new woodlands and the management of existing forests to mitigate the effects of climate change.
- To develop and improve rural areas through;
  - Promoting economic growth through the provision of support for rural businesses and the rural tourism sector.
  - Reducing poverty and social isolation by targeting support to tackle inequalities, deprivation, and access to key services including ICT.

Synergies are achieved through the selection of measures and sub-measures and also through the application of eligibility conditions and selection criteria. This ensures that the strategies work in a complementary manner achieving multiple benefits and added-value. Knowledge transfer and innovation are incorporated into each individual strategy.

### Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions – Focus Areas 1A, 1B, 1C and 2A

Support will be prioritised to increase the industry's awareness and engagement with research and development and access to and the uptake of new technologies. An important element will be the direct engagement of farmers with researchers to identify and solve problems specific to the industry. The vocational training selected will ensure that farmers and farm family members can not only benefit from the transfer of new innovative technologies but also gain new skills and adapt to the changing needs of the industry. The training provided will be tailored to the industry's needs and support the overall objectives of the RDP. We will provide workshops, training courses, coaching, demonstration activities, farm and forest exchange schemes and visits.

### Advisory Services – Focus Areas 1A, 4A, 4B, 4C and 5E

The Environmental Advisory Support scheme will provide support for environmental experts to provide specific conservation advice to farmers and land managers on the management of environmentally designated sites, priority habitats and priority species, river catchments and water quality. The provision of the advice which will be tailored to specific needs, will support an integrated approach to environment and agriculture related issues and will be in line with the Natura 2000 Prioritised Action Framework.

Advice for Forest holders will be on an individual and group basis and will be tailored to address a particular set of needs and will include improving resilience (including climate change mitigation and adaptation), competitiveness, economic and environmental performance, supporting farm modernisation and specific advice for land owners establishing new woodland.

Advice will cover as minimum the relevant obligations under Directive 92/43/EEC (conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora), Directive 2099/147EC (conservation of wild birds) and the Water Framework and Pesticides Directive.

### Investments in Physical Assets – Focus Areas 2A, 3A and 4A, 4B and 4C

There will be significant investment in the agri-food industry in line with the strategic vision of the Agri-food Strategy Board (AFSB) for growing a sustainable, profitable and integrated agri-food supply chain focussed on delivering the needs of the market. The Business Investment Scheme will be the main investment scheme within the RDP and will target farm restructuring, the need for which has been identified in the Needs assessment and SWOT analysis. Investments which improve on-farm resource and production efficiency, investments which improve resilience to adverse weather events and mitigate climate change and investments which improve Animal and Plant Health and Health and Safety on farms will be the main focus. Additionally a processing investment scheme will be aimed at improving the economic performance and competitiveness of the agri-food sector through capital investment. Better integration between producers, processors and retailers will ensure that the raw product meets the market and consumer requirements for healthier and more environmentally sustainable food.

Improving the economic performance of all farms through modernisation was an important element of the support available in the 2007-2013 RDP. The RDP strategy for

farm investment will ensure that the investment is targeted at the correct level for the business and justified through farm business plans.

The limitations of the EU definition of a young farmer will mean that a young farmer scheme would only be open to a small number of potential applicants. The outcome of a previous New Entrants Scheme showed that a limited number of new farm businesses were created and 95% of applicants to the scheme were taking over existing businesses. The evidence suggests that financial provision to encourage the entry of young farmers into the industry is likely to be expensive and ineffectual. The RDP strategy is therefore to support young farmers through support for up-skilling, business planning and capital investment.

#### Use of Financial Instruments

It is not intended to introduce Financial Instruments at the beginning of the programme period, but the option will be kept under review and it may be appropriate to introduce Financial Instruments at a later stage through the modification process.

#### Basic Services and Village Renewal in Rural Areas – Focus Area 4A, 4B, 4C and 6B

Northern Ireland is a small business economy and agriculture is the dominant industry, followed by construction and retail. Rural areas are also particularly dependent on the tourism industry. In terms of agricultural diversification the three most popular diversified activities are tourism, sales of farm products, and equine sports. We will provide support for investment in the natural and built heritage in order to encourage rural tourism whilst preserving the built and natural assets of the rural community.

Support also will be provided for the development of Conservation Management Plans for up to 20 Natura 2000 sites helping to protect and enhance Natura 2000 land within Northern Ireland in line with the NI Prioritised Action Framework. The Plans will also complement Northern Ireland's agri-environment scheme, by providing detailed guidance on appropriate agri-environment management of the Natura 2000 sites that the Plans are produced for.

#### Investment in Forest Area Development and Viability of Forests - Focus Area 4A, 4B, 4C and 5E

We will support woodland creation, improved management of woodland and the realisation of the economic potential of woodland, including support for woodland based processing and marketing. The main benefits from the forestry creation will be carbon sequestration. Secondary benefits from the scheme will include the processing and marketing of forestry products including material for renewable energy systems, improved biodiversity and water quality and the public amenity value.

#### Agri-environment-climate - Focus Area 4A, 4B, 4C

NI has a diverse landscape with strategically important priority habitats and species and N2K sites and we have invested significantly in agri-environment schemes since 1992. However despite this investment the region's biodiversity and ecosystems remain under threat and there is a danger that environmental management is considered a separate rather

than an integral part of agricultural production systems.

Lessons learnt from previous programmes are that agri-environment measures must be straightforward for farmers to understand and implement, increased training is needed to help farmers understand the commitments of the scheme and implement the measures effectively, schemes must not be complex so that they are robust for DAERA to administer and control and better targeting of measures will help to achieve better environmental outcomes.

The Environmental Farming Scheme(EFS) - will provide support to farmers and land managers to carry out environmentally beneficial farming practices building upon the approach from the Water Framework Directive, and encompassing other aspects covered by Directives such as those on Habitats, Birds and Ambient Air. The Wider Level EFS will support the process of greater environmental improvements in the wider countryside. There will also be a Higher Level EFS to support site specific interventions which will focus specifically on the strategically important N2K sites and priority habitats and. TheEFS aims to restore, preserve and enhance biodiversity; improve the quality of water, air and soil; create small woodlands; and help to mitigate climate change. Environmental criteria are applied in the selection process for both the Wider and Higher levels of EFS. The selection process will therefore ensure that measures with the highest environmental impact and best value for money are prioritised.

Water Framework Directive - The water quality actions included in M10, such as creating riparian buffer strips and preventing livestock from accessing watercourses, are designed to help address agricultural pressures on water quality identified in the SWOT.

- The 2014 WFD baseline position for rivers and lakes in NI is that 32% are at good or better status. The proposed RDP measures will contribute to the achievement of the proposed WFD objectives of 65% by 2021. The level of benefit will depend on the catchment type, the focus on targeted effort and supporting advice and on the level of uptake by farmers.
- The target is for EFS actions for water quality improvement to be implemented on 79,000 hectares of agricultural land by 2020.

Natura 2000 – The range of habitat management actions in M10 are designed to help address the pressures on N2K areas identified in the SWOT. Appropriate actions will be included in Site Specific Management Plans (SSMPs) which aim to improve the condition status of N2K 2000 sites. These SSMPs, delivered under Higher Level EFS, are complimented by support under M07 Natura 2000 Conservation Management Plans and under M02 Environmental Advisory Service. These three elements combine to form a package aimed at improving the condition status of N2K areas.



Over the course of the RDP the targets are:

- 2,000 agreement holders in Higher Level EFS with SSMPs covering an estimated 87,500 hectares of N2K 2000 and priority habitats.
- An independent Environmental Advisory Service primarily focused on farmers/landowners in N2K areas who are not participating in the EFS.
- 20 Natura 2000 Conservation Management Plans in place.

Biodiversity – The actions to support biodiversity in M10 are in two categories. Firstly, actions focused on habitat restoration and enhancement primarily for N2K areas, are delivered under Higher Level EFS. These Higher Level actions have been designed to help address the pressures on N2K areas identified in the SWOT. Secondly, actions focused on habitat creation, primarily for the wider countryside, are delivered under Wider Level EFS. These Wider Level actions have been designed to help address the pressures on biodiversity in the wider countryside identified in the SWOT.

Over the course of the RDP, the targets are:

- Habitat restoration and enhancement actions to improve the condition status of Natura 2000 areas and priority habitats through SSMPs in Higher Level EFS on 87,500 hectares.
- Create 14,200 hectares of new habitat to support and enhance biodiversity through Wider Level EFS.
- 2,000 agreement holders in Higher Level EFS and up to 8,000 agreement holders in Wider Level EFS.

Targets - The Priority 4 targets have been calculated only on the basis of the actual area where the management prescription will be implemented. Therefore the figures do not include the whole area of the field parcel within which the prescription is implemented. Previous agri-environment schemes in NI were whole farm schemes and therefore hectares under agreement were considerably higher.

More importantly, the EFS has been developed to be very focussed. The measures in EFS are dark green and demanding of farmers. Therefore, while it may appear that a large amount of money is being spent in a relatively small area, projected uptake is around 10,000 farms. The target is to have 2,000 higher level and 8,000 wider level agreement holders the over the course of the programme.

It is also important to note that the EFS is part of a package which includes significant further support provided by M02 the Environmental Advisory Service and M07 N2k Management Plans. These elements combine to address the environmental needs identified in the SWOT and increase the overall area being supported. In addition, under M01 training and support for nutrient and soil management will be provided for farmers through Business Development Groups. Therefore, a significant area of land will benefit from improved soil and nutrient management and contribute to FA4B and FA4C.

#### Organic Farming- Focus Area 4A, 4B, 4C

Support under the Environmental Farming scheme will be complemented by support for conversion to and maintenance of organic farming to ensure environmental benefits associated with organically certified land.

#### Payments to Areas Facing Natural or Other Specific Constraints- Focus Area 4A, 4B, 4C

A compensation measure to support those who farm in naturally disadvantaged areas in NI has been in place since the 1970's. The Less Favoured Areas (LFA) Compensatory Allowances Scheme operating under the 2007-13 Programme offered support for farmers without which the ongoing lower return from farming would lead to economic hardship and a threat to the future viability of these businesses.

In recognition of the specific natural constraints faced by farmers, payments will be made to farmers with breeding beef cows, sheep, goats or deer per hectare of agricultural area that comply with the eligibility rules in 2015 and 2016 in order to compensate for additional costs and income foregone related to the constraints for agricultural production in the area concerned.

#### Animal Health and Welfare - Focus Areas 1A, 1B, 1C and 2A

Animal Health and Welfare is essential to the production of a healthy quality product. The control and eradication of production diseases increase not just the profitability of animal production but also reduce GHGs and ammonia emissions through optimising input costs. Funding for animal health and welfare will be prioritised through knowledge transfer and skills acquisition.

#### Co-operation - Focus Areas 1B, 2A, 3A and 4A, 4B and 4C

The SWOT analysis and needs assessment identified a number of areas across the Programme where there is the potential to support co-operation activities to achieve the programme's aims and objectives. Support will be provided for existing beneficiaries or groups of beneficiaries to cooperate together to undertake innovative activities and projects which are new to them. Support will be provided to help interested actors to meet together to develop innovative ideas and to form new EIP operational Groups.

The aim of the Agri-Food Co-operation Scheme (AFCS) will be to reduce fragmentation within the agri-food sector by providing support for co-operation between primary producers, food processors, retailers and the food service sector. This will help them to make best use of available resources to identify/promote/develop local markets, improve communications and develop efficient short supply chains leading to an increase in profitability and competitiveness. There will also be support provided to help potential beneficiaries to co-operate together with the aim of supporting the Group level of the Environmental Farming Scheme and increase the environmental benefit.

Cooperation between small producers is recognised as essential to overcome their weak bargaining power and susceptibility to market fluctuations. Support for producer organisations has been limited in NI. Due

to the poor success for the setting up of producer groups and the support for quality schemes, cooperation under Article 35 (M16) will be prioritised to develop the cooperation both horizontally between producers and vertically in short supply chains and local markets.

### Risk Management

Support for risk management, insurance or mutual funds was not included on the basis that the insurance provision referred to in the legislation is largely not available in NI. The development of a new insurance product/mutual fund is likely to be very costly and not considered a priority. The risk management measures within the Rural Development Regulation represent only one part of the overall portfolio of risk management tools that is available to government and private sector organisations.

### LEADER – Focus Area 6B

In keeping with the evolving nature of LEADER within NI the LEADER approach will not be restricted in the 2014-2020 funding period to specific measures and will be based on the belief that rural communities are best placed to identify and address the issues and challenges within their own areas. The SWOT and need analysis have identified a number of challenges in rural areas which would benefit from the added value that a community-led local development approach such as LEADER would bring such as investment for the creation and development of SMEs in rural areas, the renewal of rural villages linked to Village and Community Plans and the provision of basic services that lead to improvements in social infrastructure (including a community approach for broadband) and the use of the built environment. Support will improve or maintain the living conditions and welfare of those living in rural areas and increase the attractiveness of rural areas through the provision of improved basic services.

### Renewable Energy Technologies

Capital support for Renewable Energy Technologies will not be provided due to the prohibitive costs connecting to the electricity grid and the introduction of a Feed-in-Tariff scheme within Northern Ireland. Renewable Energy remains an integral of departmental policy on lowering the carbon footprint of local food production and the Programme will continue to support the on-farm renewable sector through support for feasibility studies.

**5.2. The combination and justification of the rural development measures for each focus area including the justification of the financial allocations to the measures and the adequacy of the financial resources with the targets set as referred to in Article 8(1)(c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013. The combination of measures included in the intervention logic shall be based on the evidence from the SWOT analysis and justification and prioritisation of needs referred to in point 5.1**

5.2.1. P1: Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas

*5.2.1.1. 1A) Fostering innovation, cooperation, and the development of the knowledge base in rural areas*

5.2.1.1.1. Choice of rural development measures

- M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)
- M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)
- M16 - Co-operation (art 35)

**5.2.1.1.2. Combination and justification of rural development measures**

N/A

*5.2.1.2. 1B) Strengthening the links between agriculture, food production and forestry and research and innovation, including for the purpose of improved environmental management and performance*

**5.2.1.2.1. Choice of rural development measures**

- M16 - Co-operation (art 35)

**5.2.1.2.2. Combination and justification of rural development measures**

N/A

*5.2.1.3. 1C) Fostering lifelong learning and vocational training in the agricultural and forestry sectors*

**5.2.1.3.1. Choice of rural development measures**

- M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)

### 5.2.1.3.2. Combination and justification of rural development measures

N/A

5.2.2. P2: Enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and the sustainable management of forests

*5.2.2.1. 2A) Improving the economic performance of all farms and facilitating farm restructuring and modernisation, notably with a view to increasing market participation and orientation as well as agricultural diversification*

#### 5.2.2.1.1. Choice of rural development measures

- M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)
- M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)
- M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)
- M16 - Co-operation (art 35)

#### 5.2.2.1.2. Combination and justification of rural development measures

Support under Measure 01 will address the low levels of educational attainment and the skills gaps within the agricultural sector by the provision of education, through the targeting of appropriate knowledge transfer and skills training. The need to increase industry awareness of and engagement with research and development and innovation is crucially important to maintain and improve the competitiveness of the agri-food industry. The development and transfer of innovative ideas will support the adoption of new technologies and techniques to improve competitiveness, growth and development. Activity under the Innovation Technology Evaluation and Demonstration scheme will support other Measure 01 schemes and will be complemented by the Measure 16 activity and together this will help to encourage investment through Measure 04. Capital investment under Measure 04 will be targeted at the correct level for the business and justified through business plans to ensure sustainable growth.

Around €275.8m has been allocated to this focus area reflecting the importance attached to the industry in Northern Ireland and meeting the needs identified through the SWOT and Needs Assessment and the responses to the public consultation exercise. Support planned for this focus area will be fully integrated with the strategic aims for the agri-food industry and dependent on ensuring that the overall performance of the business will be improved either financially or environmentally.

5.2.2.2. 2B) *Facilitating the entry of adequately skilled farmers into the agricultural sector and, in particular, generational renewal*

**5.2.2.2.1. Choice of rural development measures**

**5.2.2.2.2. Combination and justification of rural development measures**

N/A

5.2.3. P3: Promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture

5.2.3.1. 3A) *Improving competitiveness of primary producers by better integrating them into the agri-food chain through quality schemes, adding value to agricultural products, promotion in local markets and short supply circuits, producer groups and inter-branch organisations*

**5.2.3.1.1. Choice of rural development measures**

- M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)
- M16 - Co-operation (art 35)

**5.2.3.1.2. Combination and justification of rural development measures**

Northern Ireland’s agri-food processing sector is less well developed than in the rest of the United Kingdom, particularly in terms of added value. The SWOT and Needs Analysis identified the need for increased investment and support for the uptake of new technologies as well as more effective group working and the development of supply chain partners. The need for capital investment to increase resource and production efficiency and to improve food units and manufacturing facilities was also identified. If Northern Ireland is to develop a more successful and competitive agri-food processing sector, increased innovation to move from low-tech production and a movement from local markets to high value added activities to increase export is required.

The RDP will meet these identified needs through a combination of support under Measures 04 and 16. A capital investment of around €36.5m will fund a Processing Investment Scheme backed up by a Co-operation scheme for pilot projects, and for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies has been designed to improve the supply chain through better integration and collaboration between producers, processors and others in the food chain supporting capacity building, growth, innovation and new product development. This should add value to local agricultural products and improve market capability of businesses.

The measures selected have been chosen to add more value to agricultural produce by encouraging higher-tech production methods to achieve premium prices on quality products and to improve promotion and labelling, as well as promoting the image of NI in international markets.

Further support under Measure 16 for the development of short supply chains/local markets and promotion

activity will be aimed at improving relationships between producers and processors and access to markets in order to improve efficiency and growth which will lead to increased competitiveness within the agriculture sector.

#### 5.2.3.2. 3B) Supporting farm risk prevention and management

##### 5.2.3.2.1. Choice of rural development measures

##### 5.2.3.2.2. Combination and justification of rural development measures

N/A

#### 5.2.4. P4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry

5.2.4.1. 4A) Restoring, preserving and enhancing biodiversity, including in Natura 2000 areas, and in areas facing natural or other specific constraints and high nature value farming, as well as the state of European landscapes

##### 5.2.4.1.1. Measures for agricultural land

- M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)
- M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)
- M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)
- M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)
- M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)
- M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)
- M11 - Organic farming (art 29)
- M13 - Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints (art 31)
- M16 - Co-operation (art 35)

##### 5.2.4.1.2. Measures for forestry land

- M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)

### 5.2.4.1.3. Combination and justification of rural development measures

The SWOT and Needs Assessment clearly identified the need to protect priority habitats and species and Natura 2000 sites while also halting the loss of habitats and protecting farmland birds. There is also a need across the programme to increase education and awareness of research and innovation with a view to ensuring that environmental management is considered as an integral part of agricultural production systems.

Support under this Priority will be delivered through a combination of Measures. The main expenditure will be incurred under Measure 10 with a total investment of approximately €193.8m over the programming period. The development of an Environmental Farming Scheme will aim to restore, preserve and enhance biodiversity; improve the quality of our water, air and soil; create small woodlands; and help to mitigate climate change. General Training for Scheme Implementation under Measure 01 will ensure there is an increased understanding of environmentally sustainable farming methods that protect and enhance biodiversity and will be available to all Environmental Farming Scheme participants. Further the provision of specialist advice for priority habitats and species under Measure 02 will assist in the management of environmentally sensitive areas and improve the competitiveness of farm and forest holdings by providing advice to support the development of afforestation projects. Group activity to meet the aims of the main support under Measure 10 will be provided under the cooperation Measure 16 to ensure maximum benefit from the public investment. Support under Measure 07 for the preparation of Conservation Management Plans will detail the conservation measures required to move certain Natura 2000 sites towards favourable conditions. Small scale woodland creation delivered in conjunction with the agri-environment-climate measure will contribute to the overall objective.

Measure 11 will provide additional investment in organic farming, offering support for those farmers wishing to convert or maintain organic systems.

Investments under Measure 10 will contribute to Focus Areas 4A, B and C and contribute indirectly to 5D and E.

### 5.2.4.2. 4B) Improving water management, including fertiliser and pesticide management

#### 5.2.4.2.1. Measures for agricultural land

- M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)
- M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)
- M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)
- M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)
- M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)
- M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)
- M11 - Organic farming (art 29)



- M13 - Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints (art 31)
- M16 - Co-operation (art 35)

#### **5.2.4.2.2. Measures for forestry land**

- M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)

#### **5.2.4.2.3. Combination and justification of rural development measures**

The Need for improvement in the ecological status of rivers and water catchments, halting the loss of habitats and improvement in the management of land along with the protection of priority habitats and species were all key needs identified in the SWOT and Needs Assessment. A range of Measures have been used to develop support under this focus area to meet these needs over the programming period.

As with Focus Area 4A the main focus of support will be through Measure 10 and options under the Environmental Farming Scheme will be in line with the achievement of Water Framework Directive objectives. Support will again be provided under Measures 01 and 02 to ensure understanding and capacity building within the farming sector with a view to these issues becoming an integral part of agricultural production systems.

#### *5.2.4.3. 4C) Preventing soil erosion and improving soil management*

##### **5.2.4.3.1. Measures for agricultural land**

- M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)
- M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)
- M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)
- M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)
- M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)
- M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)
- M11 - Organic farming (art 29)
- M13 - Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints (art 31)
- M16 - Co-operation (art 35)

#### 5.2.4.3.2. Measures for forestry land

- M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)

#### 5.2.4.3.3. Combination and justification of rural development measures

Soil quality is fundamental to the efficiency of the farm and the application of fertilisers which could potentially affect water courses and biodiversity. The SWOT and Needs Assessment identified the need to improve the management of land to increase efficiencies and contribute to improved environmental and/or climate outcomes, the need to increase woodland cover and the need for improvement in the ecological status of rivers and water catchments.

As with Focus Areas 4A and 4B the main focus of support for this Focus Area will be through Measure 10 and options under the Environmental Farming Scheme. Support will again be provided under Measures 01 and 02 to ensure understanding and capacity building within the farming sector with a view to improved land management becoming an integral part of agricultural production systems. Support under Measure 16 will be provided to help potential beneficiaries to co-operate together with the aim of supporting the Group level of the Environmental Farming Scheme and the focus will be to support the cooperation costs of bringing farmers and land managers together to deliver environmental benefits at a landscape scale.

5.2.5. P5: Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors

*5.2.5.1. 5A) Increasing efficiency in water use by agriculture*

5.2.5.1.1. Choice of rural development measures

#### 5.2.5.1.2. Combination and justification of rural development measures

N/A

*5.2.5.2. 5B) Increasing efficiency in energy use in agriculture and food processing*

5.2.5.2.1. Choice of rural development measures

#### 5.2.5.2.2. Combination and justification of rural development measures

N/A

5.2.5.3. 5C) *Facilitating the supply and use of renewable sources of energy, of by products, wastes, residues and other non food raw material for the purposes of the bio-economy*

**5.2.5.3.1. Choice of rural development measures**

**5.2.5.3.2. Combination and justification of rural development measures**

N/A

5.2.5.4. 5D) *Reducing green house gas and ammonia emissions from agriculture*

**5.2.5.4.1. Choice of rural development measures**

**5.2.5.4.2. Combination and justification of rural development measures**

N/A

5.2.5.5. 5E) *Fostering carbon conservation and sequestration in agriculture and forestry*

**5.2.5.5.1. Choice of rural development measures**

- M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)
- M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)
- M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)
- M16 - Co-operation (art 35)

**5.2.5.5.2. Combination and justification of rural development measures**

The main support under this Focus area will be provided through the Forestry Expansion Scheme under Measure 8 supported by advice under Measure 02 and support for the development of Forestry Management Plans under Measure 16. Investment of around €13.1m will fund the selection of measures to conserve and sequester carbon will be in line with the Forestry Strategy and also meet the need for increased woodland cover while realising the economic benefits of woodland. The actions aim to increase woodland cover and the resilience of the woods and forests. Integrating the support available with other support within the programme such as agri-environment-climate and basic services and village renewal will encourage landowners to establish new woodland based on landscape considerations, with the associated economic, environmental and social benefits. Training, innovation and learning from other Member States is seen as an

important element to ensure the maximum benefit and compliance from the public investment.

5.2.6. P6: Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas

*5.2.6.1. 6A) Facilitating diversification, creation and development of small enterprises, as well as job creation*

5.2.6.1.1. Choice of rural development measures

**5.2.6.1.2. Combination and justification of rural development measures**

N/A

*5.2.6.2. 6B) Fostering local development in rural areas*

**5.2.6.2.1. Choice of rural development measures**

- M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)
- M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development) (art 35 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

**5.2.6.2.2. Combination and justification of rural development measures**

The SWOT and Needs Assessment identified a range of needs associated with this Focus Area ranging from the ‘Need to combat poverty and social isolation in rural areas’ to the ‘Need to help preserve the cultural and social uniqueness and beauty of rural villages’. The majority of spend under this Focus Area will be delivered through LEADER with a budget of €85.4m. Support to villages will ensure there is an integrated action plan developed in conjunction with other Government departments to ensure the potential of rural areas can be developed. Capacity building of rural communities will encourage social cohesion and the identification of local needs through a bottom-up approach.

Additionally support of €12.2m under Measure 7 will be provided for investment in tourism actions which have the potential to increase the economic development base of rural areas will support strategic and sustainable development of tourism in line with Northern Ireland Tourist Board priorities for Northern Ireland and local priorities.

5.2.6.3. 6C) *Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies (ICT) in rural areas*

**5.2.6.3.1. Choice of rural development measures**

**5.2.6.3.2. Combination and justification of rural development measures**

N/A
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### **5.3. A description of how the cross-cutting objectives will be addressed, including the specific requirements in Article 8(1)(c)(v) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013**

#### **Innovation**

It is accepted that innovation and adoption of new technology is important to improving competitiveness, growth and development. The current environment of rising input costs increases the need to achieve greater competitiveness and this in turn is a driver for more innovation. There are additional drivers such as new legislation and regulation, particularly in respect of the environment. Changing consumer demand with regard to product specification and animal welfare concerns are another factor. In the longer term, climate change, food, energy and fuel security may be drivers for change also. All these factors and changing circumstances are drivers for increased professionalism and skills level within the land based, food and rural sectors as the need to manage change in the workplace increases.

DAERA has a long history of funding and implementing research and development within the areas of agriculture, fisheries, forestry and food. DARD's Evidence and Innovation Strategy, which was launched in 2009, provides the framework for identifying and commissioning research and stimulating innovation locally. Development of this Strategy was an open and inclusive process involving DARD, other Government Departments, science delivery bodies, representatives of the agri-food sector and other rural stakeholders.

The well established research base in NI and the strong links between AFBI (Agri-food and Biosciences Institute), CAFRE (College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise) and the Universities as well as the Rural Development groups and support networks provide a platform upon which to further develop knowledge transfer and innovation activities. There is an opportunity within the next RDP to build on this and develop new ways to encourage innovators and early adopters across this industry.

The Innovation and Knowledge Transfer Strategy will cut across the RDP and focus on funding research activities which are linked to practical projects and in particular projects linked to, or carried out by, EIP Operational Groups. Examples of projects which may be supported include adapting solutions to specific contexts and uses or projects which adapt processes to overcome specific climate conditions. Pilot and demonstration projects will be carried out by individual beneficiaries who will be required to disseminate the results of their project to ensure that the knowledge obtained through the support provided is spread as widely as possible to the relevant sectors and organisations.

Pilot projects will be test projects which can be part of a wider process of innovative project development or stand-alone. Demonstration projects will support the demonstration of new technologies.

EIP operational groups will be composed of farmers, researchers, levy bodies, advisors, businesses or other actors such as environmental groups and other NGOs. The purpose of the groups will be to advance innovation in the agricultural sector. There will be no stipulation as regards the size, the composition and the specific undertakings of a respective operational group.

#### **Climate change adaptation and mitigation**

The proportion of greenhouse gas emissions from the agriculture sector in Northern Ireland is the second highest in the EU at 30%, primarily as a result of the relative economic importance of the agriculture industry, and in particular the number of livestock. Significant effort is already underway to tackle emissions from agriculture, through the 'Efficient Farming Cuts Greenhouse Gases Reduction Strategy and

Action Plan', led by the Greenhouse Gas Implementation Partnership (GHGIP) comprising of government, the agri-food industry and the environmental sector. While the Partnership's Phase One report, issued in March 2014, indicated tangible progress in the implementation of on-farm efficiency measures to reduce the carbon intensity of their farming system, it is recognised that additional support is now required to encourage wider scale implementation of these measures.

To help achieve this and meet the cross cutting climate objective, the new NIRDP will have a focus on climate change adaptation and mitigation across all priorities. In support of this, DAERA has also undertaken an analysis of the DG Clima funded project 'Mainstreaming of climate change into rural development policy' and priority measures have been identified which will be incorporated into the detailed design of schemes where appropriate.

Within the new NIRDP, the Knowledge Transfer and Innovation Strategy will help to support this wider scale implementation of efficiency measures through the Innovation and Technology demonstration scheme, and particularly Technology Demonstration Farms, which will provide farmers with an opportunity to view renewable energy facilities and other GHG mitigation technologies in action on working farms and encourage greater uptake and implementation of measures to address climate change.

Business Development Groups aim to, by their very nature, contribute to climate change objectives by focusing on efficiency and improving farm performance and the Business Investment Scheme will encourage farmers to draw up a plan for business development through capital improvements including climate change considerations as an integral part of decision making.

Agri-environment-climate schemes will be one of the primary means of support for farmers wishing to adapt to climate change and reduce GHG emissions through effective nutrient planning and management via support for advanced slurry spreading techniques. Forest Planting will contribute to climate change objectives and a reduction in emissions by increasing the proportion of NI land under tree cover, thus increasing the amount of carbon sequestered.

## **Environment**

The need to protect and sustain biodiversity and habitats continues to be a priority area. While economic forces have driven the intensification of agriculture in Northern Ireland over many years and led to a net loss of habitats, biodiversity and landscape character, these effects can be mitigated or halted and reversed through appropriately targeted Government interventions. Additionally it is important to ensure that any further intensification of agriculture is environmentally sustainable and that environmental management is considered an integral part of agricultural production systems.

Woodlands enhance the attractiveness of the landscape, provide essential habitats, are a rich source of biodiversity, and are embedded in our culture and natural heritage. They also have a beneficial effect on water, soil and air. In the past most of Northern Ireland's natural vegetation was woodland however today Northern Ireland is one of the least wooded areas in Europe with only 8% of the land area under tree cover, compared to 13% of the UK as a whole.

The Agri-environment scheme in the new RDP will address these issues and will build upon the investment in agri-environment schemes since 1992.

The Environmental Farming Scheme will provide support to farmers and land managers to carry out environmentally friendly farming practices. These practices will aim to sustain and enhance biodiversity, improve the quality of our water, air and soil, create small woodlands and help to mitigate climate change.

Support will also be provided to increase the population of Irish Moiled cattle, the only surviving indigenous livestock breed in Northern Ireland which appears on the Rare Breeds Survival Trust Endangered List.

The Business Development Groups will support enhanced and appropriate land management, focusing on nutrient efficiency and the associated positive environmental outcomes. The scheme will encourage land managers to improve their knowledge of the condition of their land and soils thus enabling them to make evidence-based decisions on land improvement and protection as appropriate. Soil analysis, soil structural improvement and effective nutrient management will be the key aspects of this scheme.

The Woodland Expansion Scheme (WES) will aim to encourage the creation of woodland to contribute to biodiversity, soil and water quality, as well as carbon sequestration.

Training will be included in all the schemes in order to provide scheme participants with the knowledge and information required to understand the environmental commitments undertaken and the actions required for successful implementation of the measures.



**5.4. A summary table of the intervention logic showing the priorities and focus areas selected for the RDP, the quantified targets, and the combination of measures to be used to achieve them, including the planned expenditure (table automatically generated from the information provided in sections 5.2 and 11)**

<b>Priority 1</b>				
Focus Area	Target indicator name	Target value 2023	Planned expenditure	Combination of measures
1A	T1: percentage of expenditure under Articles 14, 15 and 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 in relation to the total expenditure for the RDP (focus area 1A)	5.44%		M01, M02, M16
1B	T2: Total number of cooperation operations supported under the cooperation measure (Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013) (groups, networks/clusters, pilot projects...) (focus area 1B)	59.00		M16
1C	T3: Total number of participants trained under Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 (focus area 1C)	29,500.00		M01
<b>Priority 2</b>				
Focus Area	Target indicator name	Target value 2023	Planned expenditure	Combination of measures
2A	T4: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investments in restructuring or modernisation (focus area 2A)	19.18%	256,294,215.00	M01, M04, M08, M16
<b>Priority 3</b>				
Focus Area	Target indicator name	Target value 2023	Planned expenditure	Combination of measures
3A	T6: percentage of agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations (focus area 3A)	8.53%	30,426,654.00	M04, M16
	% of Agri-Food enterprises supported (%)	25.00%		
<b>Priority 4</b>				
Focus Area	Target indicator name	Target value 2023	Planned expenditure	Combination of measures
4A (agri)	T9: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (focus area 4A)	12.18%	241,775,221.00	M01, M02, M04, M07, M08, M10, M11, M13, M16
4B (agri)	T10: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)	8.08%		
4C (agri)	T12: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)	3.99%		
4A (forestry)	T8: percentage of forest/other wooded area under management contracts supporting biodiversity (focus area 4A)	0.69%	632,340.00	M08
4B (forestry)	T11: percentage of forestry land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)	0.03%		
4C (forestry)	T13: percentage of forestry land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)	0.03%		
<b>Priority 5</b>				
Focus Area	Target indicator name	Target value 2023	Planned expenditure	Combination of measures
5E	T19: percentage of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration and conservation (focus area 5E)	1.74%	10,536,224.00	M02, M08, M10, M16
<b>Priority 6</b>				
Focus Area	Target indicator name	Target value	Planned expenditure	Combination of measures

		2023		
6B	T21: percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies (focus area 6B)	100.00%	72,899,728.00	M07, M19
	T22: percentage of rural population benefiting from improved services/infrastructures (focus area 6B)	11.54%		
	T23: Jobs created in supported projects (Leader) (focus area 6B)	700.00		

**5.5. A description of the advisory capacity to ensure adequate advice and support for the regulatory requirements and for actions related to innovation to demonstrate the measures taken as required in Article 8(1)(c)(vi) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013**

During the 2007-2013 Rural Development Programme advice was provided through the Farm Advisory Service supplied by the Department's College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE).

CAFRE provides most of the education and training in agriculture, food, horticulture and rural enterprise at the further and higher education level in Northern Ireland.

CAFRE also has a lead responsibility for delivery and ensuring the adoption of new technologies (innovation) to improve farm and food business performance in Northern Ireland. It provides a link between research outcomes and the transfer of the knowledge and technology to users within the industry. The demonstration of new technologies and systems to the industry is achieved mainly through a series of knowledge and technology projects. These projects aim to equip those in the industry with the knowledge, skills and experience to adopt the appropriate technologies and systems for their business. CAFRE creates the awareness for these technologies through open days and large scale demonstrations/events throughout Northern Ireland. These are organised in collaboration with AFBI (Agri-food and Biosciences Institute) and industry stakeholders.

CAFRE will continue to build upon this work within the new Rural Development Programme and in addition to the extension of advisory services, the provision of specific environmental training will be integrated into the delivery of the relevant measure.

This approach will be aligned with the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) for agriculture productivity and sustainability. This will help fill gaps by better linking research and practical farming and ensure learning from across Europe can be translated into innovative projects in Northern Ireland, and learning from Northern Ireland available to farmers and land managers in Europe.

## **6. ASSESSMENT OF THE EX-ANTE CONDITIONALITIES**

### **6.1. Additional information**

The following are the ex-ante conditionalities that apply to the Rural Development Programme for Northern Ireland, according to the Rural Development Regulation (EC 1305/2013) and the Common Provisions Regulation (EC 1303/2013).

The details of how these conditionalities have been fulfilled are in sections 6.1-6.3.

## 6.2. Ex-ante conditionalities

Applicable ex-ante conditionality at national level	Applicable ex-ante conditionality fulfilled: Yes/No/Partially	Assessment of its fulfilment	Priorities/Focus Areas	Measures
P3.1) Risk prevention and risk management: the existence of national or regional risk assessments for disaster management taking into account climate change adaptation	yes	Ex ante conditionality fulfilled	3B	M05, M08, M17
P4.1) Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions (GAEC): standards for good agricultural and environmental condition of land referred to in Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 are established at national level	yes	Ex ante conditionality fulfilled	P4	M12, M11, M10
P4.2) Minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products: minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products referred to in Article 28 of Chapter I of Title III of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 are defined at national level	yes	Ex ante conditionality fulfilled	P4	M11, M10
P4.3) Other relevant national standards: relevant mandatory national standards are defined for the purpose of Article 28 of Chapter I of Title III of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013	yes	Ex ante conditionality fulfilled	P4	M11, M10
P5.1) Energy efficiency: actions have been carried out to promote cost effective improvements of energy end use efficiency and cost effective investment in energy efficiency when constructing or renovating buildings.	yes	Ex ante conditionality fulfilled	5B	M07, M16, M06, M04
P5.2) Water sector: the existence of a) a water pricing policy which provides adequate incentives for users to use water resources efficiently and b) an adequate contribution of the different water uses to the recovery of the costs of water services at a rate determined in the approved river basin management plan for investment supported by the programmes.	yes	Ex ante conditionality fulfilled	5A	M16, M04
P5.3) Renewable energy: actions have been carried out to promote the production and distribution of renewable energy sources	yes	Ex ante conditionality fulfilled	5C	M16, M07, M04, M06
P6.1) Next Generation Network (NGN) Infrastructure : the existence of national or regional NGA Plans which take account of regional actions in order to reach the Union high speed Internet access targets, focusing on areas where the market fails to provide an open infrastructure at an affordable cost and of a quality in line with the Union competition and State aid rules and to provide accessible services to vulnerable groups	yes	Ex ante conditionality fulfilled	6C	M07, M16
G1) Anti-Discrimination: the existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union anti discrimination law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	yes	Ex ante conditionality fulfilled	6B	M16, M01, M02
G2) Gender Equality: the existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union gender equality law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	yes	Ex ante conditionality fulfilled	6B, 6A	M07, M02, M16, M06, M19, M01

implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCPRD) in the field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC				
G4) Public Procurement: the existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	yes	Ex ante conditionality fulfilled	6B, 2A, 5A, 5C, 5B	M04, M02, M01, M19, M07, M16, M06, M08
G5) State Aid: the existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds.	yes	Ex ante conditionality fulfilled	P4, 5E, 1B, 6A, 3A, 5D, 3B, 1C, 5A, 2B, 1A, 2A, 6C, 5B, 5C, 6B	M09, M08, M05, M17, M14, M02, M11, M01, M341, M12, M20, M07, M04, M113, M03, M13, M19, M16, M18, M131, M06, M15
G6) Environmental legislation relating to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA): the existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union environmental legislation related to EIA and SEA.	yes	Ex ante conditionality fulfilled	P4, 3A, 6A, 2A, 6C, 5D, 5A, 5C, 5E, 5B	M06, M14, M07, M16, M04, M15, M10, M11, M13, M08, M12
G7) Statistical systems and result indicators: the existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	yes	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled	P4, 6B, 6A, 1B, 5D, 5C, 3A, 5E, 1A, 1C, 5B, 2A	M07, M08, M04, M13, M16, M19, M01, M02, M10, M11

Applicable ex-ante conditionality at national level	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference (if fulfilled) [reference to the strategies, legal acts or other relevant documents]	Assessment of its fulfilment
<p>P3.1) Risk prevention and risk management: the existence of national or regional risk assessments for disaster management taking into account climate change adaptation</p>	<p>P3.1.a) A national or regional risk assessment with the following elements shall be in place: A description of the process, methodology, methods and non-sensitive data used for risk assessment as well as of the risk-based criteria for the prioritisation of investment;</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civil Contingencies Act (2004)</li> <li>• National Risk Assessment</li> </ul>	<p>The UK model of risk management for National Resilience is underpinned by the Civil Contingencies Act (2004) (CCA).</p> <p>The National Risk Assessment (NRA) provides a strategic and cross-government assessment of the most significant civil emergencies that could affect citizens in the UK over the next 5 years. It is reviewed every year and endorsed by both the Government's Chief Scientific Advisor and Ministers. This document provides a prioritisation of the most significant emergencies that could affect the UK to inform decision making for contingency planning and capability building at the national and local level.</p> <p>At the local level Category 1 Responders have a duty under the CCA to assess the risk of emergencies affecting the area in which they operate. Under the regulations of this Act Government provide advice and guidance to support local risk assessment.</p>
	<p>P3.1.b) A national or regional risk assessment with the following elements shall be in place: A description of single-risk and multi-risk scenarios;</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civil Contingencies Act (2004)</li> <li>• National Risk Assessment</li> </ul>	<p>The UK model of risk management for National Resilience is underpinned by the Civil Contingencies Act (2004) (CCA).</p> <p>The National Risk Assessment (NRA) provides a strategic and cross-government assessment of the most significant civil emergencies that could affect citizens in the UK over the next 5 years. It is reviewed every year</p>

				<p>and endorsed by both the Government's Chief Scientific Advisor and Ministers. This document provides a prioritisation of the most significant emergencies that could affect the UK to inform decision making for contingency planning and capability building at the national and local level.</p> <p>At the local level Category 1 Responders have a duty under the CCA to assess the risk of emergencies affecting the area in which they operate. Under the regulations of this Act Government provide advice and guidance to support local risk assessment.</p>
	<p>P3.1.c) A national or regional risk assessment with the following elements shall be in place: Taking into account, where appropriate, national climate change adaptation strategies.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UK Climate Change Act 2008</li> <li>• Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme</li> <li>• <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/doe/ni-climate-change-adaptation-programme.pdf">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/doe/ni-climate-change-adaptation-programme.pdf</a></li> <li>• Climate Change Risk Assessment 2012</li> <li>• <a href="http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=10068_CCRAforNorthernIreland16July2012.pdf">http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=10068_CCRAforNorthernIreland16July2012.pdf</a></li> <li>• Climate Change Risk Assessment for Northern Ireland 2012</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=10068_CCRAforNorthernIreland16July2012.pdf">http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=10068_CCRAforNorthernIreland16July2012.pdf</a></p>	<p>The NRA does not include a climate change specific risk as it is concerned with single events, not long term or trend risks, and those risks judged to be credible over the next 5 years. However, the implications of climate change on the likelihood and impacts of hazards are covered under flooding and weather related risks.</p> <p>The UK Climate Change Act 2008 requires a series of assessments of climate risks to the UK, both under current conditions and over the long term.</p> <p>The Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) 2012 reviewed the evidence for more than 700 potential climate change impacts on the UK economy, society and environment. Over 100 of these impacts across 11 sectors were taken forward for more detailed analysis at UK-wide scale, having been selected on the basis of likelihood, potential consequences and how urgently adaptation action may be needed to address them. A list of the most important impacts for Northern Ireland was subsequently developed through a process of consultation with stakeholders. This took into account the impacts considered to be the most important for the UK</p>



				<p>as a whole, together with particular features and issues relevant to Northern Ireland.</p> <p>The Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme was published in January 2014 and sets out a response to the findings in the CCRA for Northern Ireland. The Adaptation Programme sets out a vision to build 'A resilient Northern Ireland which will take timely and well-informed decisions that are responsive to the key risks and opportunities presented by climate change'.</p>
<p>P4.1) Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions (GAEC): standards for good agricultural and environmental condition of land referred to in Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 are established at national level</p>	<p>P4.1.a) GAEC standards are defined in national law and specified in the programmes</p>	Yes	<p>Northern Ireland Cross Compliance Verifiable Standards</p> <p><a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Cross%20Compliance%20Booklet%202016%20%20COMPLETE%20VERSION.pdf">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Cross%20Compliance%20Booklet%202016%20%20COMPLETE%20VERSION.pdf</a></p>	<p>Current GAEC standards are set out in the Northern Ireland Cross Compliance Verifiable Standards document.</p>
<p>P4.2) Minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products: minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products referred to in Article 28 of Chapter I of Title III of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 are defined at national level</p>	<p>P4.2.a) Minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products referred to in Chapter I of Title III of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 are specified in the programmes;</p>	Yes	<p><b><u>Fertilisers</u></b></p> <p>Nitrates Action Programme 2015-2018 &amp; Phosphorus Regulations</p> <p>Nitrates Action Programme 2015-2018 &amp; Phosphorus Regulations Guidance Booklet</p> <p><a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/nitrates-action-programme-nap-and-phosphorus-regulations-2015-2018">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/nitrates-action-programme-nap-and-phosphorus-regulations-2015-2018</a></p> <p>The Code of Good Agricultural Practice</p> <p><a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/code-good-agricultural-practice-cogap">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/code-good-agricultural-practice-cogap</a></p> <p>RB209 Fertiliser Manual</p> <p><u>SMR 1</u> Protection of water against nitrate pollution</p> <p><b>Plant Protection Products</b></p> <p>The Plant Protection Products Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 (as amended) (<a href="http://legislation.gov.uk">legislation.gov.uk</a>)</p> <p>The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012. (<a href="http://pesticides.gov.uk">pesticides.gov.uk</a>)</p> <p>NI Code of Practice for using Plant Protection Products</p> <p><a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/code-practice-using-plant-protection-products">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/code-practice-using-plant-protection-products</a></p>	<p>Farmers are expected to use best management practices in applying fertilisers and manures, to follow guidelines provided in publications such as The Fertiliser Manual (RB209) and The Codes of Good Agricultural Practice.</p> <p>Specific regulation on fertiliser use is found in the Nitrates Directive, implemented by The Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010/2014, the Nitrates Action Programme (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 and the Phosphorus (Use in Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006. These regulations bring into operation measures to improve the use of these nutrients on farms and reduce their input to Northern Ireland's water environment from agricultural sources. These Regulations are also included in the River Basin Management Plans implemented under the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>Farmers are also expected to use</p>

			<p>SMR 10 Restriction on the use of plant protection products.</p>	<p>best management practices in applying fertilisers and manures, to follow guidelines in Fertiliser Manual (RB209) and The Codes of Good Agricultural Practice.</p> <p>Fertiliser use is also touched on in the Water Framework Directive, implemented by the Water Environment (WFD) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003.</p> <p>Minimum requirements for fertilisers are established through cross compliance SMR 1.</p> <p>Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 to regulate plant protection products is transposed in Northern Ireland by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Plant Protection Products Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 (legislation.gov.uk)</li> <li>• The Food and Environment Protection Act 1985</li> </ul> <p>Directive 2009/128/EC (EUR-Lex) to regulate the sustainable use of pesticides is transposed in the UK by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012. .</li> </ul> <p>The UK National Action Plan for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides specifies the regulatory requirement for professional users to be certified or work under the supervision of a certificate holder, this certification must include training on integrated approaches. Certification for professional users is a mandatory requirement under the Sustainable Use Regulations.</p> <p>Minimum requirements for plant protection products are established through cross compliance SMR 9 10 (PPPs).</p> <p>Farmers are also encouraged to follow the NI Code of Practice for using Plant Protection</p>
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				<p>Products.</p> <p>Other national standards apply to all farmers and others eligible for support in this measure, such as the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002, restricting operations on ASSI designated land, and the Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012, which require Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and oblige pesticide users to demonstrate that they have considered safer alternatives to pesticide application. However, these are separate from the support that shall be offered in the 2014-2020 programme and do not constitute relevant mandatory requirements pertaining to Article 28 (3) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013.</p>
<p>P4.3) Other relevant national standards: relevant mandatory national standards are defined for the purpose of Article 28 of Chapter 1 of Title III of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013</p>	<p>P4.3.a) Relevant mandatory national standards are specified in the programmes</p>	<p>Yes</p>		<p>Only GAECs, SMRs and the above minimum requirements constitute the legal baseline for support under Article 28 in Northern Ireland.</p>
<p>P5.1) Energy efficiency: actions have been carried out to promote cost effective improvements of energy end use efficiency and cost effective investment in energy efficiency when constructing or renovating buildings.</p>	<p>P5.1.a) Measures to ensure minimum requirements are in place related to the energy performance of buildings consistent with Articles 3, 4 and 5 of Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and the Council;</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Regulation 21 of the Building Regulations 2010</p> <p>Regulation 24 of the Building Regulations 2010</p> <p>Regulation 5 of the Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations</p> <p>Regulation 4 of the Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations (Articles 1 – 4)</p> <p>Regulation 9 of the Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations (Articles 1 – 5)</p> <p>Energy Efficiency Strategy [<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-efficiency-opportunities-in-the-uk">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-efficiency-opportunities-in-the-uk</a>]</p> <p>Energy Efficiency Strategy: 2013 Update [<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-efficiency-strategy-2013-update">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-efficiency-strategy-2013-update</a>]</p> <p>Gas Act 1986;</p> <p>Gas (Meters) Regulations 1983;</p> <p>Measuring Instruments (EEC Requirements)(Gas Volume Meters) Regulations 1988;</p>	<p>Article 3</p> <p>In accordance with The Building Regulations 2010 regulation 24 (methodology of calculation and expression of energy performance), the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has developed a national calculation methodology for the energy performance of buildings. This national calculation methodology has also been adopted by Department of Finance and Personnel for Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 (ref Part F regulation 40).</p> <p>Article 4</p> <p>Changes to strengthen energy performance requirements, in Part L of the Building Regulations 2010 for England</p>

			<p>Measuring Instruments (Gas Meters) Regulations 2006;</p> <p>Measuring Instruments (Non-Prescribed Instruments) Regulations 2006;</p> <p>Gas (Standards of Performance) Regulations 2005;</p> <p>Gas Standard Conditions of Supply Licences.</p> <p>Electricity Act 1989;</p> <p>Meters (Approval of Pattern or Constructions and Manner of Installation) Regulations 1998;</p> <p>Meters (Certification) regulations 1998;</p> <p>Measuring Instruments (Active Electrical Energy Meters Regulations 2006;</p> <p>Electricity (Standards of Performance) Regulations 2005;</p> <p>Electricity Standard Conditions of Supply Licences, the Balancing and Settlement Code.</p> <p>Electricity and Gas (Billing) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/1163)</p>	<p>and Wales (introduced in October 2010) has delivered a 25% reduction in emissions from new buildings and improved standards when building work is carried out to existing properties.</p> <p>Since submitting the UK cost optimal report (as required by Article 5 of the Directive) England has further strengthened standards in 2013 with an emphasis on cost effective improvements to building fabric and building services and striking a balance between improving energy efficiency and ensuring that the net effect upon consumers and businesses is beneficial and does not stifle growth. Northern Ireland is currently in line with the 2010 standards for England and Wales and has committed to follow strengthening standards in line with England.</p> <p>The national calculation methodologies, which calculate the energy performance of buildings, are required to take account of indoor climate conditions, such as inadequate ventilation, local conditions, designated function and age when calculating the energy performance of a building.</p> <p>Article 5</p> <p>DCLG has submitted a report to the commission, on behalf of the whole of the UK, which is under consideration.</p>
	<p>P5.1.b) Measures necessary to establish a system of certification of the energy performance of buildings consistent with Article 11 of Directive 2010/31/EU;</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Regulation 21 of the Building Regulations 2010</p> <p>Regulation 24 of the Building Regulations 2010</p> <p>Regulation 5 of the Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations</p> <p>Regulation 4 of the Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations (Articles 1 – 4)</p> <p>Regulation 9 of the Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations (Articles 1 – 5)</p> <p>Energy Efficiency Strategy [<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-efficiency-opportunities-in-the-uk">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-efficiency-opportunities-in-the-uk</a>]</p> <p>Energy Efficiency Strategy: 2013 Update [<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-efficiency-strategy-2013-update">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-efficiency-strategy-2013-update</a>]</p>	<p>The referenced articles of Regulations 4 and 9 of the Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations establish the required system of certification. Northern Ireland transposed article 11 of Directive 2010/31/EU by the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008 (as amended 2009, 2013 &amp; 2014) in Parts 2 &amp; 3.</p>

			<p>Gas Act 1986;</p> <p>Gas (Meters) Regulations 1983;</p> <p>Measuring Instruments (EEC Requirements)(Gas Volume Meters) Regulations 1988;</p> <p>Measuring Instruments (Gas Meters) Regulations 2006;</p> <p>Measuring Instruments (Non-Prescribed Instruments) Regulations 2006;</p> <p>Gas (Standards of Performance) Regulations 2005;</p> <p>Gas Standard Conditions of Supply Licences.</p> <p>Electricity Act 1989;</p> <p>Meters (Approval of Pattern or Constructions and Manner of Installation) Regulations 1998;</p> <p>Meters (Certification) regulations 1998;</p> <p>Measuring Instruments (Active Electrical Energy Meters Regulations 2006;</p> <p>Electricity (Standards of Performance) Regulations 2005;</p> <p>Electricity Standard Conditions of Supply Licences, the Balancing and Settlement Code.</p> <p>Electricity and Gas (Billing) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/1163)</p>	
	<p>P5.1.c) Measures to ensure strategic planning on energy efficiency, consistent with Article 3 of Directive 2012/27 EU of the European Parliament and the Council;</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Regulation 21 of the Building Regulations 2010</p> <p>Regulation 24 of the Building Regulations 2010</p> <p>Regulation 5 of the Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations</p> <p>Regulation 4 of the Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations (Articles 1 – 4)</p> <p>Regulation 9 of the Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations (Articles 1 – 5)</p> <p>Energy Efficiency Strategy [<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-efficiency-opportunities-in-the-uk">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-efficiency-opportunities-in-the-uk</a>]</p> <p>Energy Efficiency Strategy: 2013 Update [<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-efficiency-strategy-2013-update">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-efficiency-strategy-2013-update</a>]</p> <p>Gas Act 1986;</p> <p>Gas (Meters) Regulations 1983;</p> <p>Measuring Instruments (EEC Requirements)(Gas Volume Meters) Regulations 1988;</p> <p>Measuring Instruments (Gas Meters) Regulations 2006;</p> <p>Measuring Instruments (Non-Prescribed Instruments) Regulations 2006;</p> <p>Gas (Standards of Performance) Regulations 2005;</p> <p>Gas Standard Conditions of Supply Licences.</p>	<p>As required by Article 3 of the Energy Efficiency Directive, on 30 April the UK set itself a non-binding energy efficiency target for 2020 (set at the level of an 18% reduction in final energy consumption, or 20% primary energy consumption). Current projections show that the target will be met in 2020.</p> <p>The UK has a range of policy measures in place to help meet the target, and the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) set these out in the 2012 Energy Efficiency Strategy and the 2013 Update to this.</p> <p>The November 2012 Energy Efficiency Strategy sets out the mission to seize the energy efficiency opportunity in the UK, and the policy strategy for the next two decades.</p> <p>It is designed to maximise the benefits of existing policy and to realise the wider energy efficiency potential across the UK economy.</p>

			<p>Electricity Act 1989;</p> <p>Meters (Approval of Pattern or Constructions and Manner of Installation) Regulations 1998;</p> <p>Meters (Certification) regulations 1998;</p> <p>Measuring Instruments (Active Electrical Energy Meters Regulations 2006;</p> <p>Electricity (Standards of Performance) Regulations 2005;</p> <p>Electricity Standard Conditions of Supply Licences, the Balancing and Settlement Code.</p> <p>Electricity and Gas (Billing) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/1163)</p>	<p>The 2013 Strategy Update focuses on the significant progress made since the publication of the Energy Efficiency Strategy, and looks forward to the key energy efficiency priorities over the next year or so.</p>
<p>P5.1.d) Measures consistent with Article 13 of Directive 2006/32/EC of the European Parliament and the Council on energy end use efficiency and energy services to ensure the provision to final customers of individual meters in so far as it is technically possible, financially reasonable and proportionate in relation to the potential energy savings.</p>		<p>Yes</p>	<p>Regulation 21 of the Building Regulations 2010</p> <p>Regulation 24 of the Building Regulations 2010</p> <p>Regulation 5 of the Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations</p> <p>Regulation 4 of the Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations (Articles 1 – 4)</p> <p>Regulation 9 of the Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations (Articles 1 – 5)</p> <p>Energy Efficiency Strategy [<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-efficiency-opportunities-in-the-uk">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-efficiency-opportunities-in-the-uk</a>]</p> <p>Energy Efficiency Strategy: 2013 Update [<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-efficiency-strategy-2013-update">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-efficiency-strategy-2013-update</a>]</p> <p>Gas Act 1986;</p> <p>Gas (Meters) Regulations 1983;</p> <p>Measuring Instruments (EEC Requirements)(Gas Volume Meters) Regulations 1988;</p> <p>Measuring Instruments (Gas Meters) Regulations 2006;</p> <p>Measuring Instruments (Non-Prescribed Instruments) Regulations 2006;</p> <p>Gas (Standards of Performance) Regulations 2005;</p> <p>Gas Standard Conditions of Supply Licences.</p> <p>Electricity Act 1989;</p> <p>Meters (Approval of Pattern or Constructions and Manner of Installation) Regulations 1998;</p> <p>Meters (Certification) regulations 1998;</p> <p>Measuring Instruments (Active Electrical Energy Meters Regulations 2006;</p> <p>Electricity (Standards of Performance) Regulations 2005;</p> <p>Electricity Standard Conditions of Supply Licences, the Balancing and Settlement Code.</p> <p>Electricity and Gas (Billing) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/1163)</p>	<p>The legislation referred to, on both gas and electricity, ensure that the UK as a whole complies with this criteria.</p> <p>For the purposes of Article 13(1) of the directive, domestic, public sector and business premises in the UK that are served by licensed gas and electricity suppliers are already provided with individual, competitively priced gas and electricity meters which can accurately record the customer's actual consumption</p> <p>The UK does not have mandatory requirements for metering for district heating or domestic hot water. In the UK, only a small minority of households and businesses directly buy heat (district heating). Only 0.75% of the UK's final energy demand is met by the direct supply of heat. In relation to district heating, the consultation and cost-benefit assessment carried out in 2007 and 2008 demonstrated that across the district heating sector as a whole, it was not financially reasonable and proportionate in relation to the potential energy savings to require installation of metering in existing heat schemes or new heat schemes. In addition, the vast majority of these schemes involve very small suppliers and Article 2(a) of the Directive permits Member States to exclude such companies from the application of article 13. DECC accordingly considers that no measures are necessary in respect of district heating under article 13(1) of the Directive.</p>

<p>P5.2) Water sector: the existence of a) a water pricing policy which provides adequate incentives for users to use water resources efficiently and b) an adequate contribution of the different water uses to the recovery of the costs of water services at a rate determined in the approved river basin management plan for investment supported by the programmes.</p>	<p>P5.2.a) In sectors supported by the EAFRD, a Member State has ensured a contribution of the different water uses to the recovery of the costs of water services by sector consistent with Article 9, paragraph 1 first indent of the Water Framework Directive having regard where appropriate, to the social, environmental and economic effects of the recovery as well as the geographic and climatic conditions of the region or regions affected.</p>	<p>Yes</p>		<p>Water pricing arrangements for the agriculture and industrial sectors have been in place for many years in NI.</p> <p>Water and sewerage charges were extended to all non-domestic customers on 1st April 2008. The majority of agricultural and industrial customers are metered and charged according to usage. This is in line with the Directive's requirement for users to use water resources efficiently and promotes the polluter pays principle.</p> <p>The bulk of non-essential or discriminatory water use is by non-domestic water users who account for around 30% of the total water consumed in Northern Ireland. The continued roll out of metering in that sector will incentivise efficient use of water resources and help achieve the aims of the Directive.</p> <p>Trade effluent charges are also in place. Trade effluent charges are based on the Modgen formula which takes account of the polluter pays principle.</p> <p>A number of additional measures are being taken to achieve the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive. Foremost is the major investment to upgrade water and sewerage infrastructure. The prioritisation of this investment is set out in Ministerial Social &amp; Environmental Guidance. This has been reflected in the final WFD Programme of Measures amongst other things. The Water and Sewerage Services (NI) Order 2006 also places a duty on Northern Ireland Water (NIW) to promote the efficient use of water by customers. The Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation (NIAUR) has the power to enforce this duty.</p> <p>NIEA review abstraction licenses issued to NI Water to ensure compliance with WFD in respect of water quality standards and</p>

				ecological need. NI Water has also undertaken an extensive programme of investment, education and campaigns to highlight the importance of water efficiency, environmentally friendly behaviours which promote water conservation, reduce mains leakage and improve water and sewerage infrastructure.
P5.3) Renewable energy: actions have been carried out to promote the production and distribution of renewable energy sources	P5.3.a) Transparent support schemes, priority in grid access or guaranteed access and priority in dispatching, as well as standard rules relating to the bearing and sharing of costs of technical adaptations which have been made public are in place consistent with Article 14(1) and Article 16(2) and (3) of Directive 2009/28/EC;	Yes	<p>National Renewable Action Plan (NREAP)  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/47871/25-nat-ren-energy-action-plan.pdf">https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/47871/25-nat-ren-energy-action-plan.pdf</a></p> <p>Strategic Energy Framework for Northern Ireland <a href="https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/publications/energy-strategic-framework-northern-ireland">https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/publications/energy-strategic-framework-northern-ireland</a></p> <p>Onshore Renewable Electricity Action Plan 2013-2020  <a href="https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/deti/OREAP%202013-2020.pdf">https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/deti/OREAP%202013-2020.pdf</a></p> <p>DARD Interim Renewable Energy Action Plan 2013-14  <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/dard-interim-renewable-energy-action-plan.pdf">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/dard-interim-renewable-energy-action-plan.pdf</a></p>	<p>The UK is committed to having 15% of energy consumption to come from renewable sources in 2020, as set out in the 2009 Renewable Energy Directive.</p> <p>The UK produced and adopted a national renewable action plan (NREAP) as set out in the 2009 Directive. This NREAP is published on the UK Government and EU Commission's websites and sets out transposition and strategy for compliance with the Renewable Energy Directive.</p> <p>The Strategic Energy Framework for Northern Ireland flags the direction for Northern Ireland energy policy over the next ten years, concentrating on the key areas of electricity, natural gas, and renewable energy sources. Northern Ireland will seek to achieve 40% of its electricity consumption and 10% of its heat consumption from renewable sources by 2020.</p>
	P5.3.b) A Member State has adopted a national renewable energy action plan consistent with Article 4 of Directive 2009/28/EC	Yes	<p>National Renewable Action Plan (NREAP)  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/47871/25-nat-ren-energy-action-plan.pdf">https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/47871/25-nat-ren-energy-action-plan.pdf</a></p> <p>Strategic Energy Framework for Northern Ireland <a href="https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/publications/energy-strategic-framework-northern-ireland">https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/publications/energy-strategic-framework-northern-ireland</a></p> <p>Onshore Renewable Electricity Action Plan 2013-2020  <a href="https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/deti/OREAP%202013-2020.pdf">https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/deti/OREAP%202013-2020.pdf</a></p>	<p>The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) have developed the Onshore Renewable Electricity Action Plan 2013-2020 (OREAP) to examine the role and cumulative impact of potential market led renewable electricity generation mixes in meeting the Northern Ireland Executive's target of 40% electricity consumption to come from renewable sources by 2020.</p> <p>The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development published its Renewable Energy Action Plan in 2010 which included a range of measures to</p>



			DARD Interim Renewable Energy Action Plan 2013-14 <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/dard-interim-renewable-energy-action-plan.pdf">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/dard-interim-renewable-energy-action-plan.pdf</a>	support the agriculture and forestry sectors to contribute to and benefit from opportunities associated with the development of renewable energy for increased competitiveness, energy security and mitigation and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. In the light of a report from the Renewable Energy External Stakeholders Group, the Department published a revised Interim Renewable Energy Action plan for 2013/14.
P6.1) Next Generation Network (NGN) Infrastructure : the existence of national or regional NGA Plans which take account of regional actions in order to reach the Union high speed Internet access targets, focusing on areas where the market fails to provide an open infrastructure at an affordable cost and of a quality in line with the Union competition and State aid rules and to provide accessible services to vulnerable groups	P6.1.a) A national or regional NGN Plan is in place that contains: a plan of infrastructure investments based on an economic analysis taking account of existing private and public infrastructures and planned investments;	Yes	Broadband Delivery Programme: Delivery Model – September 2011 <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/broadband-delivery-programme-delivery-model-september-2011">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/broadband-delivery-programme-delivery-model-september-2011</a>	A delivery model from September 2011 is currently in place.  The UK Government's broadband delivery agency – Broadband Delivery UK - will publish an updated Programme Delivery Model setting out a national plan for delivery from 2014 to 2020.
	P6.1.b) A national or regional NGN Plan is in place that contains: sustainable investment models that enhance competition and provide access to open, affordable, quality and future proof infrastructure and services;	Yes	Broadband Delivery Programme: Delivery Model – September 2011 <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/broadband-delivery-programme-delivery-model-september-2011">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/broadband-delivery-programme-delivery-model-september-2011</a>	A delivery model from September 2011 is currently in place.  The UK Government's broadband delivery agency – Broadband Delivery UK - will publish an updated Programme Delivery Model setting out a national plan for delivery from 2014 to 2020.
	P6.1.c) A national or regional NGN Plan is in place that contains: measures to stimulate private investment.	Yes	Broadband Delivery Programme: Delivery Model – September 2011 <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/broadband-delivery-programme-delivery-model-september-2011">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/broadband-delivery-programme-delivery-model-september-2011</a>	A delivery model from September 2011 is currently in place.  The UK Government's broadband delivery agency – Broadband Delivery UK - will publish an updated Programme Delivery Model setting out a national plan for delivery from 2014 to 2020.
G1) Anti-Discrimination: the existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union anti discrimination law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	G1.a) Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the involvement of bodies responsible for the promotion of equal treatment of all persons throughout the preparation and implementation of	Yes	Northern Ireland Act 1998 <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/47/contents">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/47/contents</a>  DARD Equality Scheme	Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires DAERA to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity:  • Between persons

	<p>programmes, including the provision of advice on equality in ESI fund related activities.</p>		<p><a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/dard-equality-scheme-2011-2016.pdf">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/dard-equality-scheme-2011-2016.pdf</a></p> <p>DARD Audit of Inequalities and Action Plan 2011-2016</p> <p><a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/audit-of-inequalities-and-action-plan-combined.pdf">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/audit-of-inequalities-and-action-plan-combined.pdf</a></p>	<p>of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Between men and women generally;</li> <li>• Between persons with a disability and persons without; and</li> <li>• Between persons with dependents and persons without.</li> </ul> <p>The Department is also required to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.</p> <p>DARD revised its Equality Scheme in 2011 and subsequently developed an Audit of Inequalities and an accompanying Action Plan. These documents set out a range of actions that DAERA will take to further promote equality and good relations and to ensure that Section 75 is at the core of its decision and policy making processes. In taking forward the RDP 2014-20, the DAERA Minister and the Departmental Board are fully committed to the implementation of the Section 75 duties and Equality Scheme across all aspects of DAERA's business. DAERA is supported in this by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland, a non departmental public body established by the Northern Ireland Act 1998.</p> <p>All of the Department's policy areas are screened to ensure that they meet Section 75 obligations. If it is considered that a policy is likely to have an adverse impact in terms of equality, it is subject to a rigorous equality impact assessment. Consequently, actions within this programme have been designed to ensure equality of opportunity and minimise potential for any negative impact. Similarly, implementation of the Programme will take account of the potential for differential impacts and for enhancing equality of opportunity.</p> <p>Equality organisations, including the Northern Ireland Equality</p>
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				Commission, were consulted on the new Rural Development Programme and will be represented on the Monitoring Committee for new programme.
	G1.b) Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of Union anti discrimination law and policy.	Yes	<p>Northern Ireland Act 1998 <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/47/contents">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/47/contents</a></p> <p>DARD Equality Scheme <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/dard-equality-scheme-2011-2016.pdf">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/dard-equality-scheme-2011-2016.pdf</a></p> <p>DARD Audit of Inequalities and Action Plan 2011-2016 <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/audit-of-inequalities-and-action-plan-combined.pdf">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/audit-of-inequalities-and-action-plan-combined.pdf</a></p>	DAERA is committed to creating a positive, inclusive working environment and ensuring equality of opportunity for its staff and customers. To ensure staff are aware of the important legislation and policies around equality and diversity, regular Diversity training is mandatory for all DAERA staff.
G2) Gender Equality: the existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union gender equality law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	G2.a) Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the involvement of bodies responsible for gender equality throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes, including the provision of advice on gender equality in ESI Fund related activities.	Yes	<p>Gender Equality Strategy 2006-2016 <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/gender-equality-strategy-2006-2016.pdf">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/gender-equality-strategy-2006-2016.pdf</a></p>	<p>As set out above, Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires DAERA to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between men and women.</p> <p>The Gender Equality Strategy for Northern Ireland provides an overarching strategic policy framework within which departments can tackle gender inequalities and promote gender equality across government's major policy areas for the benefit of both women and men generally.</p> <p>The DARD Inequalities Audit Action Plan referred to above proposes a number of actions to address gender inequalities.</p> <p>The Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network is represented on the stakeholder consultation group for the new programme and will be included on the Monitoring Committee for the 2014-20 programme.</p>
	G2.b) Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of Union gender equality law and policy as	Yes	<p>Gender Equality Strategy 2006-2016 <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/gender-equality-strategy-2006-2016.pdf">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/gender-equality-strategy-2006-2016.pdf</a></p>	DAERA is committed to creating a positive, inclusive working environment and ensuring equality of opportunity for its staff and customers. To ensure

	well as on gender mainstreaming.			staff are aware of the important legislation and policies around equality and diversity, regular Diversity training is mandatory for all DAERA staff.
G3) Disability: the existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in the field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC	G3.a) Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the consultation and involvement of bodies in charge of protection of rights of persons with disabilities or representative organisations of persons with disabilities and other relevant stakeholders throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes.	Yes	DARD Disability Action Plan <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/Disability%20Action%20Plan%202015-17.PDF">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/Disability%20Action%20Plan%202015-17.PDF</a>	As set out above, Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires DAERA to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between persons with a disability and persons without.  The DARD Inequalities Audit Action Plan referred to above proposes a number of actions to address inequalities related to disability. DAERA is currently developing a new Disability Action Plan.  Disability Action are represented on the stakeholder consultation group for the new programme and will be included on the Monitoring Committee for the 2014-20 programme.
	G3.b) Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of applicable Union and national disability law and policy, including accessibility and the practical application of the UNCRPD as reflected in Union and national legislation, as appropriate.	Yes	Gender Equality Strategy 2006-2016 <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/gender-equality-strategy-2006-2016.pdf">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/gender-equality-strategy-2006-2016.pdf</a>	DAERA is committed to creating a positive, inclusive working environment and ensuring equality of opportunity for its staff and customers. To ensure staff are aware of the important legislation and policies around equality and diversity, regular Diversity training is mandatory for all DAERA staff.
	G3.c) Arrangements to ensure monitoring of the implementation of Article 9 of the UNCRPD in relation to the ESI Funds throughout the preparation and the implementation of the programmes.	Yes	DARD Disability Action Plan <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/Disability%20Action%20Plan%202015-17.PDF">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/Disability%20Action%20Plan%202015-17.PDF</a>	All of the Department's policy areas are screened to ensure that they meet Section 75 obligations. If it is considered that a policy is likely to have an adverse impact in terms of equality, it is subject to a rigorous equality impact assessment. Consequently, actions within this programme have been designed to ensure equality of opportunity and minimise potential for any negative impact. Similarly, implementation of the Programme will take account of the potential for differential impacts and for enhancing equality of opportunity.
G4) Public Procurement: the existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the	G4.a) Arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement rules through appropriate mechanisms.	Yes	NI Public Procurement policy, 2014 edition <a href="https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dfp/ni-public-procurement-policy-version-11-august-">https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dfp/ni-public-procurement-policy-version-11-august-</a>	DAERA complies fully with the OJEU regulations related to the procurement of all goods and services.

ESI Funds.			2014.pdf	<p>In May 2002, the Northern Ireland Executive agreed to a revised public procurement policy for Northern Ireland Departments, their Agencies, non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs) and Public Corporations. This document sets out the policies adopted by the Executive and the organisational structures that have been established to implement them.</p> <p>As the NI lead Procurement Body, the Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) in the Department of Finance reviews and develops NI procurement policy and provides the NI Public Sector with best value for money procurement services.</p> <p>CPD's role is to support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the the DOF Minister and the Executive in the delivery of the legislative framework for NI public procurement in compliance with EU legislation, including liaison with Cabinet Office on EU and legislative matters; and</li> <li>• the Procurement Board in all aspects of NI public sector procurement policy, including the development and dissemination of approved policies and monitoring their implementation across NI Departments, agencies, NDPBs and public corporations.</li> </ul> <p>Additionally, CPD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• helps NI Departments deliver their objectives through obtaining best value for money in all types of procurement;</li> <li>• provides expert advice and professional services throughout the procurement lifecycle;</li> <li>• disseminates advice and guidance to the NI public sector on public procurement policies through the production of Procurement Guidance Notes which advise staff working in the public sector of best practice in public procurement.</li> <li>• works in partnership with industry representatives to ensure</li> </ul>
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				<p>suppliers are aware of the opportunities available in the public sector market; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>works with all its stakeholders to promote transparency, equality of opportunity and sustainable development in the delivery of public procurement contracts.</li> </ul>
	<p>G4.b) Arrangements which ensure transparent contract award procedures.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>NI Public Procurement policy, 2014 edition</p> <p><a href="https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dfp/ni-public-procurement-policy-version-11-august-2014.pdf">https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dfp/ni-public-procurement-policy-version-11-august-2014.pdf</a></p>	<p>CPD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>helps NI Departments deliver their objectives through obtaining best value for money in all types of procurement;</li> <li>provides expert advice and professional services throughout the procurement lifecycle;</li> <li>disseminates advice and guidance to the NI public sector on public procurement policies through the production of Procurement Guidance Notes which advise staff working in the public sector of best practice in public procurement.</li> <li>works in partnership with industry representatives to ensure suppliers are aware of the opportunities available in the public sector market; and</li> <li>works with all its stakeholders to promote transparency, equality of opportunity and sustainable development in the delivery of public procurement contracts.</li> </ul>
	<p>G4.c) Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the ESI funds.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>NI Public Procurement policy, 2014 edition</p> <p><a href="https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dfp/ni-public-procurement-policy-version-11-august-2014.pdf">https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dfp/ni-public-procurement-policy-version-11-august-2014.pdf</a></p>	<p>CPD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>helps NI Departments deliver their objectives through obtaining best value for money in all types of procurement;</li> <li>provides expert advice and professional services throughout the procurement lifecycle;</li> <li>disseminates advice and guidance to the NI public sector on public procurement policies through the production of Procurement Guidance Notes which advise</li> </ul>

				<p>staff working in the public sector of best practice in public procurement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>works in partnership with industry representatives to ensure suppliers are aware of the opportunities available in the public sector market; and</li> <li>works with all its stakeholders to promote transparency, equality of opportunity and sustainable development in the delivery of public procurement contracts.</li> </ul>
	G4.d) Arrangements to ensure administrative capacity for implementation and application of Union public procurement rules.	Yes	<p>NI Public Procurement policy, 2014 edition</p> <p><a href="https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dfp/ni-public-procurement-policy-version-11-august-2014.pdf">https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dfp/ni-public-procurement-policy-version-11-august-2014.pdf</a></p>	<p>In May 2002, the Northern Ireland Executive agreed to a revised public procurement policy for Northern Ireland Departments, their Agencies, non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs) and Public Corporations. This document, updated August 2014, sets out the policies adopted by the Executive and the organisational structures that have been established to implement them.</p>
G5) State Aid: the existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds.	G5.a) Arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules.	Yes	<p>State Aid: the basics</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/state-aid-the-basics">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/state-aid-the-basics</a></p> <p>Other BEIS documents on State Aid</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/search?q=state+aid&amp;show_organisations_filter=true">https://www.gov.uk/search?q=state+aid&amp;show_organisations_filter=true</a></p> <p>Guidance for State Aid Practitioners</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/31700/11-1040-state-aid-guide.pdf">https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/31700/11-1040-state-aid-guide.pdf</a></p>	<p>In the UK, scheme administrators are responsible for ensuring their schemes are compliant with State Aid rules and that no illegal aid has been granted. To support them to do this, the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) State Aid team (which is responsible for UK wide State Aid policy) leads on providing advice and guidance to all UK public bodies. The BIS State Aid team provides teach-ins and seminars to public bodies and manages a web page that includes extensive guidance on the rules. In particular, BIS has published the guide "State Aid: the Basics", which enables scheme administrators to establish whether their scheme or grant falls within the State Aid rules. Where it does, they are advised to consult the Guidance for State Aid Practitioners, which gives detailed guidance on the most often used regulations and frameworks. BIS is currently updating its guidance in line with the Commission's State Aid Modernisation programme.</p> <p>Where scheme administrators establish that their scheme or</p>

				<p>grant is subject to State Aid rules and is above the de minimis threshold, they would first seek advice from their departmental State Aid unit. They may seek further advice from the BIS State Aid Team unless they are using transport or agricultural or fisheries rules, in which case they may seek advice from the Department of Transport or Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) respectively. Schemes cannot be notified to DG Competition via the State Aid Notification Interactive (SANI) without agreement of the BIS State Aid team or to DG AGRI or DG MARE without agreement from Defra.</p> <p>In addition to guidance materials, BIS chairs a Senior Officials Group that allows those dealing with State Aid in other government departments to come together, discuss issues, and take decisions. BIS has also established a network of State Aid Champions. These are senior civil servants from all government departments who are not State Aid specialists but for whom State Aid is relevant. The role of the Champions is to raise awareness of State Aid rules in their departments, and to identify opportunities for up-skilling teams that need to understand State Aid rules. Champions are also able to take an overview of their department's policy objectives, and spot areas in which State Aid issues might be arising.</p>
	<p>G5 b) Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the ESI funds.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>State Aid: the basics  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/state-aid-the-basics">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/state-aid-the-basics</a></p> <p>Other BEIS documents on State Aid  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/search?q=state+aid&amp;show_organisations_filter=true">https://www.gov.uk/search?q=state+aid&amp;show_organisations_filter=true</a></p> <p>Guidance for State Aid Practitioners  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/31700/11-1040-state-aid-guide.pdf">https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/31700/11-1040-state-aid-guide.pdf</a></p>	<p>In the UK, scheme administrators are responsible for ensuring their schemes are compliant with State Aid rules and that no illegal aid has been granted. To support them to do this, the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) State Aid team (which is responsible for UK wide State Aid policy) leads on providing advice and guidance to all UK public bodies. The BIS State Aid team provides teach-ins and seminars to public bodies and manages a web page that includes extensive guidance on the rules. In particular, BIS has published the guide "State Aid: the Basics", which enables scheme administrators to establish whether their scheme or grant falls within the State Aid rules. Where it does, they are</p>



				<p>advised to consult the Guidance for State Aid Practitioners, which gives detailed guidance on the most often used regulations and frameworks. BIS is currently updating its guidance in line with the Commission's State Aid Modernisation programme.</p> <p>Where scheme administrators establish that their scheme or grant is subject to State Aid rules and is above the de minimis threshold, they would first seek advice from their departmental State Aid unit. They may seek further advice from the BIS State Aid Team unless they are using transport or agricultural or fisheries rules, in which case they may seek advice from the Department of Transport or Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) respectively. Schemes cannot be notified to DG Competition via the State Aid Notification Interactive (SANI) without agreement of the BIS State Aid team or to DG AGRI or DG MARE without agreement from Defra.</p> <p>In addition to guidance materials, BIS chairs a Senior Officials Group that allows those dealing with State Aid in other government departments to come together, discuss issues, and take decisions. BIS has also established a network of State Aid Champions. These are senior civil servants from all government departments who are not State Aid specialists but for whom State Aid is relevant. The role of the Champions is to raise awareness of State Aid rules in their departments, and to identify opportunities for up-skilling teams that need to understand State Aid rules. Champions are also able to take an overview of their department's policy objectives, and spot areas in which State Aid issues might be arising.</p>
	<p>G5.c) Arrangements to ensure administrative capacity for implementation and application of Union State aid rules.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>State Aid: the basics  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/state-aid-the-basics">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/state-aid-the-basics</a></p>	<p>In the UK, scheme administrators are responsible for ensuring their schemes are compliant with State Aid rules and that no illegal aid has been granted.</p> <p>BIS has also established a</p>

			<p>Other BIS documents on State Aid</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/search?q=state+aid&amp;show_organisations_filter=true">https://www.gov.uk/search?q=state+aid&amp;show_organisations_filter=true</a></p> <p>Guidance for State Aid Practitioners</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/31700/11-1040-state-aid-guide.pdf">https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/31700/11-1040-state-aid-guide.pdf</a></p>	<p>network of State Aid Champions. These are senior civil servants from all government departments who are not State Aid specialists but for whom State Aid is relevant. The role of the Champions is to raise awareness of State Aid rules in their departments, and to identify opportunities for up-skilling teams that need to understand State Aid rules. Champions are also able to take an overview of their department's policy objectives, and spot areas in which State Aid issues might be arising.</p>
<p>G6) Environmental legislation relating to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA): the existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union environmental legislation related to EIA and SEA.</p>	<p>G6.a) Arrangements for the effective application of Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council (EIA) and of Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (SEA);</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Northern Ireland) 2004</p> <p><a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2004/280/contents/made">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2004/280/contents/made</a></p> <p>ADAS</p> <p><a href="http://www.adas.co.uk/Home/Whoware/tabid/207/Default.aspx">http://www.adas.co.uk/Home/Whoware/tabid/207/Default.aspx</a></p>	<p>DARD is submitting the SEA report to the Commission alongside this Programme Document. The SEA covers the programme level, so DARD does not need to produce an EIA. The EIA is not applicable to any of the projects involved.</p> <p>DARD commissioned the development of the SEA to a team of expert consultants, ADAS.</p> <p>The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) is an Agency within the Department of Environment which takes the lead in advising on, and in implementing, the Government's environmental policy and strategy in Northern Ireland. Both NIEA and DARD staff involved with the EIA and SEA Directives have received training on carrying out SEAs.</p>
	<p>G6.b) Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the EIA and SEA Directives.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Northern Ireland) 2004</p> <p><a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2004/280/contents/made">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2004/280/contents/made</a></p> <p>ADAS</p> <p><a href="http://www.adas.co.uk/Home/Whoware/tabid/207/Default.aspx">http://www.adas.co.uk/Home/Whoware/tabid/207/Default.aspx</a></p>	<p>The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) is an Agency within the Department of Environment which takes the lead in advising on, and in implementing, the Government's environmental policy and strategy in Northern Ireland. Both NIEA and DARD staff involved with the EIA and SEA Directives have received training on carrying out SEAs.</p>
	<p>G6.c) Arrangements to ensure sufficient administrative capacity.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Northern Ireland) 2004</p> <p><a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2004/280/contents/made">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2004/280/contents/made</a></p>	<p>The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) is an Agency within the Department of Environment which takes the lead in advising on, and in</p>

			<p>ADAS</p> <p><a href="http://www.adas.co.uk/Home/Whoware/tabid/207/Default.aspx">http://www.adas.co.uk/Home/Whoware/tabid/207/Default.aspx</a></p>	<p>implementing, the Government's environmental policy and strategy in Northern Ireland. Both NIEA and DARD staff involved with the EIA and SEA Directives have received training on carrying out SEAs.</p>
<p>G7) Statistical systems and result indicators: the existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.</p>	<p>G7.a) Arrangements for timely collection and aggregation of statistical data with the following elements are in place: the identification of sources and mechanisms to ensure statistical validation</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>This is fulfilled by the Common Monitoring and Evaluation System.</p>	<p>This is fulfilled by the Common Monitoring and Evaluation System.</p>
	<p>G7.b) Arrangements for timely collection and aggregation of statistical data with the following elements are in place: arrangements for publication and public availability of aggregated data</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>This is fulfilled by the Common Monitoring and Evaluation System.</p>	<p>This is fulfilled by the Common Monitoring and Evaluation System.</p>
	<p>G7.c) An effective system of result indicators including: the selection of result indicators for each programme providing information on what motivates the selection of policy actions financed by the programme</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>This is fulfilled by the Common Monitoring and Evaluation System.</p>	<p>This is fulfilled by the Common Monitoring and Evaluation System.</p>
	<p>G7.d) An effective system of result indicators including: the establishment of targets for these indicators</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>This is fulfilled by the Common Monitoring and Evaluation System.</p>	<p>This is fulfilled by the Common Monitoring and Evaluation System.</p>
	<p>G7.e) An effective system of result indicators including: the consistency of each indicator with the following requisites: robustness and statistical validation, clarity of normative interpretation, responsiveness to policy, timely collection of data</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>This is fulfilled by the Common Monitoring and Evaluation System.</p>	<p>This is fulfilled by the Common Monitoring and Evaluation System.</p>
	<p>G7.f) Procedures in place to ensure that all operations financed by the programme adopt an effective system of indicators</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>This is fulfilled by the Common Monitoring and Evaluation System.</p>	<p>This is fulfilled by the Common Monitoring and Evaluation System.</p>

### 6.2.1. List of actions to be taken for general ex-ante conditionalities

<b>Applicable ex-ante conditionality at national level</b>	<b>Criteria Not Fulfilled</b>	<b>Action to be taken</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Bodies responsible for fulfillment</b>
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### 6.2.2. List of actions to be taken for priority linked ex-ante conditionalities

<b>Applicable ex-ante conditionality at national level</b>	<b>Criteria Not Fulfilled</b>	<b>Action to be taken</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Bodies responsible for fulfillment</b>
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## 7. DESCRIPTION OF THE PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

### 7.1. Indicators

Priority	Applicable	Indicator and measurement unit, where appropriate	Target 2023 (a)	Adjustment top ups (b)	Milestone 2018 % (c)	Milestone absolute value (a-b)*c
P2: Enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and the sustainable management of forests	X	Number of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investment in restructuring or modernisation (focus area 2A) + holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investment for young farmers (focus area 2B)	4,500.00		20%	900.00
	X	Total Public Expenditure P2 (EUR)	256,294,215.00	191,463,415.00	20%	12,966,160.00
P3: Promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture	X	Total Public Expenditure P3 (EUR)	30,426,654.00	21,951,220.00	31.4%	2,661,286.28
	X	Number of supported agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets/short supply circuits, and producer groups (focus area 3A)	2,000.00		31.4%	628.00

	X	Number of agricultural holdings participating in risk management schemes (focus area 3B)				
P4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry	X	Total Public Expenditure P4 (EUR)	242,407,561.00	9,400,000.00	35%	81,552,646.35
	X	Agricultural land under management contracts contributing to biodiversity (ha) (focus area 4A) + improving water management (ha) (focus area 4B) + improving soil management and/preventing soil erosion (ha) (focus area 4C)	130,348.50		35%	45,621.98
P5: Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors	X	Total Public Expenditure P5 (EUR)	10,536,224.00		32.5%	3,424,272.80
	X	Agricultural and forest land under management to foster carbon sequestration/conservation (ha) (focus area 5E) + Agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions (ha) (focus area 5D) + Irrigated land	1,200.00		32.1%	385.20

		switching to more efficient irrigation system (ha) (focus area 5A)				
	X	Number of investment operations in energy savings and efficiency (focus area 5B) + in renewable energy production (focus area 5C)				
P6: Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas	X	Total Public Expenditure P6 (EUR)	72,899,728.00	2,440,000.00	25%	17,614,932.00
	X	Number of operations supported to improve basic services and infrastructures in rural areas (focus areas 6B and 6C)	10.00		25%	2.50
	X	Population covered by LAG (focus area 6B)	1,126,586.00		100%	1,126,586.00



7.1.1. P2: Enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and the sustainable management of forests

*7.1.1.1. Number of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investment in restructuring or modernisation (focus area 2A) + holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investment for young farmers (focus area 2B)*

Applicable: Yes

Target 2023 (a): 4,500.00

Adjustment top ups (b):

Milestone 2018 % (c): 20%

Milestone absolute value (a-b)\*c: 900.00

Justification for the milestone setting:

For most of the measures programmed under Priority 2 it is expected that 20% of the expenditure will be realised by the end of 2018. However, that is not the case for the Business Investment Scheme. Experience of past capital investment schemes has shown that they can be slower to get started initially and that expenditure can lag behind approvals for beneficiaries.

*7.1.1.2. Total Public Expenditure P2 (EUR)*

Applicable: Yes

Target 2023 (a): 256,294,215.00

Adjustment top ups (b): 191,463,415.00

Milestone 2018 % (c): 20%

Milestone absolute value (a-b)\*c: 12,966,160.00

Justification for the milestone setting:

For most of the measures programmed under Priority 2 it is expected that over half the expenditure will be realised by the end of 2018. However, that is not the case for the Business Investment Scheme. Experience of past capital investment schemes has shown that they can be slower to get started initially and that expenditure can lag behind approvals for beneficiaries.

7.1.2. P3: Promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture

*7.1.2.1. Total Public Expenditure P3 (EUR)*

Applicable: Yes

Target 2023 (a): 30,426,654.00

Adjustment top ups (b): 21,951,220.00

Milestone 2018 % (c): 31.4%

Milestone absolute value (a-b)\*c: 2,661,286.28

Justification for the milestone setting:

The main component of Priority 3 is the Processing Investment Development Grant Scheme which has been developed from the successful Processing and Marketing Grant Scheme in the 2007-2013 RDP. It is anticipated that spend on all of the schemes will not begin until 2015 and therefore total expenditure for the Priority is expected to be 31% by the end of 2018.

*7.1.2.2. Number of supported agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets/short supply circuits, and producer groups (focus area 3A)*

Applicable: Yes

Target 2023 (a): 2,000.00

Adjustment top ups (b):

Milestone 2018 % (c): 31.4%

Milestone absolute value (a-b)\*c: 628.00

Justification for the milestone setting:

The main component of Priority 3 is the Processing Investment Development Grant Scheme which has been developed from the successful Processing and Marketing Grant Scheme in the 2007-2013 RDP. It is anticipated that spend on all of the schemes will not begin until 2015 and therefore total expenditure for the Priority is expected to be 31% by the end of 2018.

*7.1.2.3. Number of agricultural holdings participating in risk management schemes (focus area 3B)*

Applicable: Yes

Target 2023 (a): 0.00

Adjustment top ups (b):

Milestone 2018 % (c):

Milestone absolute value (a-b)\*c: 0.00

Justification for the milestone setting:

7.1.3. P4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry

*7.1.3.1. Total Public Expenditure P4 (EUR)*

Applicable: Yes

Target 2023 (a): 242,407,561.00

Adjustment top ups (b): 9,400,000.00

Milestone 2018 % (c): 35%

Milestone absolute value (a-b)\*c: 81,552,646.35

Justification for the milestone setting:

One of the major measures under Priority 4, Areas of Natural Constraints is expected to spend only in the first three years of the programme and will be reviewed thereafter. The majority of the expenditure on legacy agri-environment schemes will be realised within the first three years of the new programme.

*7.1.3.2. Agricultural land under management contracts contributing to biodiversity (ha) (focus area 4A) + improving water management (ha) (focus area 4B) + improving soil management and/preventing soil erosion (ha) (focus area 4C)*

Applicable: Yes

Target 2023 (a): 130,348.50

Adjustment top ups (b):

Milestone 2018 % (c): 35%

Milestone absolute value (a-b)\*c: 45,621.98

Justification for the milestone setting:

One of the major measures under Priority 4, Areas of Natural Constraints is expected to spend only in the first three years of the programme and will be reviewed thereafter. The majority of the expenditure on legacy agri-environment schemes will be realised within the first three years of the new programme.

7.1.4. P5: Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors

*7.1.4.1. Total Public Expenditure P5 (EUR)*

Applicable: Yes

Target 2023 (a): 10,536,224.00

Adjustment top ups (b):

Milestone 2018 % (c): 32.5%

Milestone absolute value (a-b)\*c: 3,424,272.80

Justification for the milestone setting:

Support for the creation and maintenance of woodland is the main measure programmed under focus area 5E and it is anticipated that 25% of expenditure will be realised by the end of 2018. However it is anticipated that new woodland will be created at the rate of 100 ha per year from 2015 and therefore 67% of the total new creation will be realised by the end of 2018.

*7.1.4.2. Agricultural and forest land under management to foster carbon sequestration/conservation (ha) (focus area 5E) + Agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions (ha) (focus area 5D) + Irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation system (ha) (focus area 5A)*

Applicable: Yes

Target 2023 (a): 1,200.00

Adjustment top ups (b):

Milestone 2018 % (c): 32.1%

Milestone absolute value (a-b)\*c: 385.20

Justification for the milestone setting:

Support for the creation and maintenance of woodland is the main measure programmed under focus area 5E and it is anticipated that 25% of expenditure will be realised by the end of 2018. However it is anticipated that new woodland will be created at the rate of 100 ha per year from 2015 and therefore 67% of the total new creation will be realised by the end of 2018.

*7.1.4.3. Number of investment operations in energy savings and efficiency (focus area 5B) + in renewable energy production (focus area 5C)*

Applicable: Yes

Target 2023 (a): 0.00

Adjustment top ups (b):

Milestone 2018 % (c):

Milestone absolute value (a-b)\*c: 0.00

Justification for the milestone setting:

7.1.5. P6: Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas

*7.1.5.1. Total Public Expenditure P6 (EUR)*

Applicable: Yes

Target 2023 (a): 72,899,728.00

Adjustment top ups (b): 2,440,000.00

Milestone 2018 % (c): 25%

Milestone absolute value (a-b)\*c: 17,614,932.00

Justification for the milestone setting:

In relation to priority 6 it is anticipated that 25% of the total allocated expenditure will be realised by the

end of 2018.

*7.1.5.2. Number of operations supported to improve basic services and infrastructures in rural areas (focus areas 6B and 6C)*

Applicable: Yes

Target 2023 (a): 10.00

Adjustment top ups (b):

Milestone 2018 % (c): 25%

Milestone absolute value (a-b)\*c: 2.50

Justification for the milestone setting:

In relation to priority 6 it is anticipated that 25% of the total allocated expenditure will be realised by the end of 2018.

*7.1.5.3. Population covered by LAG (focus area 6B)*

Applicable: Yes

Target 2023 (a): 1,126,586.00

Adjustment top ups (b):

Milestone 2018 % (c): 100%

Milestone absolute value (a-b)\*c: 1,126,586.00

Justification for the milestone setting:

In relation to priority 6 it is anticipated that 25% of the total allocated expenditure will be realised by the end of 2018.

## 7.2. Alternative indicators

Priority	Applicable	Indicator and measurement unit, where appropriate	Target 2023 (a)	Adjustment top ups (b)	Milestone 2018 % (c)	Milestone absolute value (a-b)*c
P3: Promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture	X	Number of operations supported for investments (e.g. in agricultural holdings, in processing and marketing of ag. products) (focus area 3A)	125.00		31%	38.75

7.2.1. P3: Promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture

7.2.1.1. *Number of operations supported for investments (e.g. in agricultural holdings, in processing and marketing of ag. products) (focus area 3A)*

Applicable: Yes

Target 2023 (a): 125.00

Adjustment top ups (b):

Milestone 2018 % (c): 31%

Milestone absolute value (a-b)\*c: 38.75

Justification for the milestone setting:

The main component of Priority 3 is the Processing Investment Development Grant Scheme which has been developed from the successful Processing and Marketing Grant Scheme in the 2007-2013 RDP. It is anticipated that spend on all of the schemes will not begin until 2015 and

therefore total expenditure for the Priority is expected to be 31% by the end of 2018.

### 7.3. Reserve

Priority	Total union contribution planned (€)	Total union contribution planned (€) subject to the performance reserve	Performance reserve (€)	Min performance reserve (Min 5%)	Max performance reserve (Max 7%)	Performance reserve rate
P2: Enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and the sustainable management of forests	17,504,315.00	18,228,355.37	1,093,701.32	911,417.77	1,275,984.88	6%
P3: Promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture	2,288,367.00	2,383,021.95	142,981.32	119,151.10	166,811.54	6%
P4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry	172,654,357.00	179,795,951.78	10,787,757.12	8,989,797.59	12,585,716.62	6%
P5: Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors	7,880,488.00	8,206,452.85	492,387.17	410,322.64	574,451.70	6%
P6: Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas	19,024,390.00	19,811,306.05	1,188,678.36	990,565.30	1,386,791.42	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>219,351,917.00</b>	<b>228,425,088.00</b>	<b>13,705,505.29</b>	<b>11,421,254.40</b>	<b>15,989,756.16</b>	<b>6%</b>



## **8. DESCRIPTION OF THE MEASURES SELECTED**

### **8.1. Description of the general conditions applied to more than one measure including, when relevant, definition of rural area, baselines, cross-compliance, intended use of financial instruments, intended use of advances and common provisions for investments, including the provisions of Articles 45 and 46 of regulation (EU) No 1305/2013**

#### **Definition of Rural Area**

The Department's preferred definition of rural areas is the 'settlement patterns' definition whereby those settlements defined as small towns and above (i.e. a population above 5,000) would be classified as urban and those settlements with populations below 5,000 would be classified as rural. Based on the 2011 Census results around 37% of the population are now living in rural areas. Eligibility for the programme is initially based on this definition but may also be extended to certain activities even though they are located within urban areas, e.g. farm holdings within Greater Belfast or where the benefits of the investment go to rural areas.

#### **Baselines**

Details on baselines can be found in the respective measures.

#### **Cross-compliance**

Cross-Compliance provides baseline environmental, food safety, animal and plant health and animal welfare standards that must be met by all those in receipt of direct agricultural support payments as well as a number of payments under the Rural Development Programme.

More targeted environmental intervention will be delivered through the Rural Development Programme. Details of the current Northern Ireland Cross-Compliance verifiable standards are available on the DAERA website.

"Greening" requirements within Pillar 1 will provide for additional environmental activity outside of the Programme. To ensure that maximum value is gained from its AEC scheme, DAERA will ensure that AEC scheme payments are only made on commitments that are over and above greening requirements i.e., there will be no double-funding of beneficiaries carrying out the same activity under the greening payment and under the AEC scheme.

#### **Financial Instruments**

Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 provides detailed information about the implementation, management and control of Financial Instruments under the 2014-2020 ESI Programmes.

The use of financial instruments was assessed at an early stage in programme development. This initial investigation identified areas of the Programme where it may be beneficial to offer Financial Instruments as an alternative to, or in addition to, grant funding. Further work is needed to establish which of the potential options would be appropriate. As such, it is not intended to introduce Financial Instruments at the beginning of the programme period, but the option will be kept under review and it may be appropriate to introduce Financial Instruments at a later stage through the modification process.

Any financial instrument supported by the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme will be in

compliance with the programme, its objectives under priorities and focus areas; eligibility rules and measures; expenditure related provisions; co-financing elements; monitoring and reporting requirements.

### **Advances**

Advances will only be used for Community, Voluntary and Social Economy Enterprises which are not engaged in an economic activity and who would not otherwise be able to access the capital to commence implementation of their project. The conditions for the use of advances are specified within the measure and will be in compliance with regulation (EU) 1303/2013.

### **Common Provisions for Investment**

The Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme will respect the requirements of Articles 45 and 46 of regulation (EU) 1305/2013.

Where needed the requirements of Environmental Impact Assessments and energy efficiency obligations will be respected. This will include criterion in the selection of eligible items for funding and the assessment of individual projects. This will be in accordance with Article 45 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 which requires an assessment of the expected environmental impact where the investment is likely to have a negative effect on the environment. The following actions will be undertaken:

- An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be carried out on all investments where this is legally required.
- Capital investment projects will be assessed for possible impacts on Natura 2000 sites and where required a Habitats Regulation Assessment will be carried out by the Competent Authority.
- Investments will be subject to the necessary planning and other permissions.
- All projects will be subject to a Development Path Analysis (DPA) which assesses both the *direct* and *indirect* environmental impacts that are likely to result from the proposed activity. The DPA scoring is considered during project selection.
- Any investments negatively impacting on e.g. climate change, biodiversity, Water Framework Directive (WFD), Floods Directive or air quality objectives such as an increase in livestock or in manure and slurry spreading on land (or other ammonia producing developments) will only be supported if there are appropriate mitigation actions which will be evaluated during project selection and on a catchment basis.
- Only investments that go beyond the requirement of the Nitrates Action Programme, mandatory elements of the Pesticides National Action Plan and the Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Plans will be funded.

When spending EU funds by means of public contracts/concessions, the Managing Authority will respect EU public procurement rules and, in particular, (i) Directives 2004/18/EC and 2004/17/EC, (ii) Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU, once transposed into national legislation, (iii) Directives 89/665/EEC and 92/13/EEC, and (iv) the general public procurement principles derived from the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU.

## **Renewable Energy**

Capital support for Renewable Energy Technologies will not be supported due to the prohibitive costs of connecting to the electricity grid and the introduction of a Feed-in-Tariff scheme within Northern Ireland. Renewable Energy remains an integral of departmental policy on lowering the carbon footprint of local food production. The programme will continue to support the on-farm renewable sector through support for feasibility studies which will complement the capital support available external to the Rural Development Programme.

## **8.2. Description by measure**

8.2.1. M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)

*8.2.1.1. Legal basis*

Article 14 and Recital 12 of Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) N° 1305/2013.

*8.2.1.2. General description of the measure including its intervention logic and contribution to focus areas and cross-cutting objectives*

### **General description of the measure**

The majority of the businesses involved in the agriculture and food industry are Small and Medium Size enterprises (SMEs). Compared to other sectors such as ICT or health, innovation in the agriculture and food sector is much more incremental and there are fewer connections between the researchers and the users of the research results. Providing a mechanism for the two way flow of innovative ideas between those involved within the industry and the research institutions will ensure that core research and development is targeted for maximum benefit.

A challenge for ensuring that innovative ideas progress to mainstream use is the dissemination of the results across the industry. How this is achieved will be dependent on the type of innovative action, the target audience and the optimum method for achieving uptake of the innovative idea. Pilot projects and on farm research and links to extension advisors are considered a natural progression to demonstrate the viability of innovative ideas which have originated from research institutions or universities.

Demonstration to a wider audience enables faster uptake within a smaller geographical area such as Northern Ireland. The use of ICT innovation networks and exchange visits between Member States also facilitates the sharing and dissemination of innovative ideas across Europe.

The continuing growth in farmer participation within previous benchmarking schemes has been a driver for modernising farming by developing productivity and incomes. This has been achieved by improving

practices, processes and business performance through increased use of technology and better targeted transfer of knowledge. Across the agri-food sector, the provision of support and advice on new product development for higher value added products and encouraging innovators and early adopters of new products, processes, markets and business organisation can be a driver for improvement.

There is evidence that farm operators in Northern Ireland (between the ages of 25 and 65) have lower levels of educational attainment compared to those in the wider population. Some 62% of working owners and 40% of farm employees do not hold any formal qualifications. In addition, levels of educational attainment in NI are below UK average, generally. Evidence shows that an agricultural qualification generates an on-farm wage premium relative to that of unqualified farmers. Therefore, higher levels of educational attainment may be associated with higher levels of farm performance. It is also found to be the case that those with well defined business plans, that avail of training and initiatives such as benchmarking, show higher levels of performance.

Nutrients are fundamental to agricultural productivity. The SWOT and needs identified as a weakness the lack of nutrient management plans, particularly on livestock farms, along with the inefficient use of nutrients. A lack of understanding of climate and environmental issues is identified in the SWOT as a weakness and this is defined further here as including issues such as nitrous oxide emissions, nutrient enrichment, run-off and diffuse pollution (nitrates and pesticides) which are identified as particular issues for Northern Ireland. These issues can also be intensified by local circumstances including the predominantly grass-based, livestock sector, the level of rainfall (which is predicted to intensify as a result of climate change) and soil type and structure. A total of 57% soils are gleys with poor levels of drainage and compaction is also identified as an issue. Soil testing results indicate that there are sub optimal levels of pH, phosphorus and potassium in some areas and phosphorus and nitrate surpluses in others.

A small-scale research project involving 67 farms undertaken over the period 2004-2013 identified that the provision of support and advice on nutrient management planning resulted in multiple positive outcomes including improving understanding and uptake of nutrient management, an increase in beneficial practices (such as zero P fertiliser) as well as a recognition by farmers of the associated financial savings, without any significant impact on yield.

Peer group learning is intended to build capacity and confidence of individual farmers leading to sustained behavioural change and improved land management practices, resulting in efficiency gains and increased resilience on the farm, as well as contributing to improved environmental outcomes (including a reduction in emissions and increased carbon sequestration and improvements in soil and water quality).

The following development needs were identified in the intervention logic.

- There is a need to improve the low level of awareness of new technologies among farmers and producers.
- There is need to support technology transfer activity through peer group learning.
- There is a need to improve the awareness of recent and ongoing research within Northern Ireland across all sectors. Research suggests that less than one third of businesses in Northern Ireland are actively pursuing new innovative practices.
- There is a need to provide structures for the two-way flow of innovative ideas between the

industry and researchers.

- There is a need to improve and adapt knowledge transfer styles to the target group of agriculture and food production.
- There is a need to provide training to assist with the implementation and compliance of the Environmental Farming Scheme within the Programme.
- There is a need to provide training to farmers that will demonstrate the relevance of efficient nutrient planning to the sustainability of their business.
- There is a need to ensure environmental management and in particular nutrient and soil management is an integral part of production systems.

The Measure is aimed at individuals engaged in the agriculture, food and forestry sectors, land managers and SMEs operating in rural areas and is designed to support knowledge transfer and innovation through actions which enhance the application of results of agri-food research and to improve the exchange of information between researchers and agri-food actors and between Member States. The following diagram (Figure 3) describes an Innovation and Knowledge Transfer strategy which is cross-cutting for the Rural Development Programme.

This strategy will be achieved through both Article 14 (Knowledge Transfer and Information) and Article 35 (Co-operation). Central to improving innovation will be support for the operational groups for the European Innovation Partnership. The diagram shows the direct and indirect linkages and inter-dependencies between each of the schemes.

### **Contribution to Focus Areas**

The measure will primarily contribute to focus areas 1A, 1C, 2A, 4A, 4B, 4C and 6B.

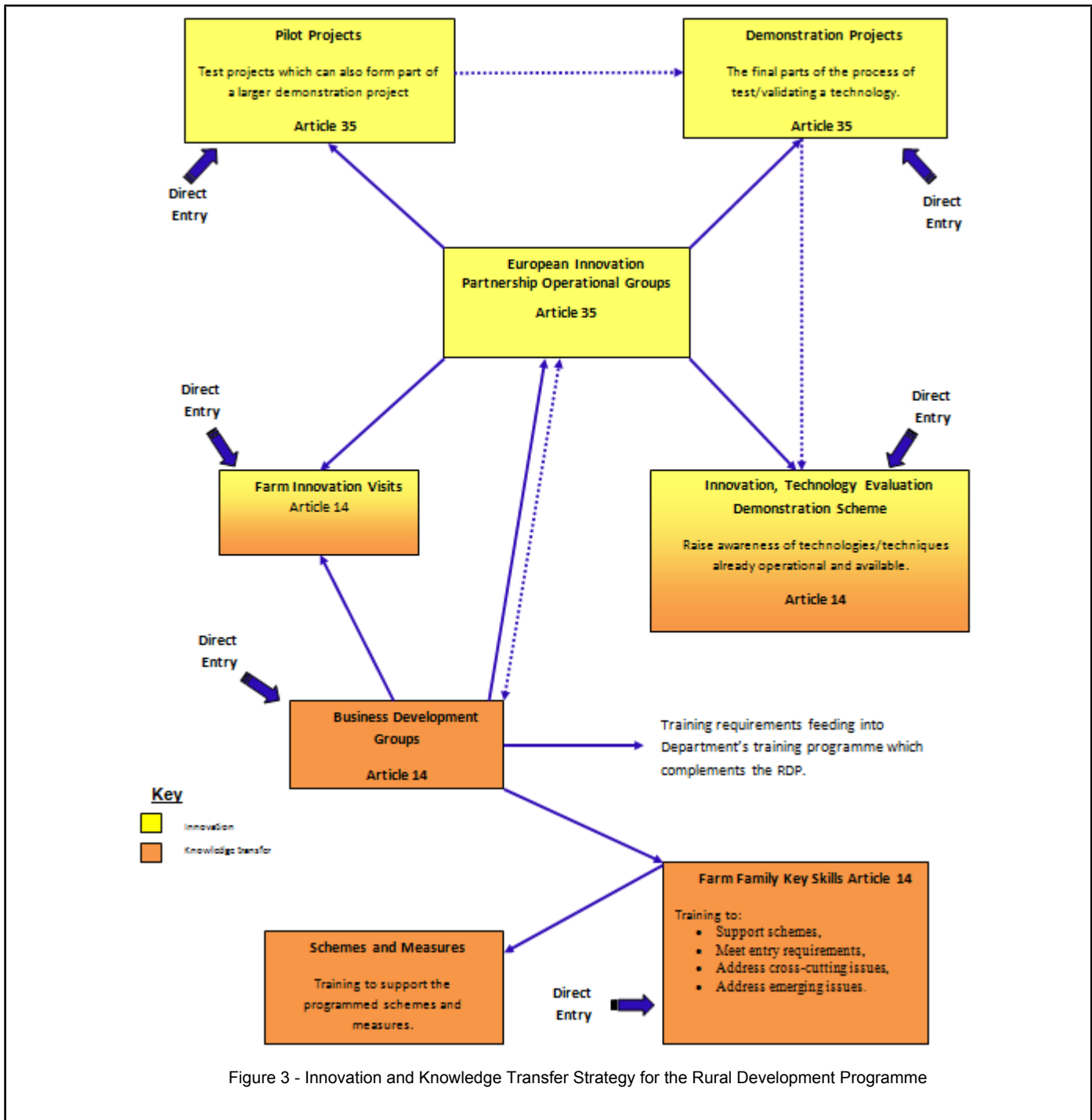
### **Contribution to Cross-Cutting Objectives**

The Business Development Groups will have a link to innovation through the EIP operational groups and through this to the innovation support available across the Rural Development Programme. The scheme has the potential to assist with the integration of innovative techniques in Priority 2 (Farm Competitiveness), Priority 4 (Enhancing Ecosystems) and Priority 5 (Resource Efficiency). Projects which have a positive impact on the environment and encourage climate change mitigation and adaptation in sustainable farming will be encouraged. The Business Development Groups will work to improve the technical efficiency of participating farmers which will in turn improve nutrient and soil management and help reduce the GHG contribution from these businesses.

The Farm Family Keys Skills Scheme will include a particular focus on improving animal health and welfare, biosecurity and plant health. Training will demonstrate how improved biosecurity can help tackle diseases such as Tuberculosis (TB), Bovine Viral Diarrhoea, Johnes disease and other diseases as necessary. As well as impacting on farm competitiveness and disease reduction this will have a positive impact on the reduction of Greenhouse Gas emissions. Improved animal welfare will ensure input costs are minimised therefore improving the carbon footprint of animal production. Web based innovative methods of training delivery will ensure that the knowledge will be transferred as cost effectively as possible.

The Innovation Technology Evaluation and Demonstration Scheme is important to the innovation support available across the Rural Development Programme. The scheme has the potential to assist with the demonstration of innovative techniques in Priorities 2 (Farm Competitiveness), Priority 3 (Food Chain Organisation), Priority 4 (Enhancing Ecosystems) and Priority 5 (Resource Efficiency). Projects which have a positive impact on the environment and encourage climate change mitigation and adaption in sustainable farming will be encouraged.

The Farm Innovation Visits Scheme is important to the innovation support available across the Rural Development Programme. The scheme has the potential to assist with the learning and dissemination of innovative techniques in Priority 2 (Farm Competitiveness), Priority 4 (Enhancing Ecosystems) and Priority 5 (Resource Efficiency). Projects which have a positive impact on the environment and encourage climate change mitigation and adaption in sustainable farming will be encouraged.



8.2.1.3. Scope, level of support, eligible beneficiaries, and where relevant, methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate broken down by sub-measure and/or type of operation where necessary. For each type of operation specification of eligible costs, eligibility conditions, applicable amounts and support rates and principles with regard to the setting of selection criteria

#### 8.2.1.3.1. Sub-measure 1.1 – Support for vocational training and skills acquisition actions

Sub-measure:

- 1.1 - support for vocational training and skills acquisition actions

#### 8.2.1.3.1.1. Description of the type of operation

The following three schemes/actions will be supported:

- Business Development Groups (BDG)
- Farm Family Key Skills (FFKS)
- General Training for Scheme Implementation (GT)

#### **Description of the Operation**

##### **Business Development Groups (BDG)**

The transfer of knowledge and new technologies will take place through farmer participation in Business Development Groups. Up to 160 Business Development Groups (BDG's) will be formed, each containing between 15 and 20 farmers. Each group would be facilitated by a DAERA Training Facilitator with the assistance of a training support officer.

Training Facilitators will organise, arrange and facilitate each BDG training event and will build a programme of events that will support the work of the participants. The training events will be the key vehicle to help farmers achieve the objectives they have identified in their business development plan. All group members will record either financial or physical benchmarking data, the results of which will help formulate the areas for group development and discussion. The data will be collected and collated by the training support officers. This will require the use of IT equipment and development of suitable programmes to collect, collate and analyse the data.

Each farmer will be encouraged to host a visit for the group during which members will discuss technical performance and progress towards meeting efficiency targets.

As the programme is knowledge driven, the areas of work studied during BDG training events will link directly to modules that are part of a proposed Level 3 qualification. The sectors targeted will be Commercial Horticulture, Dairy, Beef and Sheep, Pigs, Poultry and Crops. Topics will include Business Management, Technical Efficiency, Nutrient and soil Management, Energy Efficiency, Health and Welfare Harnessing IT and Integrated Pest Management for all farms and forestry where pesticides are used. Carbon reduction will be an element of each of the training modules relating to technical efficiency. Over the five years of the programme, there will be eight training events per year, with each session lasting for 3 hours.

The proposed outcomes of the programme are:

- For 30% of participants to obtain a qualification at Level 3 or above.
- For the gross margin differential between BDG members and similar non members to be increased by 5 percentage points.

##### **Farm Family Key Skills (FFKS)**



This knowledge transfer scheme will provide short, topic based, training courses linked to improving farm practices for farmers, farm family members and workers in the farm business, helping them adapt to the changing needs of the industry. Participants will be able to apply for relevant training courses throughout the length of the programme. Numbers of participants will vary depending on the topic being addressed; for example, it is estimated that 1500 individuals will require training in whole farm business planning, but the figure for topics such as animal health and welfare and farm safety will be closer to 5000. The length of training courses will also vary according to topic, from a half day for farm health and safety awareness training to four half days of training and ten hours of mentoring for whole farm business planning.

Training specified for the Farm Family Key Skills will be related to the following;

- To deliver cross cutting themes such as improved animal and plant health.
- To assist beneficiaries to meet the eligibility requirements of schemes such as the Business Investment Scheme.
- To assist in the delivery of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs' key aims and objectives.
- To respond to key industry challenges during the period of the Programme.

The target audience of the scheme will be farmers, their workers and farm families. The group training courses will be delivered using a variety of training methods including classroom based training, workshops, e-learning and mentoring. The training may cover for example;

- Animal health and welfare and disease reduction
- Completion of biosecurity plans
- Plant health
- Leadership training
- Managing farm succession and generational renewal
- Whole farm needs assessment
- Business plan development
- Health and Safety awareness
- ICT training related to achieving DAERAs business objectives

How the training is delivered will depend on the message which needs to be delivered and the target audience. For example advice on animal health and welfare could be delivered to large groups in conjunction with the Private Veterinary Practitioners (PVP), building on the relationship already available between the farmer and their Veterinary Officer; while ICT training could be delivered in a training room environment by professional ICT trainers.

### **General Training for Scheme Implementation**

The scheme will provide specific training for participants in the Environmental Farming Scheme (EFS) to assist with implementation and compliance. The training will provide scheme participants with the knowledge and information required to understand the environmental commitments undertaken and the actions required for successful implementation of the measures. In some cases the majority of training will be delivered by DAERA staff. However, if there is insufficient expertise within DAERA for training in a particular area, this would be contracted to an outside training provider.

#### 8.2.1.3.1.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Support to the beneficiary will be by grant which will be paid at least monthly.

Payments to the participants of the Business Development Groups will be paid through an annual grant. A participant payment will also be paid on completion of hosting a training event.

No advance payments will be available.

#### 8.2.1.3.1.3. Links to other legislation

Articles 65-71 of Regulation 1303/2013 (Eligibility of expenditure and durability).

Article 67 of Regulation 1303/2013 (Forms of grants and repayable assistance).

EU public procurement rules will be respected, in particular (i) Directives 2004/18/EC and 2004/17/EC, (ii) Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU, (iii) Directives 89/665/EEC and 92/13/EEC and (iv) the general public procurement principles derived from the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. Of particular relevance to Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 1305/2013 is Annex II B of Directive 2004/18/EC relating to 'education and vocational education services' where the light procedure applies.

#### 8.2.1.3.1.4. Beneficiaries

### **Business Development Groups, Farm Family Key Skills and General Training for Scheme Implementation**

- The beneficiary for the knowledge transfer will be the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).
- If there is insufficient expertise within DAERA for training in a particular area, this would be contracted to an outside training provider.
- The service provided by the Training Support Officers to support the knowledge transfer action will be tendered through public procurement. DAERA will carry out the public procurement and

award and manage the contract.

- Participants for the Business Development Groups will be members and employees of the farm business and have a valid business identification number.
- Participants for the Farm Family Key Skills will be members of the farm household or workers from these businesses.
- Participants for the General Training Scheme must have an agreed commitment for the Environmental Farming Scheme.

#### 8.2.1.3.1.5. Eligible costs

Courses of instruction or training which form part of normal education programmes or systems at secondary or higher levels are excluded from this measure. The following costs are eligible for both schemes under this sub-measure.

The cost of organising and delivering the knowledge transfer or information action such as:

- Salaries of employees
- Office running costs
- Protective clothing
- IT equipment for collecting benchmarking data
- IT Development costs for the collation and analysis of benchmarking data
- Marketing and recruitment costs, so that a Marketing Strategy can be developed to inform farmers of the benefits of Business Development Groups and Farm Family Key Skills and encourage them to participate
- Trainers
- Analytical services linked to the group training, for example, soil and silage analysis to maximise farm efficiency
- Hospitality for participants
- Travel costs
- Training materials
- Costs linked to the premises where the training takes place

- Public Liability insurance, to allow individual farmers to host the Business Development Groups

**The following costs are eligible for the Business Development Groups only.**

The cost of participants including:

- Hosting a discussion group
- Travel
- Accommodation
- Cost of replacement of farmer. This means any person suitable to replace the farmer (head of the holding) when participating in training. It does not have to be someone from a farm relief body.

#### **DAERA Administration Costs**

DAERA Staff costs for the administration for the establishment and operation of all Measure 1 actions.

#### 8.2.1.3.1.6. Eligibility conditions

For all schemes, the beneficiaries should demonstrate:

- Evidence of organisational capacity to delivery the outputs of the programme.
- Competence of key staff to deliver the outcomes of the programme.
- Evidence of ongoing staff development to maintain and develop the competence of staff.

For the Business Development Groups, the following qualifications are required:

- Trainer / group facilitator – Primary Degree in Agriculture or related subject.
- Support worker – Level III qualification in agriculture or related subject.

For Farm Family Key Skills, each training programme within this scheme will specify the minimum qualification levels required by the trainer.

#### 8.2.1.3.1.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

The beneficiary will be the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs. If additional training/support officers are required they will be selected by public procurement procedure, based on value for money and having the appropriate professional qualifications and expertise to carry out the task (these requirements are specified in the Eligibility Conditions section).

Only those that fulfil the eligibility conditions will progress to the selection stage. Applicants will be ranked and selected based on clearly defined criteria.

#### 8.2.1.3.1.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Support will be based on the eligible costs as set out in the eligible costs section.

Aid intensity is 100% subject to the following State Aid rules:

Actions assisting the forestry sector will comply with Article 38 of Regulation (EU) 702/2014. Alternatively de minimis Regulation (EU) 1407/2013 can be utilised, which allows an aid intensity of up to 100% of costs up to the de minimis ceiling of €200,000 per single undertaking over a period of 3 fiscal years.

Where the action has been publically procured the payment will be based on the agreed contract and the completion of the performance targets. Payments will be at least quarterly.

For the Business Development Groups, participants will receive an annual payment based on £490 per annum. A participant hosting a visit will receive a grant of £600 to cover the costs of hosting a training event. Payments for DAERA staff will be capped at 9.3% of the total value of the Measure 1 actions.

Payments for soil and silage analysis will be capped at 2% of the total value of the Business Development Groups.

#### 8.2.1.3.1.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.1.3.1.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

##### 8.2.1.3.1.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

##### 8.2.1.3.1.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

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8.2.1.3.1.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level
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8.2.1.3.1.11. Information specific to the operation

Definition of appropriate capacities of bodies providing knowledge transfer services to carry out their tasks in the form of staff qualifications and regular training

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level
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Definition of the duration and content of farm and forest exchange schemes and visits as referred to in Article 3 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level
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### 8.2.1.3.2. Sub-measure 1.2 – Support for demonstration activities and information actions

Sub-measure:

- 1.2 - support for demonstration activities and information actions

#### 8.2.1.3.2.1. Description of the type of operation

The following scheme will be supported:

- Innovation Technology Evaluation Demonstration Scheme (ITEDS).

#### **Description of the Operation**

#### **Innovation Technology Evaluation Demonstration Scheme (ITEDS)**

There is a strong local research base supporting agriculture and food processing in NI with good attendance at Knowledge Transfer events. The Needs and SWOT assessment have identified that there is low awareness of recent and ongoing research activity across all sectors and that there are many barriers to uptake of new technology and participation in knowledge transfer activity. The Innovation Technology Evaluation Demonstration Scheme (ITEDS) will try to address these needs by raising awareness of technologies and techniques which are already operational and available, are innovative and not in commercial use in the Northern Ireland agri-food industry. The demonstration activity can take place on a farm or in other places such as research centres, exhibition buildings, etc. The demonstration activity may include the following:

- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Soil and water quality
- Resource efficiency including energy storage and green house gas and ammonia emission reduction
- Disease control and animal health and welfare
- Plant health
- New technologies and techniques to reduce the direct costs of production
- Production horticulture
- Food development and processing

The ITEDS will primarily but not exclusively aim to support the knowledge transfer and innovation actions which may evolve from support elsewhere within the programme. This will include any innovative demonstration actions arising from the following:

- European Innovation Partnership Operational Group (sub-measure 16.1)

- Business Development Groups (sub-measure 1.1)
- Farm Innovation Visits Scheme (sub-measure 1.3)
- Pilot projects, development of new products, practices, processes and technologies (sub-measure 16.2)

#### 8.2.1.3.2.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Support will be provided through grant aid. No advance payments will be available.

#### 8.2.1.3.2.3. Links to other legislation

Articles 65-71 of Regulation 1303/2013 (Eligibility of expenditure and durability).

Article 67 of Regulation 1303/2013 (Forms of grants and repayable assistance)

Article 45 of Regulation 1305/2013

EU public procurement rules will be respected, in particular (i) Directives 2004/18/EC and 2004/17/EC, (ii) Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU, (iii) Directives 89/665/EEC and 92/13/EEC and (iv) the general public procurement principles derived from the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. Of particular relevance to Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 1305/2013 is Annex II B of Directive 2004/18/EC relating to 'education and vocational education services' where the light procedure applies.

#### 8.2.1.3.2.4. Beneficiaries

The beneficiary of the operation will be the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs as the body that will organise and manage the demonstration actions for persons engaged in the agricultural, food and forestry sector.

The participants in the Innovation Technology Evaluation Demonstration Scheme will be individuals engaged in the agriculture, food and forestry sectors, members of the farm family, land managers and SMEs operating in rural areas.

#### 8.2.1.3.2.5. Eligible costs

Courses of instruction or training which form part of normal education programmes or systems at secondary or higher levels are excluded from this measure. The following costs are eligible.



- Salaries of employees
- Office running costs
- Protective clothing
- Marketing and recruitment costs, so that a Marketing Strategy can be developed to inform people of the benefits of the schemes and encourage them to participate
- Guest speakers
- Hospitality for participants
- Travel costs
- Training materials
- Analytical testing to allow demonstration of the benefits of the technology, for example Blood Analysis to demonstrate vitamin and mineral levels
- Costs of hosting a demonstration activity
- Costs linked to the premises where the training takes place
- Public liability insurance, to allow individual farmers to host the demonstrations
- Investment costs linked to the demonstration project for example the investment required to construct a milking room to show how a new milking system operates
- Lease purchase of machinery and equipment are eligible but other costs connected with the leasing contract, such as lessor's margin, interest refinancing costs, overheads and insurance charges are not eligible expenditure.

#### **DAERA Administration Costs**

DAERA Staff costs for the administration for the establishment and operation of all Measure 1 actions.

#### 8.2.1.3.2.6. Eligibility conditions

Eligible beneficiaries will be required to provide evidence of the appropriate capacity of their staff in the provision of the knowledge transfer services. Therefore they have to have the appropriate qualification and be regularly trained to conduct this task.

For the Innovation Technology Evaluation Demonstration Scheme, the qualifications required will be:

- Programme Manager – Primary degree in Agricultural or related subject

- Evidence of on-going participation in professional development.

#### 8.2.1.3.2.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

The beneficiary will be the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs. If additional support officers are required then they will be selected by public procurement procedure, based on value for money and having the appropriate professional qualifications and expertise to carry out the task (these requirements are specified in the Eligibility Conditions section). Only those that fulfil the eligibility conditions will progress to the selection stage. Applicants will be ranked and selected based on clearly defined criteria. Additional selection criteria may include an assessment of previous experience and demonstration of their ability to carry out the task.

#### 8.2.1.3.2.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Aid intensity is 100% subject to the following State Aid rules:

Actions assisting the forestry sector will comply with Article 38 of Regulation (EU) 702/2014 with the aid intensity limited to 100% of the eligible costs.

Actions assisting SMEs in rural areas will comply with Article 47 of Regulation 9 (EU) 702/2014 with the aid intensity limited to 60% for medium sized companies and 70% for micro and small size.

Alternatively all categories above can utilize de minimis Regulation (EU) 1407/2013 which allows an aid intensity of up to 100% of costs up to the de minimis ceiling of €200,000 per single undertaking over a period of 3 fiscal years.

Where the action has been publically procured the payment will be based on the agreed contract and the completion of the performance targets. Payments will be at least monthly.

Payments for DAERA administration staff will be capped at 9.3% of the total value of the Measure 1 actions.

#### 8.2.1.3.2.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.1.3.2.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

##### 8.2.1.3.2.9.2. Mitigating actions

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

**8.2.1.3.2.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure**

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

**8.2.1.3.2.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant**

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

**8.2.1.3.2.11. Information specific to the operation**

Definition of appropriate capacities of bodies providing knowledge transfer services to carry out their tasks in the form of staff qualifications and regular training

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Definition of the duration and content of farm and forest exchange schemes and visits as referred to in Article 3 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

8.2.1.3.3. Sub-measure 1.3 – Support for short-term farm and forest management exchange as well as farm and forest visits.

Sub-measure:

- 1.3 - support for short-term farm and forest management exchange as well as farm and forest visits

#### 8.2.1.3.3.1. Description of the type of operation

The following scheme/action will be supported:

- Farm Innovation Visits Scheme (FIV)

##### **Description of the Operation**

The Farm Innovation Visits Scheme (FIV) will focus on short-term farm visits to allow groups of farmers to visit other farms on mainland UK or elsewhere within the EU in order to learn personally and practically from another farmer. The purpose is to enhance exchange of knowledge and good practices and discover other ways of doing things (e.g. learn how to use a specific machine, conversion to organic farming, etc.).

The knowledge transfer will be enhanced by pre- and post- workshops.

The duration of the visits for both will be no longer than two weeks. The visits should have a focus, in particular, on innovation, sustainable farming and forestry methods and/or technologies, farm diversification, farms participating in short supply chains, the development of new business opportunities and new technologies. Participants will be required to prepare a report on their visit and disseminate what they have learnt to their peers and the industry.

#### 8.2.1.3.3.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Support will be provided through grant aid. No advance payments will be available.

#### 8.2.1.3.3.3. Links to other legislation

Articles 65-71 of Regulation 1303/2013 (Eligibility of expenditure and durability).

Article 67 of Regulation 1303/2013 (Forms of grants and repayable assistance)

EU public procurement rules will be respected, in particular (i) Directives 2004/18/EC and 2004/17/EC, (ii) Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU, (iii) Directives 89/665/EEC and 92/13/EEC and (iv) the general public procurement principles derived from the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. Of particular relevance to Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 1305/2013 is Annex II B of Directive 2004/18/EC

relating to 'education and vocational education services' where the light procedure applies.

#### 8.2.1.3.3.4. Beneficiaries

The beneficiary of the operation will be DAERA as the body that will organise the farm exchange.

Participants for the Farm Innovation Visits Scheme will be members and employees of the farm business and have a valid business identification number.

#### 8.2.1.3.3.5. Eligible costs

**The following costs are eligible:**

- The cost of organising and delivering the farm visits such as:
  - Salaries of employees
  - Travel costs
  - Office running costs
- Marketing and recruitment costs, so that a Marketing Strategy can be developed to inform farmers and land managers of the benefits of Farm Innovation Visits and encourage them to participate.
- Training materials
- Costs linked to the premises where the training takes place
- Refreshments for participants for pre and post workshops
- Translation/interpretation services
- Specialist input in host country
- The cost of participants including:
  - Travel
  - Accommodation
  - *Per diem* expenses.
- Cost of replacement of farmer. This means any person suitable to replace the farmer (head of the holding) when participating in the visit. It does not have to be someone from a farm relief body.

These costs will be paid to the beneficiary, who will be responsible for reimbursing participants.

**DAERA Administration Costs**

DAERA staff costs for the administration of the establishment and operation of Measure 1 actions.

#### 8.2.1.3.3.6. Eligibility conditions

To be eligible under this measure the beneficiaries will be required to provide evidence of the appropriate capacity of their staff in the provision of the knowledge transfer services.

For the Farm Innovation Visits Scheme, the qualifications required will be:

- Programme Manager – Primary degree in Agricultural or related subject

Evidence of on-going participation in professional development.

#### 8.2.1.3.3.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

The beneficiary will be the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs. If additional training/support officers are required then they will be selected by public procurement procedure, based on value for money and having the appropriate qualifications and expertise to carry out the task, as specified in the eligibility conditions section.

Only those that fulfil the eligibility conditions will progress to the selection stage. Applicants will be ranked and selected based on clearly defined criteria. Additional selection criteria may include an assessment of previous experience and demonstration of their ability to carry out the task.

#### 8.2.1.3.3.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Aid intensity is 100% subject to the following rules:

Where the action has been publically procured the payment will be based on the agreed contract and the completion of the performance targets. Payments will be at least monthly.

Payments to the participants will be flat rate payments for per diem expenses and the cost of replacement farmer. Per diem expenses will be in accordance with the Civil Service travel policy. Accommodation and travel costs such as train, air travel and sea ferries will be paid on actual costs and in accordance with the Civil Service travel policy.

The participant must claim within three months of the completion of the visit.

Payments for DAERA administration staff will be capped at 9.3% of the total value of the Measure 1 actions.

8.2.1.3.3.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.1.3.3.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

8.2.1.3.3.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

8.2.1.3.3.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

8.2.1.3.3.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

8.2.1.3.3.11. Information specific to the operation

Definition of appropriate capacities of bodies providing knowledge transfer services to carry out their tasks in the form of staff qualifications and regular training

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Definition of the duration and content of farm and forest exchange schemes and visits as referred to in Article 3 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

8.2.1.4. *Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations*

8.2.1.4.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Risk(s)

An assessment of the proposed activities for the measure identified the following potential main root causes of error as defined in the Commission Staff Working Document SWD(2013) 244 final.

1. Root Cause 11 – Application of public procurement rules and private tender procedures. The risk is that the public procurement of the providers of the knowledge transfer and information actions is deficient and did not comply with national laws.
2. Root Cause 13 - Tendering procedures applied by private beneficiaries (beneficiary perspective). The risk is that the beneficiary (provider of the knowledge transfer and information action) does not implement the agreed tendering procedures and therefore fails to obtain value for money in the use of public funds and equality of opportunity for suppliers and service providers.
3. Root Cause 15 - Handling of payment claims by beneficiaries (beneficiary perspective). The risk is that the beneficiary (provider of the knowledge transfer and information action) does not follow the guidance provided or understands the implications for inaccurate claims. This is a risk particularly in reporting and recording attendance of participants at knowledge transfer and demonstration events.

#### 8.2.1.4.2. Mitigating actions

##### Mitigating Actions:

The following mitigating actions will be implemented to address the risks identified:

1. A review of the results of management re-performance and on-the-spot checks from the 2007-2013 programming period and revision of the procedures to implement lessons learnt.
2. Completion of Fraud Risk Assessments on each scheme implemented.
3. All public procurement and contract variations will be undertaken by Central Procurement Directorate which is a centre of procurement excellence.
4. All staff involved in selection through public procurement will receive procurement training. Contract management staff will receive appropriate training to ensure they understand the requirements of the contract.
5. Simplified costs will be used, where appropriate, to reduce the number of occasions in which the knowledge transfer provider will need to tender for goods or services.
6. The provision of clear operating rules for knowledge and training providers including requirements for determining eligible expenditure, supporting evidence requirements for claims and procurement rules in order to complete the administrative check.
7. Management re-performance checks and on the spot checks to be carried out on claims processed prior to release for payment to identify residual errors.

#### 8.2.1.4.3. Overall assessment of the measure

An analysis of the errors and non-compliances in the implementation of similar measures in the 2007-2013 Rural Development Programme indicates that procedures for the training providers and for scheme participants are generally sufficient to limit ineligible expenditure. As far as possible scale rates or reference prices were used to reduce the administrative burden and ensure value for money. This



approach will continue in the new programme. The error rate for similar measures in the 2007-2013 programme is less than 2%. However procedures will be subject to a full review prior to implementation to take account of lessons learnt from previous programming periods. The remaining residual risk is ensuring that claims from the beneficiary for expenses for the training and coaching of participants are accurate and also that the numbers attending demonstration activities and training events are accurate. The main control will be through the on-the-spot checks. The mitigating actions detailed above address the following recommended corrective and preventative actions:

- Corrective and preventative Action 1 – training for beneficiary staff on the procedures to process payments to training participants, systems for checking the reasonableness of costs and prices and the handling of payment claims.
- Corrective and preventative Action 2 – information and advice for beneficiaries on public procurement rules, eligible investment expenditure under the measure and the completion of payment claims.
- Corrective and preventative Action 3 – information and guidance documents for administration units and beneficiaries on public procurement rules, identification of non-eligible costs and one to one advice at contract agreement stage.
- Corrective and preventative Action 4 – improvement of IT tools to improve the access and availability of information for beneficiaries and to prevent errors.
- Corrective and preventative Action 6 – the use of simplified costs for training providers and costs for beneficiaries, such as per diem expenses, travel and subsistence and replacement farmers to reduce the risk of errors and the administrative burden on beneficiaries and administration units.
- Corrective and preventative Action 7 – improving internal control and coordination procedures through reviewing the results of management re-performance checks, on-the-spot checks, audit recommendations and the review of procedures and forms.

Following consideration of the mitigating actions and the corrective and preventative actions the Managing Authority and Paying Agency have assessed the error rate for the measure as low.

#### *8.2.1.5. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant*

The provision of targeted knowledge transfer and innovation support across the rural development programme is an important priority to enable participants to up-skill to improve the competitiveness of their business, to adopt new innovative practices and to comply with RDP commitments. A support rate of 100% is considered as an appropriate level of investment.

The option to reimburse the participant was selected only for the Business Development Groups and Farm Innovation Visits Scheme. In the case of the Business Development Groups this represents a

commitment from the participant to participate over a longer period of time and also the commitment to bench mark business information. Evidence from the current programme (M111 – Vocational Training and Information Actions) was that training demand was high despite no reimbursement for personal expenses to attend.

The lump sum payment for the Business Development Group participants is based on the standard cost approach and has been independently verified by the Department of Finance. The costs are detailed in Table 4 below.

	Payment per training event	Total payment per year
Replacement of the farmer	£43.20 <sup>2</sup>	£345.60
Travel to and from training events	£18 <sup>3</sup>	£144
Annual lump sum payment		£489.60 <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Assumes full attendance at 8 training events.

<sup>2</sup>National Living Wage rate (higher than the current standard Agricultural Wages Board Rate)– 6 hours @ £7.20/hr, assumes 1hr handover and 1hr hand back.

<sup>3</sup>Assumes an average travel distance of 40 miles at NICS rate (0.45p/mile)

The additional hosting payment is calculated using the payment in the current Axis 1 – Focus Farms Scheme

Table 4 Business Development Groups - payment to participants

Table 4 - Payment to Business Development Group Scheme participants

### 8.2.1.6. Information specific to the measure

Definition of appropriate capacities of bodies providing knowledge transfer services to carry out their tasks in the form of staff qualifications and regular training

#### Business Development Groups

- Trainer / group facilitator – Primary Degree in Agriculture or related subject.
- Support worker – Level III qualification in agriculture or related subject.

#### Farm Family Key Skills.

- Trainer – Each training programme within this scheme will specify the minimum qualification levels required by the trainer.

Innovation Technology Evaluation Demonstration Scheme and Farm Innovation Visits Scheme.

- Programme Manager – Primary degree in Agricultural or related subject
- Evidence of on-going participation in professional development.

For all schemes the bodies providing the knowledge transfer services should demonstrate:

- Evidence of organisational capacity to delivery the outputs of the programme.
- Competence of key staff to deliver the outcomes of the programme.
- Evidence of ongoing staff development to maintain and develop the competence of staff.

Definition of the duration and content of farm and forest exchange schemes and visits as referred to in Article 3 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014

The duration of the visits for both will be no longer than two weeks. The visits should have a focus, in particular, on innovation, sustainable farming and forestry methods and/or technologies, farm diversification, farms participating in short supply chains, the development of new business opportunities and new technologies. Participants will be required to write a report on their visit and disseminate what they have learnt to their peers and the industry.

*8.2.1.7. Other important remarks relevant to understand and implement the measure*

N/A

## 8.2.2. M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)

### 8.2.2.1. *Legal basis*

Article 15 of Regulation (EC) No 1305/2013

### 8.2.2.2. *General description of the measure including its intervention logic and contribution to focus areas and cross-cutting objectives*

#### General Description

At 31 March 2013 Northern Ireland had 85,900 hectares across 57 sites as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), 114,600 hectares across 17 sites as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and 77,700 hectares across 21 sites as Ramsar sites (areas of wetland and waterfowl conservation). In addition, a total of 104,600 hectares across 360 sites had been designated as Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) under NI legislation.

Current evidence indicates that the majority of NI's designated sites are not in favourable condition status.

NI has 51 priority habitat types, several of which, such as peatlands, lowland raised bogs and purple-moor and rush pasture grasslands, are well represented compared to other parts of the UK and Europe. There are 481 priority species which have been identified as requiring conservation action.

Of the 51 priority habitats, 18 are in declining status, with the others remaining static. Grassland habitats, (and associated wetland habitats) had the largest decline. Conversely, woodland priority habitats have increased due to succession and some tree-planting schemes. The data available for priority species is varied however a number of species, including breeding waders such as curlew, are in decline.

Priority habitats and species and Natura 2000 sites are heavily influenced by land-use change either directly or indirectly. For instance drainage, peat-cutting and over-grazing are the major factors in the reduction of the extent and quality of peatlands in Northern Ireland. Most have been cut to provide fuel. Overgrazing of blanket bogs by upland sheep has been a problem in the past. However, despite sheep numbers declining in recent years, many peatlands have not shown any significant improvement. Many other priority habitats and species are impacted by changes in agriculture and forestry. Priority grasslands and their priority species such as breeding waders have declined greatly in recent years whilst native woodland has increased in area. Indirect impacts on habitats include aquatic and aerial pollution. An overall reduction in chemical fertiliser application is starting to benefit some freshwater habitats although aerial nitrogen pollution is now viewed as an important biodiversity issue.

Current environmental support in NI has not yet produced the positive results that are needed. Therefore, specialist, independent advice is required to supplement support that is currently provided by Government. The advice will primarily be aimed at farmers and land managers in environmentally designated areas, or that farm land that contain priority habitats or species, who are not currently in agri-environment schemes.

In relation to water quality, independent, non-regulatory advice, for proactive catchment-based projects may also be funded. This would enable farmers to access pollution avoidance and farm management advice that will assist in the achievement of Water Framework, Nitrates and Sustainable use of Pesticides Directive objectives.

The advice provided will complement the training for the implementation of agri-environment-climate agreements provided through sub-measure 1.2 and the support for the preparation of Natura 2000 conservation management plans through sub-measure 7.1. The support will also be in line with the EU Biodiversity Strategy and the Natura 2000 Prioritised Action Framework.

The Forestry support in the Rural Development Programme provides a means of contributing to mitigate GHG emissions by increasing the amount of carbon locked up in woodland and forest soils. The Programme's SWOT assessment and needs identification commented on the inherent weakness of the forestry culture within the land use sector, farmers' value systems being a barrier to engage in this alternative land use such as afforestation, and identified an opportunity to promote afforestation on land with agricultural limitations.

The following development needs have been identified for the measure:

- To provide tailored advice and to support the management of environmentally designated sites, priority habitats and priority species, river catchments and water quality.
- To improve the competitiveness of farm and forest holdings by providing advice to support the development of afforestation projects.

#### Contribution to Focus Areas

The measure will contribute to addressing the following focus areas: 1A, 4A, 4B, 4C and 5E

#### Contribution to Cross Cutting Objectives

The support under this measure will primarily contribute to the cross-cutting objective of the environment and climate change mitigation and adaptation through maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and improving soil and water quality on designated sites. Forestry makes a net contribution in reducing atmospheric carbon dioxide by carbon uptake in growing biomass, in vegetation and in soils. Managing and enhancing woodland related habitats can increase the amount of carbon taken up and stored in them. This measure will provide one to one advice for agreement holders supported through Measure 08. This will ensure the benefit from the support can be maximised.

*8.2.2.3. Scope, level of support, eligible beneficiaries, and where relevant, methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate broken down by sub-measure and/or type of operation where necessary. For each type of operation specification of eligible costs, eligibility conditions, applicable amounts and support rates and principles with regard to the setting of selection criteria*

#### 8.2.2.3.1. Sub-measure 2.1 - support for setting up farm/forestry advisory service

Sub-measure:

- 2.1 - support to help benefiting from the use of advisory services

#### 8.2.2.3.1.1. Description of the type of operation

Advice to forest holders, farmers and other land managers for the following areas:

##### Environmental Advisory Support Scheme

The Environmental Advisory Support scheme will provide support for environmental experts to provide specific conservation advice to farmers and land managers on the management of environmentally designated sites, priority habitats and priority species, river catchments and water quality. The provision of the advice which will be tailored to specific needs will support an integrated approach to environment and agriculture related issues and will be in line with the Natura 2000 Prioritised Action Framework.

The provider of the Scheme will be expected to proactively engage with farmers and land managers of designated sites to encourage participation in the scheme. Eligible participants will then be able to access subsidised and specialist strategic or technical advice.

##### Forest holders

The type of advice will be on an individual basis and also in a group situation and will be tailored to address a particular set of needs. Advice may be provided to individuals relating to different situations or areas, but they will not be given the same advice more than once.

Advice will be specific to the situation and will include advice on;

- Improving resilience (including climate change mitigation and adaptation), competitiveness, economic and environmental performance,
- Supporting farm modernisation,
- Specific advice for land owners establishing new woodland

Advice will cover as minimum the relevant obligations under Directive 92/43/EEC (conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora), Directive 2099/147EC (conservation of wild birds) and the Water Framework and Pesticides Directive.

#### 8.2.2.3.1.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Beneficiaries will be selected via a public procurement and will be reimbursed for actual costs. No advance payments will be available.

#### 8.2.2.3.1.3. Links to other legislation

- EU public procurement rules will be respected, in particular (i) Directives 2004/18/EC and 2004/17/EC, (ii) Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU, (iii) Directives 89/665/EEC and 92/13/EEC and (iv) the general public procurement principles derived from the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. Of particular relevance to Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 1305/2013 is Annex II B of Directive 2004/18/EC relating to 'education and vocational education services' where the light procedure applies.
- Council Directive 2009/147/EC ('the Birds Directive');
- Council Directive 92/43/EEC ('the Habitats Directive');
- Council Directive 2000/60/EC ('the Water Framework Directive')
- Nitrates Directive
- Directive 128/2009 Sustainable use of pesticides

#### 8.2.2.3.1.4. Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries will be the authorities or bodies selected to provide the advice.

The beneficiary will be selected through public procurement and will be required to provide evidence of appropriate resources in the form of qualified staff that are regularly trained and have advisory experience and reliability to deliver the advice required by the measure.

#### 8.2.2.3.1.5. Eligible costs

The eligible costs will be the cost of the advice provided, including the cost incurred by the advisor such as:

- Salaries of employees/advisors,
- Travel
- Costs related with the place where the advice is delivered, (venue hire and hospitality for participants).
- Essential materials
- Publicity

#### 8.2.2.3.1.6. Eligibility conditions

The beneficiary will be required to provide evidence of the appropriate resources in the form of regularly trained and qualified staff in the areas which are relevant to this measure. This will require evidence of appropriate qualifications. These will vary depending on the type of advice which is required to be

delivered.

The terms of reference for the public procurement will specify the appropriate resource necessary for the delivery of the advice.

#### 8.2.2.3.1.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

The beneficiary will be selected by a public procurement procedure which will be based on value for money and ability to carry out the task.

#### 8.2.2.3.1.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Up to a maximum of €1500 per advice to individuals receiving support from the body providing the advice. Aid for advisory services to the forestry sector complies with the €1500 ceiling per advice stipulated in Art 39 of Regulation (EU) 702/2014.

The support rate for forestry advice, for both group and one-to-one, will be 50%.

#### 8.2.2.3.1.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.2.3.1.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

###### Risk(s)

An assessment of the proposed activities for the measure identified the following potential main root causes of error as defined in the Commission Staff Working Document SWD(2013) 244 final.

1. Root Cause 11 – Application of public procurement rules and private tender procedures. The risk is that the public procurement of the providers of the advisory services is deficient and did not comply with national laws.
2. Root Cause 13 - Tendering procedures applied by private beneficiaries (beneficiary perspective). The risk is that the beneficiary (provider of the advisory services) does not implement the agreed tendering procedures and therefore fails to obtain value for money in the use of public funds and equality of opportunity for suppliers and service providers.
3. Root Cause 15 - Handling of payment claims by beneficiaries (beneficiary perspective). The risk is that the beneficiary (provider of the advisory services) does not follow the guidance provided or understands the implications for inaccurate claims. This is a risk particularly in reporting and recording attendance of those receiving the advice.

##### 8.2.2.3.1.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

The following mitigating actions will be implemented to address the risks identified:



1. A review of the results of management re-performance and on-the-spot checks from the 2007-2013 programming period and revision of the procedures to implement lessons learnt in similar measures.
2. Completion of Fraud Risk Assessments on each scheme implemented.
3. All public procurement and contract variations will be undertaken by Central Procure Directorate which is a centre of procurement excellence.
4. All staff involved in selection through public procurement will receive procurement training. Contract management staff will receive appropriate training to ensure they understand the requirements of the contract.
5. The provision of clear guidance for advisory bodies including requirements for determining eligible expenditure, supporting evidence requirements for claims in order to complete the administrative check.

Management re-performance checks and on the spot checks to be carried out on claims processed prior to release for payment to identify residual errors.

#### *8.2.2.3.1.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure*

Northern Ireland did not implement an advisory measure in the 2007-2013 Rural Development Programme; however the Farm Advisory Service is operated within DAERA through the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise. In carrying out the assessment for the measure an analysis of the errors and non-compliances in the implementation of similar measures in the 2007-2013 Rural Development Programme such as the knowledge transfer measures indicates that procedures for the these schemes are generally sufficient to limit ineligible expenditure. The error rate for similar measures in the 2007-2013 programme is less than 2%. However procedures will be subject to a full review prior to implementation to take account of lessons learnt from previous programming periods. The remaining residual risk is ensuring that claims from the beneficiary for expenses for providing the advisory services are accurate and also verification that the advice has been provided to participants. The main control will be through the on-the-spot checks. The mitigating actions detailed above address the following recommended corrective and preventative actions:

- Corrective and preventative Action 1 – training for beneficiary staff on the procedures to process payments and the handling of payment claims.
- Corrective and preventative Action 3 – information and guidance documents for beneficiaries on identification of non-eligible costs and one to one advice at contract agreement stage.
- Corrective and preventative Action 4 – improvement of IT tools to improve the access and availability of information for beneficiaries and to prevent errors.
- Corrective and preventative Action 7 – improving internal control and coordination procedures through reviewing the results of management re-performance checks, on-the-spot checks, audit recommendations and the review of procedures and forms.

Following consideration of the mitigating actions and the corrective and preventative actions the Managing Authority and Paying Agency have assessed the error rate for the measure as **low/medium** as

this type of scheme has not been supported before.

#### 8.2.2.3.1.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

Not relevant

#### 8.2.2.3.1.11. Information specific to the operation

General principles to ensure appropriate resources in the form of regularly trained and qualified staff and advisory experience and reliability with respect to the field of advice. Identification of the elements that the advice will cover

Beneficiaries shall ensure that qualified staff have advisory experience and reliability to deliver the advice required. Advisors must have a higher level qualification in forestry, arboriculture or a related subject and be members of a professional body for forestry, arboriculture or a related subject which requires continuous professional development.

#### *8.2.2.4. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations*

##### 8.2.2.4.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

This has been covered under sub-measure 2.1

##### 8.2.2.4.2. Mitigating actions

This has been covered under sub-measure 2.1

##### 8.2.2.4.3. Overall assessment of the measure

This has been covered under sub-measure 2.1

#### *8.2.2.5. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant*

Not relevant

*8.2.2.6. Information specific to the measure*

General principles to ensure appropriate resources in the form of regularly trained and qualified staff and advisory experience and reliability with respect to the field of advice. Identification of the elements that the advice will cover

This has been covered under sub-measure 2.1

*8.2.2.7. Other important remarks relevant to understand and implement the measure*

N/A

### 8.2.3. M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)

#### 8.2.3.1. *Legal basis*

Article 17 and Recital 15 of Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) N° 1305/2013.

#### 8.2.3.2. *General description of the measure including its intervention logic and contribution to focus areas and cross-cutting objectives*

##### Context

Agriculture plays a more important role in the economy of Northern Ireland than the UK as a whole. Although the relative contribution of agriculture to the economy in NI has been falling over time, agriculture provides an important input to the food processing industry which has been growing well over the last 10 years. Taken together agriculture and food (and drinks) processing normally account for around 4% of the total GVA in NI and more than 6% of employment.

Farm incomes are low, relative to other sectors of the economy and rates of return on investment in agriculture are low. The success of the farm modernisation programme in the 2007-2013 Rural Development Programme demonstrated a willingness of farmers to invest in the development of their business. However, the ability of farm businesses to invest has been restricted, in some cases, by the availability of match funding.

Northern Ireland's agri-food processing sector is less well developed than in the rest of the United Kingdom, particularly in terms of added value. If Northern Ireland is to develop a more successful and competitive agri-food processing sector, increased innovation to move from low-tech production and a movement from local markets to high value added activities to increase export is required.

In May 2010, a joint Government/Industry strategy for the development of the Northern Ireland agri-food industry – Focus on Food – was launched to provide a shared vision for a successful food industry and to focus future efforts to drive forward its development. An Agri-food Strategy Board (AFSB) was appointed in May 2012 by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Department of Enterprise Trade and Industry to develop a longer term strategy and implementation plan for the development of the agriculture and food sector. The Board published its report 'Going for Growth' in May 2013 and the report sets a series of growth targets for the industry with a focus on accelerating exports and stimulating entrepreneurship and innovation.

This Measure will provide the majority of the investment support required to the agriculture, food and forestry industries. The Business Investment Scheme (sub-measure 4.1) will be the main investment scheme within the Rural Development Programme and will provide the investment support for a number of other schemes within the programme such as:

- Innovation Technology Evaluation Demonstration Scheme (sub-measure 1.2)

- European Innovation Partnership (sub-measure 16.1)
- Pilot and Demonstration Projects (sub-measure 16.2)
- Agri-food cooperation scheme (sub-measures 16.2, 16.3, 16.4)

Support for agri-environment-climate actions will be programmed primarily under Measure 10 (Article 28). Additional support for investment in non-productive physical assets will be provided under this measure (sub-measure 4.4) where these are linked to the environmental objectives for the Rural Development Programme.

#### Targeting of Investments for Farm Restructuring

Within the Business Investment Scheme the following investments which target farm restructuring have been identified in the Needs assessment and SWOT analysis.

- Investments which improve on-farm resource and production efficiency.
- Investments which improve resilience to adverse weather events and mitigate climate change.
- Investments which improve Animal and Plant Health and Health and Safety on farms

These will be assessed through a technical assessment in the proposed business plan before the investment can proceed. Proposed buildings and equipment investments will need to demonstrate their capacity to reduce input resources required and improve product quality and output. For example, investments in livestock housing will have to demonstrate that energy requirements are improved against current farm structures whilst producing an environment where the animals' welfare and health are enhanced.

Examples of the types of investments include those for the safe handling of all livestock, enhanced flooring systems for animal production or fodder/crop storage, new builds and refurbishment to provide improved energy usage and effective ventilation. Equipment proposals targeted at land management will have to demonstrate their ability to show improvements in soil composition and structure leading to efficiency in grass and crop production. Examples of equipment could be a subsoiler to improve issues with land compaction, precision slurry/manure and fertiliser application equipment to provide accurate application methods to reduce the need for inorganic fertiliser usage.

In the other sectors such as horticulture and arable, applicants will need to demonstrate that their input requirements are reduced whilst also showing positive effects on plant health and product quality. Horticulture and arable sectors will also look to use investment opportunities to provide precision agriculture as an opportunity to reduce their input requirements and costs. Investments in buildings and equipment to improve hygiene and ultimately plant health will be integral to all investment proposals.

All investment proposals for livestock will be assessed against criteria which encourages animal health and welfare. Other sectors like pigs and poultry have also seen their investments age over time and again they have shown a willingness to invest in enriched environments for their animals.

Plant health improvement will be encouraged in the form of more precise equipment to allow for effective pest and nutrient management to ensure the high health status of our produce. Structural facilities that allow for a greater degree of effective hygiene for production and storage will also be

targeted.

### Development Needs

The following development needs for the Investments in Physical Assets measure were identified in the intervention logic:

- Agriculture - There is a clear need for farmers to be provided with support to invest in their farm businesses and improve their competitiveness through:
  - Increasing farm production sustainably.
  - Improving farm competitiveness through efficiency.
  - Improving the supply chain through better integration.
  - Improving adaptability to market requirements.
  - Encouraging diversification into new agricultural activities.
  - Providing capital investment for agricultural innovation.
  - Providing capital investment for land improvement.
  - Providing capital investment for improved environmental performance.
  - Providing investment for production of woody biomass for energy generation.
- Processing - There is a clear need for the food industry to be provided with support to invest in the following to improve competitiveness:
  - Support businesses to improve their efficiency and reduce costs.
  - Improve the supply chain through better integration and collaboration between producers, processors and others in the food chain.
  - Support innovation and new product development.
  - To add value to agricultural products.
  - Improve the market capability of businesses.
- Agri-environment Climate
  - Need to provide capital investment to support agri-environment-climate agreements.

Investments for this Measure will comply with Article 45 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 and Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 807/2014.

### Environmental Impact

Where needed the requirements of Environmental Impact Assessments and energy efficiency obligations will be respected. This will include criterion in the selection of eligible items for funding and the assessment of individual projects. This will be in accordance with Article 45 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 which requires an assessment of the expected environmental impact where the investment is likely to have a negative effect on the environment. The following actions will be undertaken:

- An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be carried out on all investments where this is legally required.
- Capital investment projects will be assessed for possible impacts on Natura 2000 sites and where required a Habitats Regulation Assessment will be carried out by the Competent Authority.
- Investments will be subject to the necessary planning and other permissions.
- All projects will be subject to a Development Path Analysis (DPA) which assesses both the *direct* and *indirect* environmental impacts that are likely to result from the proposed activity. The DPA scoring will be considered during project selection. Environmental sustainability as a horizontal principle is included in all selection panels.
- Any investments negatively impacting on e.g. climate change, biodiversity, Water Framework Directive (WFD), Floods Directive or air quality objectives such as an increase in livestock or in manure and slurry spreading on land (or other ammonia producing developments) will only be supported if there are appropriate mitigation actions which will be evaluated during project selection and on a catchment basis.
- Only investments that go beyond the requirement of the Nitrates Action Programme, mandatory elements of the Pesticides National Action Plan and the Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Plans will be funded.

### **Contribution to Focus Areas**

The measure will primarily contribute to focus areas 2A, 3A, 4A, 4B, 4C,5B, 5C and 5D.

### **Contribution to Cross-Cutting Objectives**

The Business Investment Scheme will contribute to the cross-cutting objective of innovation through supporting new / modern / innovative equipment that will promote growth and efficiency on farms. The scheme will support the capital investment identified through the European Innovation Partnership Operational Groups and raise awareness of available innovative technologies and techniques. The Business Investment Scheme will contribute to the cross-cutting objective of climate change by supporting the installation of technologies which increase efficiency and are proven to make a contribution to lowering the carbon footprint of food production. The Measure will contribute to the improvement of water, manure and slurry management to reduce environmental impact and increase resource efficiency. Support for sustainable drainage will be provided only if in compliance with the WFD, in particular Article 4(7), (8) and (9) and taking into account cumulative impacts. The expected impact will be to enhance efficient grassland management and thus reduce emissions. Capital investment in farm infrastructure will make a significant contribution towards improved animal health and welfare and plant health and therefore will help lower carbon intensity.

The support for non-productive investments required for the achievement of agri-environment contracts

under Measure 10 (Article 28) will have a positive impact on the environment and encourage climate change mitigation and adaption in sustainable farming.

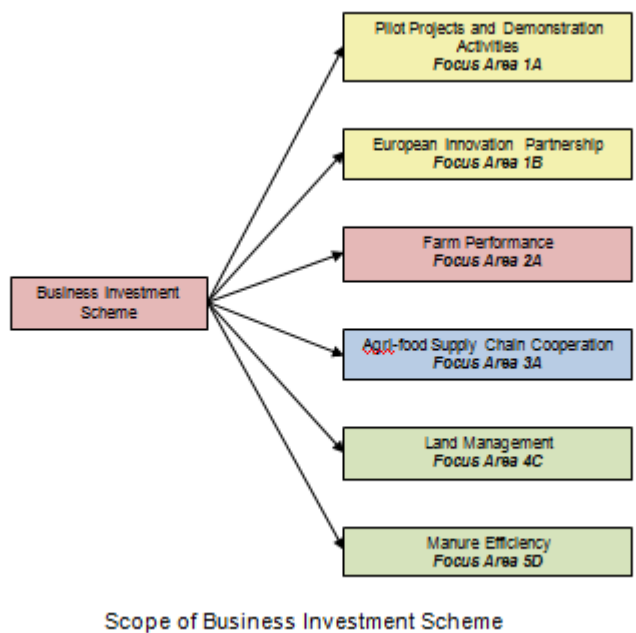


Figure 4 - Scope of Business Investment Scheme

8.2.3.3. *Scope, level of support, eligible beneficiaries, and where relevant, methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate broken down by sub-measure and/or type of operation where necessary. For each type of operation specification of eligible costs, eligibility conditions, applicable amounts and support rates and principles with regard to the setting of selection criteria*

8.2.3.3.1. Sub-measure 4.1 – Support for investments in agricultural holdings.

Sub-measure:

- 4.1 - support for investments in agricultural holdings

8.2.3.3.1.1. Description of the type of operation

A Business Investment Scheme (BIS) based on a two tiered approach to funding with eligibility criteria commensurate to the level of funding. A higher grant rate will be considered to encourage generational renewal. Prioritisation will be given to projects demonstrating innovation and environmental sustainability.

The ranges of activities for farm restructuring include:

On-farm resource and production efficiency

- Construction of new farm buildings and the refurbishment of existing farm buildings to improve



resource and production efficiency.

- Support for the installation of technologies to increase efficiency and reduce Greenhouse Gas and ammonia emissions.
- Purchase of machinery to improve the farm efficiency including equipment to improve soil structure and quality.
- Modernisation and mechanisation, i.e. investment in physical capital with a view to reducing the direct costs of production and making labour more productive and improving animal health and welfare.
- Improve the efficiency of fertiliser and pesticide use and reduce GHG emissions through the investment in equipment to reduce fertiliser and pesticide use, support precision agriculture, improved manure spreading methods and manure processing equipment.
- Improving crop storage in order to improve the quality of the product (e.g. specialised storage and handling buildings, provision of ventilation, insulation and refrigeration).
- Improving energy efficiency through eg refurbishing electrical installations or better insulation of buildings
- Bio-bed filters for treating pesticide washings/ residues.

#### Resilience to adverse weather events and mitigate climate change

- Construction of new farm buildings and the refurbishment of existing farm buildings to improve resilience to adverse weather events and mitigate climate change.
- Improvement and modernisation of manure storage structures and handling facilities. Support for manure storage should incorporate the enhanced methods of slurry management which will optimise the potential for GHG mitigation.
- Installation of drainage systems to improve land management.
- Installation of constructed farm wetlands for bioremediation.

#### Animal and Plant Health and Health and Safety on farms

- Improvement in animal handling facilities and equipment to provide for the welfare of animals and the health and safety of the herd keeper.
- Provide a higher degree of comfort to the modern day animal and husbandry methods that also provide for a safe system of work
- Automatic weighing, scraping of buildings, feeding and separation of animals to reduce stress on animals and improve operator health and safety
- Provision of bull pens to improve animal welfare and farmer health and safety

- Isolation facilities for sick animals to improve their welfare
- Provision of straw bedded areas to improve access to market opportunities
- Provision of livestock loading bays to reduce stress on animals and improve farmer health and safety
- Improved animal health benefits by improving the ventilation of livestock buildings
- Facilities and equipment to allow for effective pest control and improved crop and crop product storage facilities and protected crop growing structures
- Double fencing of field boundaries to limit disease spread

#### Other Support

- Investments in order to comply with Union standards that will become compulsory for the holding in the near future.
- Capital investment and installations costs associated with innovative projects supported through the Innovation Technology Evaluation and Demonstration Scheme, an EIP operational group and cooperation projects supported under Measure 16 (Article 35).
- Feasibility studies to assess the installation of renewable energy technologies.
- Short rotation coppice.
  - In compliance with the Direct Payment Regulation (EU) 1307/2013 Article 4 (1) (k) and 4(2) (c) only tree species of *Salix* (Willow) will be planted.
  - In maximum harvest cycle will be five years.
  - Willow will be grown on agricultural land which can be cultivated to a depth of 25cm excluding organic soils and Natura 2000 grassland habitat.

#### 8.2.3.3.1.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Support will be provided through grant aid. No advance payments will be available.

#### 8.2.3.3.1.3. Links to other legislation

- CDM regs <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2007/320/regulation/2/made>
- HSENI approved code of practice relating to CDM regs
- <https://www.hseni.gov.uk/sites/hseni.gov.uk/files/publications/%5Bcurrent-domain%3Amachine-name%5D/1144-managing-health-and-safety-in-construction%20-guidance.pdf>
- Nitrates action program legislation <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2010/411/contents/made>
- Planning regulations relating to agriculture  
[http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2013/210/pdfs/nisr\\_20130210\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2013/210/pdfs/nisr_20130210_en.pdf)
- Articles 65-71 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (Eligibility of expenditure and durability).
- Article 67 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (Forms of grants and repayable assistance)
- Article 70 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (Eligibility of operations depending on location)
- EU public procurement rules will be respected, in particular (i) Directives 2004/18/EC and 2004/17/EC, (ii) Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU, (iii) Directives 89/665/EEC and 92/13/EEC and (iv) the general public procurement principles derived from the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. Of particular relevance to Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 1305/2013 is Annex II B of Directive 2004/18/EC relating to 'education and vocational education services' where the light procedure applies.

#### 8.2.3.3.1.4. Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries will be farmers or groups of farmers, whether natural or legal persons. Production horticulture (fruit, vegetables, cut flowers, nursery stock etc) is included but amenity horticulture (landscaping, turf laying, etc) is not. Horses are not agricultural animals and therefore support is not available for the equine sector under Priority 2.

#### 8.2.3.3.1.5. Eligible costs

Tier 1 - Project Costs from £5,000 up to £30,000.

Tier 2 - Project costs from £30,001 with overall grant assistance not to exceed £250,000 for any one application.

Total overall grant assistance for an applicant to the Business Investment Scheme over the lifetime of the Rural Development Programme not to exceed £250,000.

The following costs are eligible for support:

- a. The construction, acquisition, including through leasing, or improvement of immovable property;

- b. The purchase or lease-purchase of new machinery and equipment, including computer software up to the market value of the asset.
- c. General costs linked to the expenditure such as architects, engineers and consultation fees, feasibility studies, business plans and the acquisition of patent rights and licences. Feasibility studies and business plans are eligible expenditure even if there is no expenditure under points (a) and (b) only for renewable energy projects;
- d. Intangible investments such as copyrights, trademarks or processes;

The following costs are not eligible for support:

- 1. Costs connected with the leasing contract, such as lessor's margin, interest refinancing costs, overheads and insurance charges.
- 2. In the case of agricultural investments, the purchase of agricultural production rights, payment entitlements, animals, annual plants and their planting.
- 3. Investments which are likely to have an unacceptable negative effect on the environment.
- 4. Holdings or enterprises in difficulty within the meaning of the Union guidelines for state aid in the agriculture and forestry sector and the Union guidelines on State aid for rescuing and restructuring firms in difficulty. (Current article 51 of R. 1974/2006).
- 5. Replacement investments and maintenance.
- 6. Purchase and installation of renewable energy technologies.
- 7. Interest on debt, except in relation to grants given in the form of an interest rate subsidy or guarantee fee subsidy.
- 8. The purchase of land.
- 9. Value added tax except where it is non-recoverable under national VAT legislation.

### **Simplified Costs**

Support will be based on either a reference pricing, tender or a quotation process dependent on the type, complexity or nature of the procurement. Additional incentives will be considered in order to mitigate price elevation and ensure overall value for money.

#### 8.2.3.3.1.6. Eligibility conditions

The following eligibility conditions will apply to the scheme:

- Registered Farm Business, as defined in the Business Investment Scheme operating rules
- Completion of a proportionate business plan
- Completion of farm safety training and assessment

Financial support for drainage channels will be provided only if compliance with the WFD, in particular Article 4(7), (8) and (9) is demonstrated taking duly into account cumulative impacts, *and* the appropriate mitigation measures at river basin management level are foreseen.

In addition to this Northern Ireland will also be making available advice to farmers and land managers, at an early stage and prior to consideration of grant assistance, which will address emissions, manure, pesticide and fertiliser use and other steps they can take to mitigate any harmful impacts on soil, water, air quality and biodiversity.

In respect of the installation of drainage systems to improve land management the following will be required:

1. A farm level Nutrient and Pesticide Management Plan
2. An appropriate environmental assessment of the proposed drainage works.
3. Drainage that would have an adverse impact on the Water Framework Directive status of water bodies, flooding under The Floods Directive or the status Natura 2000 sites is not eligible.
4. New drainage on high carbon peat soils is not eligible.

#### 8.2.3.3.1.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

The selection principles to be applied to all applications will include a points system to score individual applications at selection stage. It is also intended that there will be a minimum threshold across the selection criteria that projects must reach before funding would be approved. Examples of application appraisal may include the following, which will be individually weighted to align with best practice and achieving of higher priority objectives:

- Increase in production and resource efficiency.
- Increase in growth.
- Contribution to climate change mitigation.
- Contribution to environmental sustainability.
- Improvement in animal/plant health.
- Improvement in product quality.
- Contribution to health and safety.
- Value for money

- Young farmer
- Specific sectors requiring support depending on the prevailing market conditions.
- Contribution to supply chain integration

#### 8.2.3.3.1.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Support will be based on the eligible costs as set out above. All reference prices will be verified by a body independent to the management of the programme.

The rate of support will be 40%; however, the grant rate may be increased to 50% for the following:

- Young farmer as defined in Article 2 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 i.e. who is no more than 40 years of age when the application is submitted, possesses adequate occupational skills and competence and is setting up for the first time as head of the agricultural holding. For this measure the definition in Annex II of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 also applies in that the young farmer may already have set up during the five years preceding the application for support.
- Projects supported through an EIP operational group.
- Investments which reduce ammonia/GHG emissions, build resilience to climate change or contribute to improved water quality.

#### 8.2.3.3.1.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.3.3.1.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

##### 8.2.3.3.1.9.2. Mitigating actions

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

##### 8.2.3.3.1.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

8.2.3.3.1.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

8.2.3.3.1.11. Information specific to the operation

Definition of non productive investments

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Definition of collective investments

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Definition of integrated projects

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Definition and identification of the eligible Natura 2000 sites and other eligible areas of high nature value

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Description of the targeting of the support to farms in accordance with the SWOT carried out in relation to the priority referred to in Article 5(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

List of new requirements imposed by Union legislation for complying with which support may be granted under Article 17(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Where relevant, the minimum standards for energy efficiency referred to in Article 13(c) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Where relevant, definition of the thresholds referred to in Article 13(e) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level



#### 8.2.3.3.2. Sub-measure 4.2 – Support for investments in processing/marketing and/or development of agricultural products.

Sub-measure:

- 4.2 - support for investments in processing/marketing and/or development of agricultural products

##### 8.2.3.3.2.1. Description of the type of operation

A processing investment scheme aimed at improving the economic performance and competitiveness of the agri-food sector through capital investment. The main principles of the Scheme are:

- Support businesses to improve their efficiency and reduce costs.
- Improve the supply chain through better integration and collaboration between producers, processors and others in the food chain.
- Support capacity building, growth, innovation and new product development.
- Add value to local agricultural products.
- Improve market capability of businesses.

Examples of activities that may be funded include the following:

- Investment in technologies and techniques to develop new or improved quality products and open up new markets;
- Creation and/or modernisation of local collection and distribution networks, reception, storage, conditioning, sorting and packing capacities;
- Introduction of sustainability measures, such as climate change mitigation or adaptation measures, energy and resource efficiency measures in processing;
- Organisation and implementation of quality and food safety management systems, if related to the tangible investments of the project.
- Feasibility studies to assess the installation of renewable energy technologies.
- Processing and marketing of local artisan and premium products (in line with other GfG and NIRDP targets and objectives)

##### 8.2.3.3.2.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Support will be based on actual costs paid as grant aid, either calculated as a percentage of the eligible cost

or a set amount deemed the minimum award necessary to enable the investment to take place.

No advance payments will be available.

#### 8.2.3.3.2.3. Links to other legislation

- Articles 65-71 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (Eligibility of expenditure and durability).
- Article 67 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (Forms of grants and repayable assistance)
- Article 70 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (Eligibility of operations depending on location)
- EU public procurement rules will be respected, in particular (i) Directives 2004/18/EC and 2004/17/EC, (ii) Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU, (iii) Directives 89/665/EEC and 92/13/EEC and (iv) the general public procurement principles derived from the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. Of particular relevance to Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 1305/2013 is Annex II B of Directive 2004/18/EC relating to 'education and vocational education services' where the light procedure applies.

#### 8.2.3.3.2.4. Beneficiaries

Businesses must be active in the processing/marketing/development of Annex I products (excluding fish and forestry) as an input.

#### 8.2.3.3.2.5. Eligible costs

Tier 1 – Eligible project Costs from £10,000 up to £250,000 (based on a maximum 40% grant rate this equates to grant from £4,000 up to £100,000).

Tier 2 – Eligible project costs greater than £250,000 (based on a maximum 40% grant rate).

The following costs are eligible for support:

- a. The construction, acquisition, including through leasing, or improvement of immovable property;
- b. The purchase or lease-purchase of new machinery and equipment, including computer software up to the market value of the asset.
- c. General costs linked to the expenditure such as architects, engineers and consultation fees, feasibility studies, the acquisition of patent rights and licences. Feasibility studies and business plans are eligible expenditure even if there is no expenditure under points (a) and (b) only for renewable energy projects;

d. Intangible investments such as copyrights, trademarks or processes;

e. The purchase of second-hand equipment will only be eligible in circumstances where:

- The equipment has not been grant aided in the previous 7 years.
- The second-hand equipment is fit for the proposed project activity.
- The equipment is in good quality and with enough working life to be able to meet the 5 year asset durability test.
- It represents a sufficient advantage in terms of value for money when compared with new equipment.

It should be noted that (a) and (b) are eligible for the project applicant only, and not for any individual or companies carrying out works on behalf of the project applicant.

General costs at point (c) will be capped at a maximum of 10% of the total eligible cost.

The following costs are not eligible for support:

- a. Costs connected with the leasing contract, such as lessor's margin, interest refinancing costs, overheads and insurance charges.
- b. Investments which are likely to have an unacceptable negative effect on the environment.
- c. Holdings or enterprises in difficulty within the meaning of the Union guidelines for state aid in the agriculture and forestry sector and the Union guidelines on State aid for rescuing and restructuring firms in difficulty. (Current article 51 of R. 1974/2006).
- d. Replacement investments and maintenance.
- e. Purchase and installation of renewable energy technologies.
- f. Interest on debt, except in relation to grants given in the form of an interest rate subsidy or guarantee fee subsidy.
- g. Purchase of land.
- h. Value added tax except where it is non-recoverable under national VAT legislation.

#### 8.2.3.3.2.6. Eligibility conditions

The following eligibility conditions will apply to the scheme:

- Projects must primarily concern the processing and or marketing of products covered by Annex 1 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) (other than fish and forestry). The project outputs do not have to be Annex 1 products.
- Applicants should have a proportionate business plan.

- Projects must contribute to at least one of the scheme's principles

#### 8.2.3.3.2.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

A point system will be used to score individual applications at Selection Panel stage. It is also intended that there will be a minimum threshold across the selection criteria that projects must reach before funding would be approved. Proposals will be assessed using all or some of the following selection principles:

- Contribution to the Agri-Food Strategy Board's targets in the 'Going for Growth' report.
- Contribution to supply chain integration.
- Need for public support.
- Value for money.
- Financial viability
- Displacement
- Mobility
- Environmental sustainability.
- Benefit to local primary producers
- Innovative products, technologies or approaches

#### 8.2.3.3.2.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

The maximum rates of support are set out in the following table (Table 5). Actions assisting SMEs processing agricultural products into non-agricultural products must comply with the applicable State aid limits as indicated in the right hand column.

Guidance will be published to allow companies to determine in advance of formal submission the maximum rate of grant for which they would be eligible.

There will be a maximum cap on level of grant available, this cap will be determined by reference to the above criteria. It is necessary to protect the overall scheme budget.

Type of Operation	Aid Intensity
Actions assisting primary agricultural production, the processing of agricultural products (where both inputs and outputs are Annex 1 products).	Support rate – 40%. This may be increased to 50% for projects supported through an EIP operational group.
Actions assisting SMEs processing agricultural products into non-agricultural products. Medium sized companies. Micro-small companies. Large companies.	Medium – 20% Micro and small – 30% (Article 44 of Regulation (EU) No 702/2014). Large – 10% (Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013) Alternatively all categories above can utilise de minimis Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 to enable an aid intensity of 40% or 50% for projects supported through an EIP operational group up to a maximum of €200,000

Table 5 Measure 4.2 maximum rates of support

#### 8.2.3.3.2.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.3.3.2.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

##### 8.2.3.3.2.9.2. Mitigating actions

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

##### 8.2.3.3.2.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

#### 8.2.3.3.2.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

#### 8.2.3.3.2.11. Information specific to the operation

Definition of non productive investments

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Definition of collective investments

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Definition of integrated projects

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Definition and identification of the eligible Natura 2000 sites and other eligible areas of high nature value

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Description of the targeting of the support to farms in accordance with the SWOT carried out in relation to the priority referred to in Article 5(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

List of new requirements imposed by Union legislation for complying with which support may be granted under Article 17(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Where relevant, the minimum standards for energy efficiency referred to in Article 13(c) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Where relevant, definition of the thresholds referred to in Article 13(e) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

#### 8.2.3.3.3. Sub-measure 4.4 – Support for non-productive investments linked to the achievement of agri-environment-climate objectives.

Sub-measure:

- 4.4 - support for non-productive investments linked to the achievement of agri-environment-climate objectives

##### 8.2.3.3.3.1. Description of the type of operation

The following scheme/measure will be supported:

- Agri-environment non-productive investments.

The operation will support non-productive investments which will provide benefits to the landscape and the environment for beneficiaries receiving support under the Environmental Farming Scheme. These non-productive investments will be targeted on environmental criteria.

Capital works linked to the achievement of agri-environment-climate objectives, including:

- Restoration and creation of habitats, landscapes and green infrastructure;
- setting up or re-instating the infrastructure needed to allow appropriate management of habitats;
- Fencing and other works needed to facilitate conservation management, including protection of water and soil;
- Rebuilding of traditional stone walls.
- Hedgerow and tree planting to create green infrastructure and support biodiversity.

##### 8.2.3.3.3.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Support will be provided for financing for non-productive investments.

Payments will be made at 'actual' or 'standard' cost rate as detailed. Standard costs will be pre-determined by DAERA. Work on the non-productive investments must not commence until approval has been given by DAERA.

#### 8.2.3.3.3.3. Links to other legislation

- Article 67 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (Forms of grants and repayable assistance)
- Article 70 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (Eligibility of operations depending on location)
- EU public procurement rules will be respected, in particular (i) Directives 2004/18/EC and 2004/17/EC, (ii) Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU, (iii) Directives 89/665/EEC and 92/13/EEC and (iv) the general public procurement principles derived from the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. Of particular relevance to Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 1305/2013 is Annex II B of Directive 2004/18/EC relating to 'education and vocational education services' where the light procedure applies.

#### 8.2.3.3.3.4. Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries are farmers or groups of farmers, whether natural or legal persons and other land managers.

#### 8.2.3.3.3.5. Eligible costs

Support is offered for a wide range of non-productive investments that support AECM objectives and commitments under the Environmental Farming Scheme.

M04 will support non-productive items that are required to implement or complement M10 commitments. As M10 commitments will be targeted based on environmental criteria, it follows that the M04 commitments will be targeted.

Where M04 non-productive items are not linked to M10 commitments, the M04 support will be targeted based on environmental criteria.

A standard specification for the work will be included in the agreement and a standard payment made in return for the completed work. Support offered may include the non-productive items in the attached list (Table 6).



Operation	Approximate Cost Range
Boundaries (fencing / hedgerows / stone walls)	£1/m - £25/m
Fence removal	£2.50/m
Gate & 2 posts	£190 - £215
Alternative drinking structures	£7.77/m pipe work £30 - £550 (drinking trough / base / pump)
Creation of arable margins	£135
Creation of riparian buffers	£5/m - £6/m
Creation of traditional orchard	£3,725
Establishment of native woodland less than 5ha	£2,275
Planting native tree corridors	£1,685
Establishment of agro-forestry	£1,965
Traditional native breeds	£95/livestock unit
Bat / bird / barn owl / bee boxes	£10 - £60
Red squirrel feeder	£84
Larsen trap	£82
Structures / works to raise water levels	Actual costs
Ditch blocking	£60/dam - £390/dam
Pond creation / stock bridge / sediment ponds / bankside re-profiling	Actual costs
Creation of scrapes	£2.77m <sup>2</sup>
Tree planting (parkland / native / fruit)	£15/tree - £25/tree
Native tree whip	£0.86/whip
Tree guards / stakes / canes	£0.05 - £145
Tree surgery / pollarding / restorative pruning of traditional orchards	Actual costs
Bracken follow-up / primary treatment	£105/ha - £220/ha

Table of non-productive investments (1)

Operation	Approximate Cost Range
Rush control	£90
Scrub removal (machine cut / manual cut – under / over 7cm diameter)	£975/ha - £2530/ha
Scrub control follow up treatment - under / over 7cm diameter	£100/ha - £165/ha
Invasive plant species control	£100/ha/application – actual costs
Restoration of heritage features	Actual costs
Predator perch removal	Actual costs
Machinery for management of tall vegetation	Actual costs
Creation of wetlands	Actual costs
Heather regeneration	£55 - £145/ha

Table of non-productive investments (2)

#### 8.2.3.3.3.6. Eligibility conditions

The proposed action must support AECM objectives and Environmental Farming Scheme commitments.

#### 8.2.3.3.3.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Beneficiaries will be selected through a process of voluntary application. Applications will be invited during a specified period and may be selected on the basis of environmental benefit by applying assessment criteria.

The use of selection criteria where necessary will ensure that expenditure is targeted to achieve the greatest environmental benefit.

#### 8.2.3.3.3.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

80% - 100% of standard costs or actual costs.

#### 8.2.3.3.3.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.3.3.3.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

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**8.2.3.3.3.9.2. Mitigating actions**

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level
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**8.2.3.3.3.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure**

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level
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**8.2.3.3.3.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant**

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level
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**8.2.3.3.3.11. Information specific to the operation**

**Definition of non productive investments**

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level
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**Definition of collective investments**

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level
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**Definition of integrated projects**

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level
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**Definition and identification of the eligible Natura 2000 sites and other eligible areas of high nature value**

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level
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**Description of the targeting of the support to farms in accordance with the SWOT carried out in relation to the priority referred to in Article 5(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013**

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level
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List of new requirements imposed by Union legislation for complying with which support may be granted under Article 17(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Where relevant, the minimum standards for energy efficiency referred to in Article 13(c) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Where relevant, definition of the thresholds referred to in Article 13(e) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

#### 8.2.3.4. *Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations*

##### 8.2.3.4.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

###### Risk(s)

An assessment of the proposed activities for the measure identified the following potential main root causes of error as defined in the Commission Staff Working Document SWD(2013) 244 final.

1. Root Cause 2 – Beneficiaries are not informed and do not take into account the changes caused by updates to the Land Parcel Information System (LPIS). This risk will apply to Measure 4.4 which are the non-productive investments linked to the achievement of agri-environment-climate objectives.
2. Root Cause 7 – Beneficiaries provide incorrect area declaration. The main risk is that beneficiaries over-declare areas or do not fill in the maps correctly when claiming. This risk applies to Measure 4.4.
3. Root Cause 8 – Beneficiaries do not respect commitments. The main risks are that the beneficiaries do not keep the documentation required to evidence that the commitments have been fulfilled; bad weather prevents implementation or deliberate failure to implement the requirements of the commitment. This risk applies to Measure 4.4.
4. Root Cause 9 - Deficiencies in procedures to process beneficiaries' payment request (administrative perspective). The risk is that administration staff do not operate an organised administration system with the necessary checks and controls in place to ensure the accuracy of beneficiary claims processed for grant payments and eligibility for EU and National funding.
5. Root Cause 10 – Weaknesses in checking the reasonableness of costs or eligibility conditions. The main risk identified is in relation to the construction of property under Measures 4.1 and 4.2 and infrastructure under Measure 4.3.
6. Root Cause 11 – Application of public procurement rules and private tender procedures for the selection of contractors to administer the Measure.

7. Root Cause 13 - Tendering procedures applied by private beneficiaries (beneficiary perspective). The risk is that the beneficiary does not implement the agreed tendering procedures and therefore fails to obtain value for money in the use of public funds and equality of opportunity for suppliers and service providers.
8. Root Cause 14 – Non-eligible expenditure and the system of reduction applied. The risk is that the beneficiary does not comply with the terms and conditions of the Letter of Offer or modifies the agreed project without prior approval of the administration unit resulting in ineligible expenditure.
9. Root Cause 15 - Handling of payment claims by beneficiaries (beneficiary perspective). The risks are that the beneficiary does not follow the guidance provided or does not understand the implications for inaccurate claims, resulting in ineligible expenditure claimed, reduced or nil grant payments due to penalties.

#### 8.2.3.4.2. Mitigating actions

##### Mitigating Actions:

The following mitigating actions will be implemented to address the risks identified:

1. A review of the results of management re-performance and on-the-spot checks from the 2007-2013 programming period and revision of the procedures to implement lessons learnt.
2. Completion of Fraud Risk Assessments on each scheme implemented.
3. Continuing development and refinement of the IT tool for the identification of land parcels for all area based schemes in both Pillar 1 and Pillar 2.
4. To make available information and advice to beneficiaries through comprehensive scheme guidance and explanatory notes, coupled with promotional campaigns (press releases, newspaper articles) specifying the requirements of the scheme.
5. The provision of clear operating rules for administration units including requirements for determining eligible expenditure, supporting evidence requirements for claims and procurement rules and project modification procedures in order to complete the administrative check.
6. The provision of training for administration staff on claim and procurement procedures and follow up support as necessary.
7. The Letter of Offer to the beneficiary to detail all eligible expenditure, procurement requirements and conditions for modification of projects.
8. The administration unit to discuss the Letter of Offer with the beneficiary and the completion of a statement (authorised by both parties) specifying the procurement, implementation and expenditure requirements specific to the project to be met.
9. To make available information and advice to beneficiaries specifying the documentation and level of detail required as evidence of project expenditure and reasonableness of costs.
10. Use of reference pricing for selected equipment and simplified costs where appropriate to reduce requirement for procurement on a project by project basis.
11. Technical assessment to ensure bespoke machinery and construction of buildings are of the required standard.
12. Management re-performance checks and on the spot checks to be carried out on claims processed prior to release for payment to identify residual errors.

#### 8.2.3.4.3. Overall assessment of the measure

##### Overall Assessment

This Measure represents a significant proportion (approximately 45%) of the programme allocation. The number of risks selected above demonstrates the diverse nature of the proposed expenditure. An analysis of the errors and non-compliances in the implementation of similar measures in the 2007-2013 Rural Development Programme indicates that procedures for both the beneficiary and administration units are generally sufficient to limit ineligible expenditure. However procedures will be subject to a full review prior to implementation to take account of lessons learnt from previous programming periods. The mitigating actions detailed above address the following recommended corrective and preventative actions:

- Corrective and Preventative Action 1 – training for administration staff on the procedures to process payments to beneficiaries, systems for checking the reasonableness of costs and prices procurement rules and the handling of payment claims.
- Corrective and Preventative Action 2 – information and advice for beneficiaries on public procurement rules, eligible investment expenditure under the measure and the completion of payment claims.
- Corrective and Preventative Action 3 – information and guidance documents for administration units and beneficiaries on public procurement best practice, identification of non-eligible costs and one to one advice at Letter of Offer agreement stage.
- Corrective and Preventative Action 4 – improvement of IT tools to improve the access and availability of information for beneficiaries and to prevent errors.
- Corrective and Preventative Action 6 – the use of simplified costs such as reference pricing for equipment to reduce the risk of errors, together with the administrative burden on beneficiaries and administration units.
- Corrective and Preventative Action 7 – improving internal control and coordination procedures through reviewing the results of management re-performance checks, on-the-spot checks, audit recommendations and the review of procedures and forms.
- Corrective and Preventative Action 8 – applying claim reductions in proportion with the non-compliance.

Following consideration of the mitigating actions and the corrective and preventative actions the Managing Authority and Paying Agency have assessed the error rate for the measure as **medium**. This risk rating reflects the proposed increased expenditure and higher level of investment on capital works and equipment. The risk rating will be reviewed following implementation to ensure the proposed mitigating measures are appropriate and effective.

#### 8.2.3.5. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

There is considerable evidence from the current programme Measures 123 (Adding Value to Agricultural and Forestry Products) and 121 (Modernisation of Agricultural Holdings) on the size of business and average grant sought. The proposed upper level of support under the Business Investment Scheme and the

Agri-food Processing Investment Scheme was developed as a result of the evidence and recommendations in the Agri-food Strategy Board's report 'Going for Growth'. In response to concerns from stakeholders the amount of support to any one applicant was restricted for both schemes.

The options selected for an enhanced grant rate were restricted to young farmers and the EIP in order to incentivise innovation. An established principle within Northern Ireland Government Accounting Guidance for grant support to the private sector is that Government/Public assistance should be matched equally by the private sector investment. The maximum grant to the private sector is therefore capped at 50% of the eligible costs.

Agri-environment non-productive investments are funded up to 100% to ensure farmers and land managers are adequately funded to deliver Environmental outcomes.

#### 8.2.3.6. *Information specific to the measure*

##### Definition of non productive investments

- Non productive investments are defined as investments that do not lead to any significant increase in the value or profitability of the agricultural or forestry holding.

##### Definition of collective investments

Collective investments are defined as investments which are made through a collective group of applicants including investments resulting from the support for co-operation under Measure 16 (Co-operation). A collective investment will require a formal legal agreement on the ownership, use, access and legal responsibility on disposal of the funded item.

##### Definition of integrated projects

- Integrated projects are defined as projects combining at least two operations falling under at least two different measures or sub-measures, including one under Article 17, provided that the same beneficiary is concerned and the implementation of the operations together brings a better result than if they were done in a separate way.

##### Definition and identification of the eligible Natura 2000 sites and other eligible areas of high nature value

N/A

Description of the targeting of the support to farms in accordance with the SWOT carried out in relation to the priority referred to in Article 5(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

#### Targeting of Investments for Farm Restructuring

Within the Business Investment Scheme the following investments which target farm restructuring have been identified in the Needs assessment and SWOT analysis.

- Investments which improve on-farm resource and production efficiency.
- Investments which improve resilience to adverse weather events and mitigate climate change.
- Investments which improve Animal and Plant Health and Health and Safety on farms

These will be assessed through a technical assessment in the proposed business plan before the investment can proceed. Proposed buildings and equipment investments will need to demonstrate their capacity to reduce input resources required and improve product quality and output. For example, investments in livestock housing will have to demonstrate that energy requirements are improved against current farm structures whilst producing an environment where the animals' welfare and health are enhanced.

List of new requirements imposed by Union legislation for complying with which support may be granted under Article 17(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

The following legislation which is under discussion in the EU may require support which is under the scope of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013.

The negotiations on the National Emissions Ceiling Directive (NECD) are ongoing. As presently drafted the EU has proposed that the UK reduce their Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) emissions by 21% by 2030 from the 2005 baseline and methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) by 33%. The NEC Directive sets the ceilings on emissions but leaves it up to Member States to decide exactly which measures to implement in order to meet those ceilings. The estimate of the benefits of the entire NECD proposal to the UK is broadly in line with the Commission's estimates for the UK (€4.1bn/year (£3.3bn) with. However, the costs of meeting the targets could be considerably higher than the Commission's estimate of €0.3bn/year (£0.24bn, £30 million of which is attributed to agriculture).

The proposed Animal Health Regulation and Official Controls Regulation which will come into force in 2018, will rationalise and consolidate many pieces of existing legislation which have been in place for many years in each respective area, into framework Regulations that will encompass many of the existing conditions of the old legislation. There are some new elements, for example in the Animal Health regulation there is a proposal that for the first time ever, operators must have a basic knowledge of the principles of animal health. The detail of how Member States monitor or ensure compliance of this provision is to be established in tertiary legislation.

Where relevant, the minimum standards for energy efficiency referred to in Article 13(c) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014



Not applicable.

Where relevant, definition of the thresholds referred to in Article 13(e) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014

Not applicable.

*8.2.3.7. Other important remarks relevant to understand and implement the measure*

- 'Processing of an agricultural product' means any operation on an agricultural product resulting in a product which is also an agricultural product, except on-farm activities necessary for preparing an animal or plant product for the first sale. 'Marketing of an agricultural product' means holding or displaying with a view to sale, offering for sale, delivery or any other manner of placing on the market, except the first sale by a primary producer to resellers or processors and any activity preparing a product for such first sale; a sale by a primary producer to final consumers shall be considered as marketing of agricultural products if it takes place in separate premises reserved for that purpose.
- 'Short rotation coppice' (Article 4(1) (k) of DP Regulation) means areas planted with tree species of CN code 06029041 to be defined by Member States, that consist of woody, perennial crops, the rootstock or stools of which remain in the ground after harvesting, with new shoots emerging in the following season and with a maximum harvest cycle to be determined by the Member States.

## 8.2.4. M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)

### 8.2.4.1. *Legal basis*

Article 20 and Recital 19 of Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) N° 1305/2013.

### 8.2.4.2. *General description of the measure including its intervention logic and contribution to focus areas and cross-cutting objectives*

#### **General description of the measure**

DAERA has a key goal to strengthen the social and economic infrastructure of rural areas. One of the ways in which DAERA can contribute to this goal is by developing a suite of measures under the Basic Services measure of the Rural Development Programme that build on initiatives such as the Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Framework and the Rural White Paper Action Plan. There is a growing number of people (35%) in Northern Ireland choosing to live in rural areas however not all rural areas suffer the same degree of disadvantage in accessing services and isolation. The population of accessible rural areas is 15.5% and less accessible rural areas account for 19.4% of the total population. The age structures of urban and rural populations are not dissimilar.

The following development needs have been identified:

- There is a need to develop and improve Northern Ireland's rural heritage and to use the natural and built environment as the basis for sustainable economic growth.
- There is a need to produce Conservation Management Plans to make recommendations on the positive management of certain Natura 2000 sites to help move them towards favourable condition.

One of the Multiple Deprivation Measures (NIMDM) that government uses to help target those in need looks at 'proximity to services' and this links closely to the provision and accessibility of basic services. This indicator identifies particular problems for rural dwellers which can potentially have adverse impacts on vulnerable groups such as low income households, the elderly, children and young people, and those with disabilities.

Northern Ireland has a rich variety of scenic countryside that is an integral part of the region's physical and cultural heritage. Northern Ireland also has a rich archaeological and built heritage which includes archaeological sites, monuments and listed buildings as well as historic parks, gardens, maritime and industrial heritage sites.

Sustainable development within Northern Ireland requires the protection, management and conservation of this diverse physical and cultural heritage. Providing access to the countryside and encouraging non-for-profit tourism is essential to maximising the potential of rural areas to attract tourist revenue which will in turn contribute towards reducing rural poverty and improving the sustainability of rural areas.

## The Production of Conservation Management Plans for Natura 2000 sites

Northern Ireland has a total of 85,900 hectares across 57 sites designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and 114,600 hectares across 17 sites as Special Protection Areas (SPAs), in accordance with the Habitats[1] and Birds[2] Directives. Collectively, these are known as Natura 2000 sites, and include many priority species and habitats.

Many of the sites are in ‘unfavourable’ condition, and require remedial work to move them towards ‘favourable’ condition. Article 6.1 of the Habitats Directive states that ‘For special areas of conservation, Member States shall establish the necessary conservation measures involving, if needed appropriate management plans specifically designed for the sites or integrated into other development plans.’

Therefore, this measure proposes to fund the production of Conservation Management Plans, which will detail what conservation measures are required to move certain sites towards favourable condition.

Furthermore, Conservation Management Plans will aid the integration of agriculture and environmental management by:

- Setting out guidance for agri environment schemes
- Contribute to delivering the EU Biodiversity Strategy
- Better integration of agricultural and ecological outcomes
- Fulfilling the legal obligations in relation to the Habitats Directive

## Rural Tourism Scheme

The SWOT and Needs Assessment identified a number of needs in relation to rural tourism. It found that rural areas are particularly dependent on the tourism industry, supporting a higher concentration of tourism jobs. Stakeholders are of the view that there is a lack of coordination across the rural tourism sector and there are opportunities to develop cultural and outdoor recreational tourism. However, it has been shown that much of the external tourism is concentrated around Belfast. Accordingly There is a need to ensure that rural areas have the infrastructure and support required to maximise their potential to attract tourism revenue which in turn will contribute towards reducing poverty and improving sustainability. There is a particular opportunity around developing cultural and outdoor recreational tourism that is landscape and nature based and in line with Government Tourism priorities for NI. The rural tourism scheme will seek to improve this infrastructure through investing in natural and built heritage that can act as a key driver for encouraging rural tourism whilst preserving the built and natural assets of the rural community. Examples of the type of project that could be funded to improve infrastructure include construction and modernisation of tourism information centres, visitor information and guidance, signposting of touristic sites, and the development and conservation of cultural and natural heritage.

## Contribution to Focus Areas

The measure will primarily contribute to focus areas 4A, 4B, 4C, and 6B.

The production of Conservation Management Plans for Natura 2000 sites will help to identify the problems facing some of our most important ecosystems. Addressing the issues identified in the Natura

2000 Management Plans will have a positive impact on biodiversity, water management and soil management, contributing to focus areas 4A, 4B and 4C. Through investments in our natural and built heritage, the Rural Tourism measure will help to foster local development in rural areas, contributing to focus area 6B.

### **Contribution to Cross-Cutting Objectives**

The measure has the potential to contribute to the cross-cutting objectives of innovation and actions to protect the environment. Innovative solutions at local community level will be supported to tackle pockets of poor accessibility and Internet speeds.

The Production of Conservation Management Plans for Natura 2000 sites will contribute to a key objective of Northern Ireland's next agri-environment scheme, the Environmental Farming Scheme, which is to aim to move environmentally designated land towards favourable condition.

[1] COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

[2] COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 2009/147/EC of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds

*8.2.4.3. Scope, level of support, eligible beneficiaries, and where relevant, methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate broken down by sub-measure and/or type of operation where necessary. For each type of operation specification of eligible costs, eligibility conditions, applicable amounts and support rates and principles with regard to the setting of selection criteria*

8.2.4.3.1. Sub-measure 7.1 – drawing up/updating plans for dev of rural villages & basic services & mgmnt plans relating to N2k sites

Sub-measure:

- 7.1 - support for drawing up and updating of plans for the development of municipalities and villages in rural areas and their basic services and of protection and management plans relating to N2000 sites and other areas of high nature value

8.2.4.3.1.1. Description of the type of operation

### **The Production of Conservation Management Plans for Natura 2000 sites**

At the time of completion of the Prioritised Action Framework there were a total of 73 terrestrial Natura 2000 sites of which 3% had Conservation Management Plans in place and a further 3% had plans in preparation. A total of 94% of Natura 2000 sites have no management plans. While there is no obligation to implement a Natura 2000 site management plan in NI, the Prioritised Action Framework recognises that specific Natura 2000 management plans are needed because the current approach is not delivering action by land managers. The production, and subsequent implementation, of the Plans will help to protect and enhance Natura 2000 land within Northern Ireland and is in line with the NI Prioritised Action Framework. The Plans will also complement Northern Ireland's agri-environment scheme, by providing detailed guidance on appropriate agri-environment management of the Natura 2000 sites that the Plans are produced

for.

Support will be provided for the development of Conservation Management Plans for up to 20 Natura 2000 sites. The remaining plans will receive funding from other sources such as Interreg. The body responsible for completing the plans will be the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA).

#### 8.2.4.3.1.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Support will be provided through grant aid. No advance payments will be available.

#### 8.2.4.3.1.3. Links to other legislation

The following legislation is applicable to the Production of Conservation Management Plans for Natura 2000 sites:

- Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds.
- Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora
- Article 65 of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013
- EU Water Framework Directive, 2000/60/EC
- The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

EU public procurement rules will be respected, in particular (i) Directives 2004/18/EC and 2004/17/EC, (ii) Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU, (iii) Directives 89/665/EEC and 92/13/EEC and (iv) the general public procurement principles derived from the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU.

#### 8.2.4.3.1.4. Beneficiaries

The beneficiary of the support will be the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA).

#### 8.2.4.3.1.5. Eligible costs

Costs relating to the preparation or updating of Conservation Management Plans.

#### 8.2.4.3.1.6. Eligibility conditions

To be eligible for support, the Natura 2000 site must not already have an agreed Conservation Management Plan in place.

#### 8.2.4.3.1.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

With regard to the selection of Natura 2000 sites to receive Conservation Management Plans under the Rural Development Programme, we intend to produce plans for those sites most affected by agricultural activity, i.e. those sites where most agri environment agreements exist, or where most farms claim Basic Payment. Plans for water dependent and forestry Natura 2000 sites will also be considered. All remaining plans will be funded through other funding source such as Interreg.

#### 8.2.4.3.1.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

##### Production of Conservation Management Plans for Natura 2000 sites

Grant of 100% level of support, for the production of up to 20 Conservation Management Plans for Natura 2000 sites.

#### 8.2.4.3.1.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### *8.2.4.3.1.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

##### *8.2.4.3.1.9.2. Mitigating actions*

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

##### *8.2.4.3.1.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure*

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

#### 8.2.4.3.1.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

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8.2.4.3.1.11. Information specific to the operation

Definition of small scale infrastructure, including small scale tourism infrastructure as referred to in Article 20(1)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level
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If applicable, specific derogation allowing to support bigger scale infrastructure for investments in broad band and renewable energy

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level
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Information on the application of the grace period referred to in Article 2(3) of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level
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The minimum standards for energy efficiency referred to in Article 13(c) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014

Not applicable.
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Definition of the thresholds referred to in Article 13(e) of [DA RD – C(2014)1460]

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level
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8.2.4.3.2. Sub-measure 7.5 – Support for investments for public use/recreational infrastructure/tourist information & small scale tourism

Sub-measure:

- 7.5 - support for investments for public use in recreational infrastructure, tourist information and small scale tourism infrastructure

8.2.4.3.2.1. Description of the type of operation

The following scheme/action will be supported:

- Rural Tourism Scheme

**Description of the Operation**

The scheme will invest in natural and built heritage that can act as a key driver for encouraging rural tourism whilst preserving the built and natural assets of the rural community.

- signposting of touristic sites
- construction and modernisation of tourism information centres, visitor information and guidance
- construction of shelters and safety facilities
- establishing of e-booking systems for tourist services
- conservation of small scale built heritage
- development and conservation of cultural and natural heritage

8.2.4.3.2.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Support will be provided through grant aid. No advance payments will be available.

Community, Voluntary and Social Economy Enterprises and public bodies may provide match funding towards eligible costs in the form of contributions in kind provided that the provisions of Article 69 (1) of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 are fulfilled.



#### 8.2.4.3.2.3. Links to other legislation

The Department will have to ensure that applicants demonstrate that projects are complementary with local government community plans which will take account of all applicable legislative requirements and funding programmes both EU and national. It will also need to be compatible with Northern Ireland Tourist Board destination plans and Northern Ireland Environment Agency strategies.

EU public procurement rules will be respected, in particular (i) Directives 2004/18/EC and 2004/17/EC, (ii) Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU, (iii) Directives 89/665/EEC and 92/13/EEC and (iv) the general public procurement principles derived from the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU.

#### 8.2.4.3.2.4. Beneficiaries

The following beneficiaries are eligible for support:

- local authorities and administrations,
- public bodies,
- public-private partnerships.

#### 8.2.4.3.2.5. Eligible costs

The following costs as specified in Section 8.2.3.3.2.1 are eligible for support:

- a. The construction, acquisition, including through leasing, or improvement of immovable property;
- b. The purchase or lease-purchase of new machinery and equipment, up to the market value of the asset.
- c. General costs linked to the expenditure such as architects, engineers and consultation fees, fees relating to advice on environmental and economic sustainability, including feasibility studies, the acquisition of patent rights and licences. Feasibility studies are eligible expenditure even if there is no expenditure under points (a) and (b) as long as the activity was capable of being supported under (a) or (b).
- d. Intangible investments such as acquisition or development of computer software and acquisitions of patents, licenses, copyrights, trademarks.

It should be noted that (a) and (b) are eligible for the project applicant only, and not for any individual or companies carrying out works on behalf of the project applicant.

Professional fees related to rural tourism projects will be capped at a maximum of 10% of the total

project cost.

The following costs are not eligible for support;

- a. Costs connected with the leasing contract, such as lessor's margin, interest refinancing costs, overheads and insurance charges.
- b. Investments which are likely to have an unacceptable negative effect on the environment.
- c. Replacement investments and maintenance.
- d. Purchase and installation of renewable energy technologies
- e. Interest on debt, except in relation to grants given in the form of an interest rate subsidy or guarantee fee subsidy.
- f. The purchase of land.
- g. Value added tax except where it is non-recoverable under national VAT legislation.

#### 8.2.4.3.2.6. Eligibility conditions

Actions will be non-profit taking led by local authorities in partnership with organisations operating within the Community & Voluntary/Third sector or Public sector. Proposals must relate directly to local community plans.

#### 8.2.4.3.2.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

A point system will be used to score individual applications at Selection Panel stage. It is also intended that there will be a minimum threshold across the selection criteria that projects must reach before funding would be approved. Examples of application appraisal include:

- Need for public intervention.
- Value for money
- Deadweight
- Displacement
- Environmental impact

- Contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation

#### 8.2.4.3.2.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Maximum grant £500,000 at 75% level of support to local authority.

Many of the actions under this measure will not constitute State Aid either because the aid supports non economic activity or because one of the conditions in Article 107(1) of the Treaty are not satisfied e.g. there is no effect on inter-community trade.

Aid constituting State aid will be paid in accordance with State aid case number SA 44849 as follows:

- Aid for culture and heritage conservation - Article 53 of Regulation (EU) 651/2014. The maximum grant will be £500,000 at 75% aid intensity against eligible costs.
- Aid for sport and multi - functional recreational infrastructure - Article 55 of Regulation (EU) 651/2014. The maximum grant will be £500,000 at 75% aid intensity against eligible costs.
- Aid for local infrastructure - Article 56 of 651/2014. The aid amount shall not exceed the difference between the eligible costs and the operating profit of the investment. The operating profit shall be deducted from the eligible costs *ex ante*, on the basis of reasonable projections, or through a claw-back mechanism The maximum grant will be £500,000 at 75% aid intensity against eligible costs.

Alternatively, aid for all actions listed above (and other actions constituting State aid) will be paid in accordance with de minimis Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 and limited to a maximum of €200,000 (maximum aid intensity 75% against eligible costs).

In all cases where different State aid instruments are used to finance these sub-measures (e.g. de minimis aid and block-exempted aid) the aid intensity will not exceed aid intensities stipulated by Art 17 of Regulation (EU) 1305/2013.

#### 8.2.4.3.2.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.4.3.2.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

##### 8.2.4.3.2.9.2. Mitigating actions

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

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**8.2.4.3.2.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure**

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level
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**8.2.4.3.2.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant**

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level
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**8.2.4.3.2.11. Information specific to the operation**

Definition of small scale infrastructure, including small scale tourism infrastructure as referred to in Article 20(1)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level
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If applicable, specific derogation allowing to support bigger scale infrastructure for investments in broad band and renewable energy

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level
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Information on the application of the grace period referred to in Article 2(3) of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level
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The minimum standards for energy efficiency referred to in Article 13(c) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014

Not applicable.
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Definition of the thresholds referred to in Article 13(e) of [DA RD – C(2014)1460]

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level
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#### 8.2.4.4. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.4.4.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

###### Risk(s)

An assessment of the proposed activities for the measure identified the following potential main root causes of error as defined in the Commission Staff Working Document SWD(2013) 244 final.

1. Root Cause 9 - Deficiencies in procedures to process beneficiaries' payment request (administrative perspective). The risk is that DAERA staff do not operate an organised administration system with the necessary checks and controls in place to ensure the accuracy of beneficiary claims processed for grant payments and eligibility for EU and National funding. There is also a risk in ensuring that the proposed expenditure is assessed for state aid compliance.
2. Root Cause 12 – incorrect system of checks and deficient administrative procedures. The risk is in relation to the broad range of activities that can be funded under the measures.
3. Root Cause 13 - Tendering procedures applied by private beneficiaries (beneficiary perspective). The risk is that the beneficiary does not implement the agreed tendering procedures and therefore fails to obtain value for money in the use of public funds and equality of opportunity for suppliers and service providers.
4. Root Cause 14 – Non-eligible expenditure and the system of reduction applied due to the diverse range of activities which are likely to be supported under the measure. The risk is that the beneficiary does not comply with the terms and conditions of the Letter of Offer or modifies the agreed project without prior approval of the administration unit resulting in ineligible expenditure.
5. Root Cause 15 - Handling of payment claims by beneficiaries (beneficiary perspective). The risk is that the beneficiary does not follow the guidance provided or understands the implications for inaccurate claims, resulting in ineligible expenditure claimed, reduced or nil grant payments due to penalties.

##### 8.2.4.4.2. Mitigating actions

###### Mitigating Actions

The following mitigating actions will be implemented to address the risks identified:

1. A review of the results of management re-performance and on-the-spot checks from the 2007-2013 programming period and revision of the procedures to implement lessons learnt.
2. Completion of Fraud Risk Assessments on each scheme implemented.
3. The provision of clear operating rules for administration units including requirements for determining eligible expenditure, supporting evidence requirements for claims and procurement rules and project modification procedures in order to complete the administrative check.
4. The provision of training for staff on claim, procurement and state aid procedures and follow up support as necessary.
5. The Letter of Offer to the beneficiary to detail all eligible expenditure, procurement requirements and conditions for modification of projects.
6. Discussion of the Letter of Offer with the beneficiary and the completion of a statement (authorised by both parties) specifying the procurement, implementation and expenditure

requirements specific to the project to be met.

7. The procedures for the beneficiaries to be simplified as much as possible, particularly for community groups and social economy enterprises.
8. Use of advance payments for community groups and social enterprises to improve cash flow.
9. To make available information and advice to beneficiaries specifying the documentation and level of detail required as evidence of project expenditure and reasonableness of costs.
10. Management re-performance checks and on the spot checks to be carried out on claims processed prior to release for payment to identify residual errors.

#### 8.2.4.4.3. Overall assessment of the measure

##### Overall Assessment

An analysis of the errors and non-compliances in the implementation of similar measures in the 2007-2013 Rural Development Programme indicates that procedures for both the beneficiary and administration units are generally sufficient to limit ineligible expenditure. However procedures will be subject to a full review prior to implementation to take account of lessons learnt from previous programming periods. The mitigating actions detailed above address the following recommended corrective and preventative actions:

- Corrective and preventative Action 1 – training for administration staff on the procedures to process payments to beneficiaries, systems for checking the reasonableness of costs and prices procurement rules and the handling of payment claims.
- Corrective and preventative Action 2 – information and advice for beneficiaries on public procurement rules, eligible investment expenditure under the measure and the completion of payment claims.
- Corrective and preventative Action 3 – information and guidance documents for administration units and beneficiaries on public procurement best practice, identification of non-eligible costs and one to one advice at Letter of Offer agreement stage.
- Corrective and preventative Action 4 – improvement of IT tools to improve the access and availability of information for beneficiaries and to prevent errors.
- Corrective and preventative Action 7 – improving internal control and coordination procedures through reviewing the results of management re-performance checks, on-the-spot checks, audit recommendations and the review of procedures and forms.

Following consideration of the mitigating actions and the corrective and preventative actions the Managing Authority and Paying Agency have assessed the error rate for the measure as **low**.



*8.2.4.5. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant*

An established principle within Northern Ireland Government Accounting Guidance for grant support to the private sector is that Government/Public assistance should be matched equally by the private sector investment. The assistance to the private sector is therefore capped at 50% of the eligible costs.

Voluntary or community sectors are also expected to contribute according to their ability to do so. The maximum assistance of 75% of the eligible costs reflects an increased difficulty of project cash-flow and the ability of some voluntary or community sectors to access match funding

However, where a voluntary/community group proposes which would be competing with other private sector providers, the 50% maximum grant-aid rule will apply, even though the promoting organisation may be a voluntary/community group.

An analysis of strategic tourism projects in the 2007-2013 programming period showed that providing a grant of around £500k enables projects to come forward which are had a significant impact in the respective rural area. Additionally by focusing on natural and cultural heritage, forgotten assets such as rural canals, historic abandoned gardens and monuments can be developed, and in many cases this will involve the local community. The local authorities have a key role to play as they will be developing and agreeing their 'Destination Plans' with the Northern Ireland Tourist Board.

As with all these schemes it is recognised that local authorities in partnership with the rural communities will take these projects forward and therefore an intervention rate of 75% has been set. More often than not the local authorities will match fund at somewhere between 30%- 40%.

*8.2.4.6. Information specific to the measure*

Definition of small scale infrastructure, including small scale tourism infrastructure as referred to in Article 20(1)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

Small scale infrastructure is defined as £500,000 total investment, equivalent to a grant of £375,000.

If applicable, specific derogation allowing to support bigger scale infrastructure for investments in broad band and renewable energy

Not applicable

Information on the application of the grace period referred to in Article 2(3) of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014

Not applicable

The minimum standards for energy efficiency referred to in Article 13(c) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014

Not applicable.

Definition of the thresholds referred to in Article 13(e) of [DA RD – C(2014)1460]

Not applicable

*8.2.4.7. Other important remarks relevant to understand and implement the measure*

Not applicable.



## 8.2.5. M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)

### 8.2.5.1. *Legal basis*

Articles 21 - 26 and Recital 20 of Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) N° 1305/2013.

### 8.2.5.2. *General description of the measure including its intervention logic and contribution to focus areas and cross-cutting objectives*

#### **General description of the measure**

DAERA has a general duty in the *Forestry Act (Northern Ireland) 2010* to promote afforestation and sustainable forestry. In relation to non state forests this duty must be carried out in such a way to promote social benefits. The Forest Strategy[1] is built on twin pillars:

1. The sustainable management of existing woods and forest and
2. A steady expansion of tree cover to increase the many diverse benefits that forests provide

These pillars produce a number of key themes including: Forest expansion, timber production, management and development of forests, protection of the environment, climate change, recreational and social use, partnership development and commercialisation. The Rural Development Programme provides an opportunity to support aspects of this strategy.

The measure will contribute to EU Forestry Strategy recommendations in relation to sustainable forest management by support for improving resilience and the environmental value of forest ecosystems, adapting to climate change and tree diseases, public amenity investments and creating new woodland.

The delivery of forest policy in Northern Ireland is underpinned by the the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) which describes the UK Governments approach to sustainable forest management. The UKFS has been developed taking account of the international context of forestry expressed in the Statement of Forest Principles at the 1992 Earth Summit. The Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) resolutions are implemented in Northern Irish forests and woodlands through meeting UKFS requirements. All forest areas supported under this measure must be managed in accordance with UKFS.

#### Context

In Northern Ireland there are 111,000 hectares of forested land. 56% is state owned and managed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development the remainder (49,000 hectares) is predominantly privately owned and managed by a wide range of land managers. During the 2007-2013 RDP period just over 2,100 hectares of new woodland were created and support for first afforestation is programmed for the 2014-2020 programme. During this period uptake for measures to support the management of existing woodland was low.

Table 7 shows that the state owned forest is predominantly coniferous, this is in contrast to the non state

owned woodland which is predominantly broadleaf woodland. Figure 5, Northern Ireland Woodland Cover, indicates that state owned woodland occurs in larger forests in the uplands while non state owned woodland is characterised by smaller fragmented woodlands in multiple ownership. Table 8, Ownership of Non State Owned Woodland shows the distribution of woodland by size in hectares.

A public opinion survey in 2014 found that 96% of respondents believed that forestry was worth supporting, to provide places for wildlife to live and for recreation. 79% of respondents said that they would like to see more woodland locally.

Thus, there is a continuing need for forest expansion, aiming to achieve 12% forest cover of land area by 2050 (Forest Service, 2006) [1], to ensure that both public and privately owned forests are managed in a sustainable way to deliver a broad, balanced range of ecosystem services (UK National Ecosystem Assessment, Chapter 8: Woodlands, 2011) [2] including timber, public access, biodiversity and actions to address climate change, as well as action to address the problems associated with forests of the wrong kind in the wrong locality, scarcity of timber supply and the impact of timber traffic on rural communities.

### Climate Change

Climate Change is one of the most serious threats facing the world today and is a cross cutting objective with the RDP. Climate change creates great uncertainty and will require long-term strategic ecological adaptation. It is recognised that forestry makes a net contribution in reducing atmospheric carbon dioxide by carbon uptake in growing biomass, in vegetation and in soils. Managing and enhancing woodland related habitats can increase the amount of carbon taken up and stored in them. Energy crops as substitutes for fossil fuels have an important role to play, subject to environmental safeguards. The results of a recent public opinion survey on forestry in Northern Ireland revealed a widespread view that climate change would have an effect on Northern Ireland, and the strong belief that forests and woodlands could mitigate the potential negative effects by sequestering carbon, as well as providing shade and reducing the effects of flooding. Within the DAERA, a Climate Change branch has been established to develop mitigation strategies, and Forest Service will have an important contribution to this.

### Climate change mitigation in forestry

The report *Combating Climate Change - a role for UK forests* [3] sets out the forestry sector's potential contribution to climate change mitigation through carbon sequestration in growing biomass – particularly that associated with new woodland – carbon storage in harvested wood products and through wood products substituting for materials with high embodied carbon and woodfuel substituting for fossil fuels directly.

### Climate change adaptation in forestry

The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment for Northern Ireland [4] highlighted the threat of pests and diseases, drought, changes in the suitability of forestry tree species and risk of wildfire as the key threats posed by climate change. Key adaptation measures include

- improved silvicultural knowledge to allow informed species choice when planting new or restocking existing woodland;
- species diversification (to address threats from both climate change and pest and diseases);

- uptake of low impact silvicultural systems of management;
- bringing more woodland into management to allow adaptation measures to be implemented.

### Protection of the Environment (biodiversity)

Our woodlands are a precious heritage. Forests make a significant contribution to nature conservation (about 25% of state forest and 10% of non state forest is within a designated area[1]). They enhance the attractiveness of the landscape, provide essential habitats, are a rich source of biodiversity, and are embedded in our culture and natural heritage. They also have a beneficial effect on water, soil and air. We must protect these resources and benefits and minimise negative impacts upon them. We also have a responsibility to protect our woodlands from damage by animals such as deer, hare, rabbits and squirrels, and from damage by fire, or indeed from pests that jeopardise plant health. Management of wild deer populations within forests will continue to secure woodland regeneration, welfare of deer, maintenance of habitat diversity and reduction of road traffic accidents. The Forest Service will continue to cooperate with environmental groups and will also be mindful of Environmental, Wildlife and Habitats Regulations in respect of forestry operations.

### Development Needs

The following development needs have been identified from the intervention logic.

- There is a need to focus woodland expansion on areas with agricultural limitations.
- There is a need to increase recreational access to woodland close to where people live.
- There is a need to integrate afforestation with agricultural practice.
- There is a need to increased woodland resilience.
- There is a need to use innovative methods to improve utilisation of fragmented woodland.
- There is a need to increase knowledge transfer to existing woodland owners.
- There is a need to improve access to forest land to improve economic performance.

### Strategy for the Measure

The measure will support a range of actions which increase the woodland cover in Northern Ireland and support the forest strategy which was published as the Northern Ireland Forestry Strategy, “A Strategy for Sustainability and Growth” (2006) The strategy is to increase the area of forest to 12% by the middle of this century, the current rate of afforestation of about 250 hectares per annum is not sufficient to meet the need.

The forestry policy also recognised there was a need for growth in forest and woodland cover in areas of non-agricultural land, and highlighted the economic, environmental and social benefits that these additional forests will bring. Specifically, it identified a need to develop new forests and woodlands providing for public access close to urban settlements.

The Forestry Strategy recommended that future afforestation should be led largely by the private sector.

Farmers, as the largest agricultural land-owning group, are in a unique position to lead this. It will also be possible to support afforestation of land owned by public authorities.

The measure will be complemented by additional actions from other parts of the Programme, such as Farm and Forestry exchange visits (sub-measure 1.4) support for the establishment of SRC willow coppice for an energy end-use and a Forestry competitiveness scheme under sub-measure 4.1 (Investments in physical assets). The Woodland Expansion Scheme will be delivered in conjunction with the Environmental Farming Scheme under Article 28 (measure 10) to ensure maximum benefits and synergies

### Contribution to Focus Areas

The measure will primarily contribute to focus areas 2A, 4A, 4B, 4C and 5E. This will be achieved through support for woodland planting to improve water quality by reducing diffuse pollution, protection and creation of wildlife corridors through new habitats and removal of invasive species from woodlands to maintain and restore priority habitats. Carbon sequestration will also be increased by increased forestry cover.

### Contribution to Cross-Cutting Objectives

Support under this measure for the activities listed against focus areas 4A, 4B, 4C and 5E contributes to both the Climate change mitigation and adaptation and Environment cross cutting objectives.

### Standard Costs

Where standard costs are used they will be certified by an independent body, specified in under the verification section.

[1] <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/strategy-for-sustainability-growth.pdf>

[2] <http://uknea.unep-wcmc.org/Resources/tabid/82/Default.aspx>

[3] [http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/SynthesisUKAssessmentfinal.pdf/\\$FILE/SynthesisUKAssessmentfinal.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/SynthesisUKAssessmentfinal.pdf/$FILE/SynthesisUKAssessmentfinal.pdf)

[4] [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=10068\\_CCRAforNorthernIreland16July2012.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=10068_CCRAforNorthernIreland16July2012.pdf)

Forest Type and Ownership	Area (hectares)
<b>Conifers</b>	
State owned	56,000
Non state owned	11,000
<b>Broadleaves</b>	
State owned	6,000
Non state owned	39,000
<b>Total</b>	
State owned	62,000
Non state owned	49,000

[2013 National Statistics](#) published by the Forestry Commission

Forest type and ownership

Table 7 - Forest type and ownership

Woodland Area	Number of Owners
0.2 – 1.0 hectares	6,200
1.0 – 5 hectares	3,700
5 – 10 hectares	550
10 – 50 hectares	250
50+ hectares	20
Total (111,000 hectares)	10,720

Internal report using spatial analysis to produce estimated figures.

#### Ownership of non state-owned woodland area

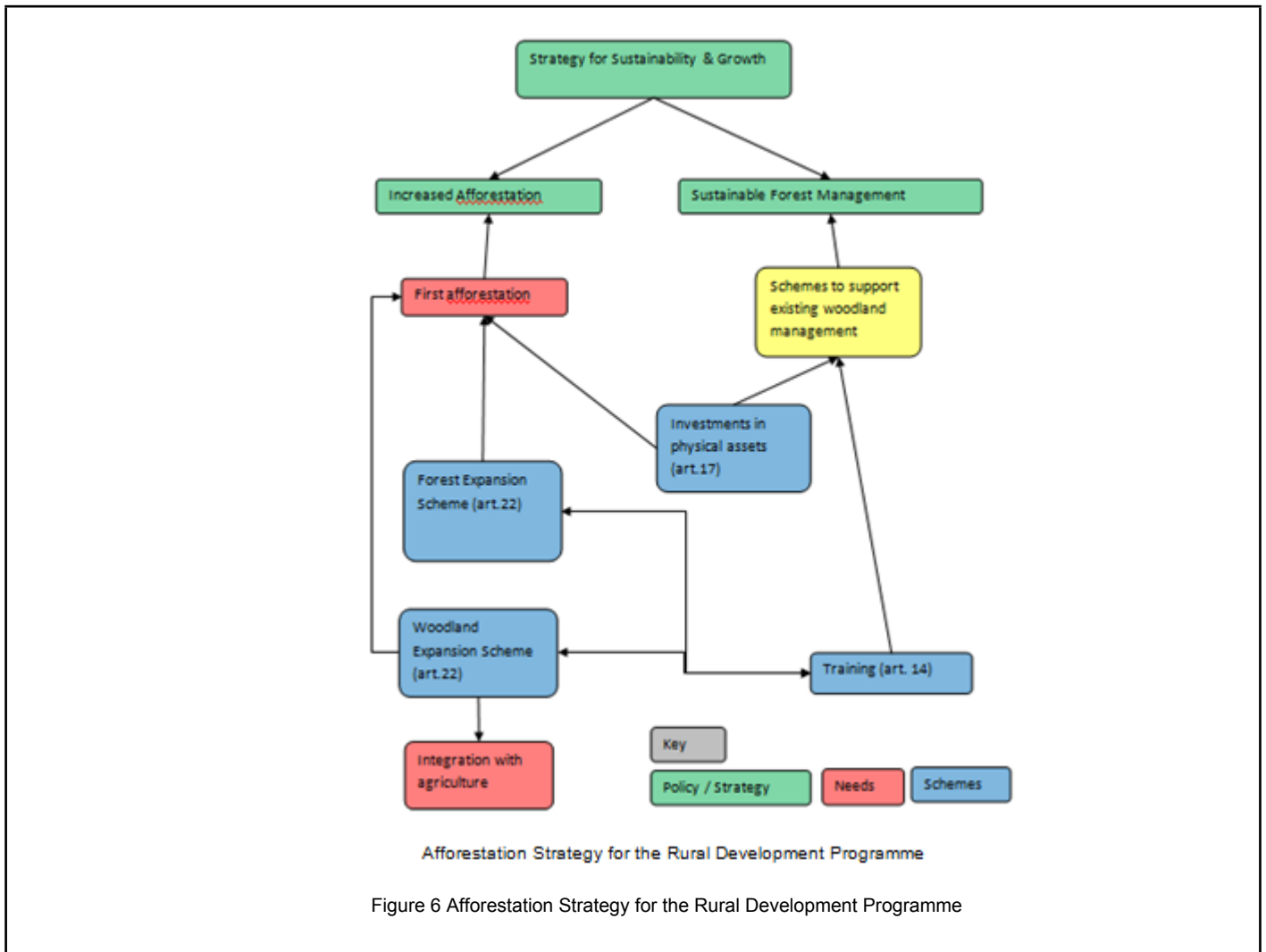
Table 8 - Ownership of non state-owned woodland area



<http://www.dardni.gov.uk/niwoodland-cover-map-conifer-broadleaf-mixed-by-ownership.pdf>

Northern Ireland woodland cover map

Figure 5 Northern Ireland woodland cover map



8.2.5.3. *Scope, level of support, eligible beneficiaries, and where relevant, methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate broken down by sub-measure and/or type of operation where necessary. For each type of operation specification of eligible costs, eligibility conditions, applicable amounts and support rates and principles with regard to the setting of selection criteria*

8.2.5.3.1. Sub-measure 8.1 – Support for afforestation/creation of woodland establishment and maintenance.

Sub-measure:

- 8.1 - support for afforestation/creation of woodland

8.2.5.3.1.1. Description of the type of operation

The following two schemes/actions will be supported:

- Forest Expansion Scheme (FES)
- Establishment of Native Woodland less than 5 hectares

## **Description of the Operation**

### **Forest Expansion Scheme (FES)**

This scheme will encourage the creation of new forests of about 5 hectares and larger. The main benefits of forest creation will be carbon sequestration. Secondary benefits from the scheme will include the processing and marketing of forestry products including material for renewable energy systems, improved biodiversity and water quality and the public amenity value.

The main aims of the Forest Expansion Scheme is to encourage landowners to establish new woodland based on landscape scale considerations, with associated economic, environmental and social benefits. Support for afforestation of both agricultural and non-agricultural land to achieve this aim will be provided. This will support stakeholder views that woodland in the right place is beneficial.

The Forest Expansion Scheme will support the establishment costs of first afforestation on agricultural land and non agricultural land. Support payments will be determined using a competitive mechanism (referred to as a challenge fund mechanism) whereby applicants will be assessed by judging which proposals contribute most to delivering the aims of the Forestry Expansion Scheme on a best value basis and bids which best meet the objectives of the Scheme will be selected.

Support will be provided for:

- Costs of establishment including the costs of plantation and propagation material and other costs such as such as preparation of Forestry Establishment plan, soil preparation and protection and maintenance (years 1-5).
- Payments for income foregone to cover loss of income compared to agricultural production for a maximum period of ten years.

### **Establishment of Native Woodland less than 5 hectares**

This option will be delivered as an option within the Environmental Farming Scheme, M10 Agri-Environment.

Aim of commitment: This Option will increase the area of native woodland, provide wildlife corridors and areas free from disturbance for a range of wildlife and contribute to the landscape character of the countryside.

The main benefits of native woodland creation will be improved biodiversity, carbon sequestration, water quality and public amenity value.

Description of the commitment: This Option is a combination of essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works) to establish the Option with a range of recurring annual management requirements to ensure successful establishment, retention and maintenance of the Option. Native woodland will sequester carbon and enhance biodiversity

### **Integrated Pest Management**

Integrated Pest Management is an obligatory requirement for professional users. Under UK legislation the general principles are considered as voluntary, except record keeping. Record keeping is mandatory and

we will not fund record keeping in relation to IPM. Prevention and/or suppression of harmful organisms is to be achieved or supported and pest species managed in accordance with the principles of Integrated Pest Management and the pesticide regulation and directive

### **Forestry Training**

Scheme participants will be provided with the advisory support required to understand the forestry commitments undertaken and the actions required for successful implementation of the measures. The training is programmed under Measure 02 – Advisory services farm management and farm relief service.

#### 8.2.5.3.1.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Grant

#### 8.2.5.3.1.3. Links to other legislation

Forestry Act (Northern Ireland) 2010

Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Northern Ireland) Regulations (2006)

Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC

Article 21 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

Article 67 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013

Article 6 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 807/2014

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 808/2014

Sustainable use of Pesticides Directive 2009/128/EC

Natura Directives

Regulation (EU) 702/2014 or alternatively paid under de minimis Regulation (EU) 1407/2013

#### 8.2.5.3.1.4. Beneficiaries

The eligible beneficiaries are:

- Public land holders
- Private land holders



- Associations of public or private land holders

The forest land can be owned by the State provided that the holder (manager) of the forest is a private body or council. In this case only the costs of establishment are eligible. The eligible costs are summarised in the following table (Table 9).

Ownership of forest	Possible types of operation
Forest owned by private land holders and their associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• costs of establishment</li> <li>• costs of agricultural income foregone</li> <li>• maintenance</li> </ul>
Forest owned by State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• costs of establishment (state-owned forest has to be managed by a municipality or a private body)</li> </ul>
Forest owned by other public authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• costs of establishment</li> </ul>

Measure 8.1 - Eligible costs

Table 9 - Eligible costs

#### 8.2.5.3.1.5. Eligible costs

The eligible costs of the schemes for the afforestation of agricultural or non-agricultural land, including:

##### **Establishment (year 1)**

- Establishment costs for plantation of new forest and woodland
- Cost of plantation and propagation material.
- Plantation and other necessary costs directly linked to plantation, such as soil preparation and protection.
- Planting labour and supervision
- Protection of the plantation through either individual tree protection or fencing appropriate to the threat posed (domestic stock, rabbits, deer).
- Control of competing weed vegetation.

##### **Maintenance (years 2-5)**

- Replacing failed plants up to a maximum of 20% by number
- Controlling insects

- Prevention actions against game, browsing animals, pests and diseases in order to ensure long-term results and to avoid unnecessary failure.
- Protection of the plantation through either individual tree protection or fencing appropriate to the threat posed (domestic stock, rabbits, deer).
- Control of competing weed vegetation.

### Income Foregone

- Annual Payments for agricultural income foregone based on the average levels of agricultural income that are foregone in undertaking first afforestation of agricultural ground based on average annual gross margins for farm enterprises gathered by DARD for a specified reference period.
- The value of pillar 1 payments is excluded from the calculation of income foregone payments. In 2014 the calculated values are shown in the attached table.
- The payment rates have been determined using the method described and have been subject to independent verification. Payment rates may be reviewed during the programming period and changes will be subject to further independent verification. Where a payment rate changes from a new calculation [for example, the average gross margin for a farm enterprise changes] but are based on the existing methodology no changes to the measure will be required.

Public access will be supported through sub-measure 8.5.

Short rotation coppice, Christmas trees and fast growing trees for energy production are not eligible for support under this measure.

	<b>£/hectare/year</b>
<b>Non-LFA</b>	
Arable/Improved	427
Unimproved	115
<b>DA</b>	
Arable/Improved	383
Unimproved	117
<b>SDA</b>	
Arable/Improved	283
Unimproved	75

calculation of payments

Table 10 - calculation of payments

#### 8.2.5.3.1.6. Eligibility conditions

All applications for first afforestation grant support must be accompanied with a Woodland Creation Plan which will detail:

1. Details of the objectives of the new planting
2. A map of the proposed planting area
3. A detailed planting plan describing ground preparation, species selection (with percentages), integral open space, planting density and protection needs.
4. Details of planned maintenance for the payment period
5. An indication of proposed management once established

All applications will be subject to the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Northern Ireland) Regulations (2006) which will ensure that inappropriate woodland creation projects in sensitive areas are not supported.

An indicative list of tree species is listed below, other species may be planted where they meet the requirements specified in Article 6(a) , (b) and (d) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014.

In all cases the selection of species to be planted shall be appropriate to meet the objectives of the woodland owner, the UK Forestry Standard and Article 6(a) , (b) and (d) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014 as a minimum standard. Environmental, pedologic and hydrologic conditions of the area and an explanation of how these conditions have been taken into consideration in choosing the species will be achieved by demonstrating compliance with the UK Forestry Standard through a management plan or an equivalent instrument.

As regards fast-growing species the minimum time before felling shall not be less than 8 years and the maximum time before felling shall not exceed 20 years. Examples of fast growing species include: poplar, non native alder and willow and Nothofagus.

<b>Conifer Species</b>	<b>Botanic name</b>
Lawson cypress	<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>
Leyland cypress	<i>Cupressocyparis leylandii</i>
Monterey cypress	<i>Cupressus macrocarpa</i>
Western hemlock	<i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>
European larch	<i>Larix decidua</i>
Hybrid larch	<i>Larix x eurolepis</i>
Douglas fir	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>
Grand fir	<i>Abies grandis</i>
Austrian pine	<i>Pinus nigra (var. nigra)</i>
Corsican pine	<i>Pinus nigra (var. maritima)</i>
Lodgepole pine	<i>Pinus contorta (North Coastal)</i>
Lodgepole pine	<i>Pinus contorta (South Coastal)</i>
Monterey pine	<i>Pinus radiata</i>
Scots pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>
Norway spruce	<i>Picea abies</i>
Serbian spruce	<i>Picea omorika</i>
Sitka spruce	<i>Picea sitchensis</i>
Western red cedar	<i>Thuja plicata</i>
Coast redwood	<i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>

Conifer Species

Broadleaf Species	Botanic name
Common alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>
Italian alder	<i>Alnus cordata</i>
Downy Birch	<i>Betula pubescens</i>
Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
Ash ( <i>currently not approved for new afforestation sites until further notice</i> )	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>
Southern beech	<i>Nothofagus procera / N. obliqua</i>
Cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>
Spanish (Sweet) Chestnut	<i>Castanea sativa</i>
Lime	<i>Tilia cordata / T. platyphyllos</i>
Norway maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i>
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>
Pedunculate oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>
Sessile oak	<i>Quercus petraea</i>
Red oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>
Willow	<i>Salix spp</i>
Rowan	<i>Sorbus acuparia</i>
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>

Broadleaf Species

#### 8.2.5.3.1.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

All or some of the following selection principles may be applied in the event that the scheme is over-subscribed:

- Provision of recreational access close to where people live
- Resilience
- Landscape ecology
- Provision of High Biodiversity value

#### 8.2.5.3.1.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Support will be provided of 100% of the standard cost or the amount of eligible actions.

##### **Forest Expansion Scheme**

- Plantation of new forest and woodland establishment and maintenance costs will be supported at a rate of 100%.
- 100% of loss of agricultural income payments
- Support payments will be determined using a competitive mechanism (referred to as a challenge fund mechanism) whereby applicants will be assessed by judging which proposals contribute most to delivering the aims of the Scheme on a best value basis and bids which best meet the objectives of the Scheme will be selected. A scoring mechanism will be used to prioritise the applications made, giving preference to those applications that meet the strategic objectives. The payment rate for successful applications will be 100% of eligible costs of delivery of the project for establishment and maintenance.
- Payment will be made in the year which it is incurred and claimed annually over a 5 year period. Establishment costs will be paid in year 1 and maintenance costs will be paid annually in years 2,3 and 4 or in a single payment in 5.

##### Forest Expansion scheme

- 10 annual loss of agricultural income payments
  - Loss of agricultural income payments will be derived using information produced and published by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland.
  - Loss of agriculture income (referred to as Income foregone) payments is calculated by land type using a 3-year average annual gross margin for farm enterprises obtained from the Northern Ireland Farm Business Survey and are shown in table 19 above.
  - All State Aid will comply with Article 32 of Regulation (EU) 702/2014 or alternatively paid under de minimis Regulation (EU) 1407/2013.

##### **Establishment of Native Woodland less than 5 hectares**

- 100% of the amount of eligible investment for the establishment
  - Year 1 Establishment costs in 2014/15 are £2,272 and will be paid in pounds sterling (equivalent to €2,771 per hectare at an exchange rate of one euro = £0.82 sterling).
  - Year 2 – 5 Maintenance costs in 2014/15 are £653 and will be paid in pounds sterling (equivalent to €796 per hectare at an exchange rate of one euro = £0.82 sterling).
- 100% of loss of agricultural income payments
  - Average NI gross margin (£353 equivalent to €430) per hectare will be paid for 5 years.

○ This EFS option includes a risk of Greening double funding and the full value of the income forgone element is excluded if there is an overlap with Greening requirements.

- Establishment costs will be paid in year 1 and are essential capital works. Maintenance costs will be paid annually as a recurring cost incurred and will be combined with the income foregone payment.
- Additional optional capital works may support the Establishment of Native Woodland less than 5 hectares option. These include; protective fencing, gates and posts, solitary bee box, bat box, bird box.

#### 8.2.5.3.1.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.5.3.1.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

##### 8.2.5.3.1.9.2. Mitigating actions

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

##### 8.2.5.3.1.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

#### 8.2.5.3.1.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

#### 8.2.5.3.1.11. Information specific to the operation

Definition and justification of the holding size above which support will be conditional on the submission of a forest management plan or equivalent instrument

Not applicable as a Woodland Creation Plan will be an 'equivalent instrument' to Forest Management Plan for woodland creation.

Definition of an "equivalent instrument"

The Woodland Creation Plan is an 'equivalent instrument' and shall include:

1. Details of the objectives of the new planting
2. A map of the proposed planting area
3. A detailed planting plan describing ground preparation, species selection (with percentages), integral open space, planting density and protection needs.
4. Details of planned maintenance for the payment period
5. An indication of proposed management once established

[Afforestation and creation of woodlands] Identification of species, areas and methods to be used to avoid inappropriate afforestation as referred to in Article 6(a) of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014, including the description of the environmental and climatic conditions of the areas in which afforestation is foreseen as referred to in Article 6(b) of that Regulation

All afforestation applications must meet the UK Forestry Standard including the need for resilience to climate change and be subject to the EIA Regulations which will ensure there is no inappropriate afforestation of sensitive habitats. Within sensitive areas all applications will be assessed, in AONBs the threshold will be 2ha and elsewhere the threshold will be 5ha (however if any woodland creation has been undertaken on land adjacent to the proposed site within the previous five years that will also be taken into account).

Any proposals for afforestation on Natura 2000 sites will only be permitted if consistent with the management objectives.

[Afforestation and creation of woodlands] Definition of the minimum environmental requirements referred to in Article 6 of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014

In all cases the selection of species to be planted shall be appropriate to meet the objectives of the woodland planting and be ecologically adapted and resilient to climate change in the bio-geographical area concerned and shall take account of site specific pedologic and hydrologic conditions. This will be demonstrated in the forest establishment plan.

[Establishment of agro-forestry systems] Specification of minimum and maximum number of trees to be planted and, when mature, to be retained, per hectare and forest species to be used as referred to in Article 23(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

[Establishment of agro-forestry systems] Indication of environmental benefits of the supported systems

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level



[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] Where relevant, list of species of organisms harmful to plants which may cause a disaster

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] Identification of forest areas classified as being at medium to high risk of forest fire according to the relevant forest protection plan

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] In case of preventive actions concerning pests and diseases, description of a relevant disaster occurrence, supported by scientific evidence, including, where relevant, recommendations on dealing with pests and diseases made by scientific organisations

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

[Investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems] Definition of types of eligible investment and their expected environmental outcome and/or public amenity value

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

### 8.2.5.3.2. Sub-measure 8.2 - Agro-forestry

Sub-measure:

- 8.2 - support for establishment and maintenance of agro-forestry systems

#### 8.2.5.3.2.1. Description of the type of operation

The purpose of this measure is to encourage uptake of a silvicultural system, which is not commonly practiced in Northern Ireland. Without support, areas of agro-forestry, and their environmental benefits, would not otherwise be created. The support will be available as an option with the Environmental Farming Scheme (EFS).

The system of agroforestry most applicable to the agricultural practices and site conditions of NI is a silvopastoral . Typically, silvopastoral systems will combine sheep grazing with the establishment of small trees to create a multi-functional agricultural system. This will provide benefits for carbon sequestration, biodiversity, soil and water quality.

Northern Ireland is one of the least wooded areas in Europe, with approximately 8% of its land under tree cover. Pressures on land and land improvement operations, as well as a cultural divide between forestry and agriculture have meant that the area of woodland in NI is only increasing slowly. There is also minimal integration between agriculture and forestry in Northern Ireland.

This measure will contribute to Priority 4: "Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry" - Focus Areas 4A, 4B and 4C through providing additional habitat , management of overland flow of rainfall and therefore pollutant run-off and reducing soil compaction and erosion.

It will also contribute to Priority 5 "Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in the agriculture and food sectors and the forestry sector - Focus Area 5E, through carbon sequestration by the woodland.

#### 8.2.5.3.2.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Establishment costs - Capital grant per hectare, based on standard costs of the eligible activity.

A maintenance payment per hectare for five years, based on standard costs of the eligible cost operations.

#### 8.2.5.3.2.3. Links to other legislation

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012

The Control of Pesticides Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 as amended by the Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

#### 8.2.5.3.2.4. Beneficiaries

The eligible beneficiaries will be farmers or land managers.

#### 8.2.5.3.2.5. Eligible costs

The following establishment costs are eligible:

- Ground preparation,
- Control of competing vegetation,
- Cost of supply and planting of the tree species specified. (see section 8.2.5.3.2.11)
- Cost of supply and installation of individual tree and shrub protection,

The following maintenance costs will be eligible:

- Planning of grazing management
- Replacement of trees and shrubs in the first year.
- Additional fencing and tree protection.
- Weeding to remove competing vegetation.

#### 8.2.5.3.2.6. Eligibility conditions

Agro-forestry should not be established on semi-natural habitat. Where fruit trees are planted, they must be combined with forest tree species and the forest species should be in majority (more than 50%).

The owner must have control over the land sufficient to discharge their responsibilities under the agreement which will be for 5 years.

Beneficiaries must ensure the continued use of the agricultural land.

#### 8.2.5.3.2.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Agro-forestry support will be delivered as part of the Environmental Farming Scheme under Measure 10 . Agro-forestry support will deliver benefits for carbon sequestration, biodiversity, soil and water quality in line with the scheme's objectives.

#### 8.2.5.3.2.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Support rates will be 80% of eligible costs for establishment and 100% of eligible costs for maintenance.

Establishment - £1572 per hectare in Year 1

Annual maintenance cost - £65 per hectare per year in Years 1-5

These cost are for trees established at a density of 400 per hectare. The costs may be converted to a cost per hectare for trees established at other densities.

No payment will be made prior to State Aid clearance for this measure being received.

#### 8.2.5.3.2.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.5.3.2.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Risk(s)

An assessment of the proposed activities for the measure identified the following potential main root causes of error as defined in the Commission Staff Working Document SWD(2013) 244 final.

1. Root Cause 1 – the system of reduction of support in cases of non-compliances is not proportionate. The risk is, for example, that a small over-declaration of land on the SAF could result in a disproportionate reduction of support. This may be due to the over-declaration, even though small in area, making up a high percentage of over-declaration in relation to an individual crop group.
2. Root Cause 2 – beneficiaries are sometimes not duly informed and do not take into account the changes caused by updates to the Land Parcel Information Systems (LPIS). The risk is that there is a delayed update of agri-environment commitments following LPIS updates.
3. Root Cause 3: Lack of exchange of information between authorities involved in implementing the measure: The risk is that information being relayed to beneficiaries may be inconsistent, resulting in a

confused message being conveyed in relation to management prescriptions.

4. Root Cause 6 – commitments are difficult to implement and verify. The risk is that DAERA cannot effectively control and verify the commitments. Therefore, it is difficult to provide assurance on whether commitments have been adhered to, and objectives have been met.

5. Root Cause 7 - Beneficiaries provide incorrect area declarations. The main risk is that beneficiaries over-declare areas or do not fill in the maps correctly when claiming.

6. Root Cause 15 - Handling of the payment claims by beneficiaries. Risks could include beneficiaries making errors in a claim for payment or failing to include or retain required documentation.

#### *8.2.5.3.2.9.2. Mitigating actions*

##### Mitigating Actions:

The following mitigating actions will be implemented to address the risks identified:

1. A review of the results of management re-performance and on-the-spot checks from the 2007-2013 programming period and revision of the procedures to implement lessons learnt.
2. Completion of Fraud Risk Assessments on each scheme implemented.
3. Detailed supporting information, guidance and training will be provided to beneficiaries at the outset of the measure which sets out what the measure involves and what is required of them. Further training will also be provided at specified points in the duration of the agreement. This will also be set out in a formal agreement between the beneficiary and the Department.
4. Compulsory training and guidance on sub-measure requirements will also be provided to administration staff, along with clear procedures and instructions for the administration of the measure, processing of payments and procurement rule.
5. Standard costs will be applied in relation to the measure. No advance payments will be made, all payments will be paid on receipt of a claim with appropriate supporting documentation e.g. receipt.
6. Eligibility conditions are relevant and appropriate and implementation has been considered to ensure implementation is simple and straightforward for the beneficiary.
7. Elements of the sub-measure which are to be contracted out to providers will be subject to national and European public procurement rules. The invitation to tender will include a detailed specification of requirements and accompanying guidance.
8. The sub-measure will be subject to an appropriate checking and approval process, verification, on the spot checks and audit reviews to identify residual errors.
9. Continuing development and refinement of the IT tool for the identification of land parcels for all area based schemes in both Pillar 1 and Pillar 2. Improved correlation between LPIS and agri-environment commitments to avoid mismatches between LPIS areas and commitment areas eligible for payment to beneficiaries.
10. The measure will be directly administered by the Department thereby ensuring there is sufficient experience and expertise in implementing the application, eligibility, claims and payments processes.

#### 8.2.5.3.2.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

##### Overall Assessment

An analysis of the errors and non-compliances in the implementation of similar measures in the 2007-2013 Rural Development Programme indicates that the agri-environment scheme has a consistent error rate of below 2%. The scheme is currently administered directly by the Department and will continue to be implemented directly for the 2014-2020 programming period. Direct management of the scheme reduces the risk of a lack of experience and training by external providers. The mitigating actions detailed above address the following recommended corrective and preventative actions:

- Corrective and preventative Action 1 – Training for administrative staff. DAERA will ensure that the staff implementing the measure are trained on the scheme requirements and the procedures for processing the payments to beneficiaries.
- Corrective and Preventative Action 2 – Information, training and advice for beneficiaries. One of the lessons learnt from the 2007-2013 current programming period was the need to provide training to beneficiaries. Training for beneficiaries under taking agri-environment commitments has been included in Measure 01 (Knowledge transfer and information actions).
- Corrective and Preventative Action 3 – information campaigns and guidance documents to ensure beneficiaries understand payment declarations, eligibility of areas and the claims process.
- Corrective and preventative Action 4 – improvement of IT tools to improve electronic applications with updated accurate information and the development of IT applications to check the reasonableness of the payment declarations.
- Corrective and Preventative Action 7 – improving internal control and coordination procedures through reviewing the results of management re-performance checks, on-the-spot checks, audit recommendations and the review of procedures and forms.
- Corrective and Preventative Action 8 – applying claim reductions in proportion with the non-compliance.

Following consideration of the mitigating actions and the corrective and preventative actions the Managing Authority and Paying Agency have assessed the error rate for the measure as **medium**. This reflects the new proposed activity and the effectiveness of the mitigating actions will be reviewed during implementation and the risk rating reassessed.

#### 8.2.5.3.2.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

The payment rate has been based on an assessment of the additional costs incurred to carry out operations to meet commitments. The adequacy and accuracy of the calculation of payments under this Measure will be independently substantiated and certified by the Department of Finance and Personnel, a duly recognised and independent body with the appropriate expertise.

#### 8.2.5.3.2.11. Information specific to the operation

Definition and justification of the holding size above which support will be conditional on the submission of a forest management plan or equivalent instrument

Not applicable as an Environmental Farming Scheme commitment will be an 'equivalent instrument' to a Forest Management Plan for woodland creation.

#### Definition of an "equivalent instrument"

An Environmental Farming Scheme commitment is an 'equivalent instrument' and shall include:

1. Details of the objectives of the planting
2. A map of the proposed planting area
3. A detailed planting plan describing ground preparation, species selection (with percentages), integral open space, planting density and protection needs.
4. Details of planned maintenance for the payment period
5. An indication of proposed management once established

[Afforestation and creation of woodlands] Identification of species, areas and methods to be used to avoid inappropriate afforestation as referred to in Article 6(a) of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014, including the description of the environmental and climatic conditions of the areas in which afforestation is foreseen as referred to in Article 6(b) of that Regulation

Agroforestry will not be established on semi-natural habitat.

[Afforestation and creation of woodlands] Definition of the minimum environmental requirements referred to in Article 6 of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014

In all cases the selection of species to be planted shall be appropriate to meet the objectives of the land owner.

Where fruit trees are planted, they must be combined with forest tree species and the forest species should be in majority (more than 50%).

[Establishment of agro-forestry systems] Specification of minimum and maximum number of trees to be planted and, when mature, to be retained, per hectare and forest species to be used as referred to in Article 23(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

The specification and design of this option is based on local research carried out by Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI). This recommends that trees are initially planted at a stocking density of 400 trees per hectare (5m x 5m spacing). First thinning will take place when pasture forage levels are shown to reduce. A second thinning is necessary at years 15-20, to leave a final stocking density of between 120-150 trees per hectare

The thinnings and reductions in tree density are essential to ensure that the pasture continues to grow and is therefore able to support grazing livestock, while maximising the potential for carbon sequestration and

benefits to biodiversity and water quality.

To enable variations in local pedo-climatic conditions, tree species and the need to ensure the agricultural use of the land to be taken into account, the following specifications are defined.

The maximum number of trees to be planted is 500 per hectare.

When mature, the minimum number of trees to be retained is 50 per hectare.

Forest and fruit trees species to be used are :

- Birch
- Oak
- Alder
- Rowan
- Scots pine
- Aspen
- Ash
- Wych elm
- Willow
- Whitebeam
- Sycamore
- Poplar
- Apple
- Wild cherry
- Crab apple
- Walnut
- Other species where appropriately justified.

[Establishment of agro-forestry systems] Indication of environmental benefits of the supported systems

This measure will contribute to Priority 4: "Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry" - Focus Areas 4A, 4B and 4C through providing additional habitat, management of overland flow of rainfall and therefore pollutant run-off and reducing soil compaction and erosion.

It will also contribute to Priority 5 "Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in the agriculture and food sectors and the forestry sector - Focus Area 5E, through carbon sequestration by the woodland.

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] Where relevant, list of species of organisms harmful to plants which may cause a disaster



N/A

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] Identification of forest areas classified as being at medium to high risk of forest fire according to the relevant forest protection plan

N/A

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] In case of preventive actions concerning pests and diseases, description of a relevant disaster occurrence, supported by scientific evidence, including, where relevant, recommendations on dealing with pests and diseases made by scientific organisations

N/A

[Investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems] Definition of types of eligible investment and their expected environmental outcome and/or public amenity value

N/A

### 8.2.5.3.3. Sub-measure 8.3/8.4 – Support for prevention of damage/restoration of forests from fires/natural disasters/catastrophic events

Sub-measure:

- 8.3 - support for prevention of damage to forests from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events
- 8.4 - support for restoration of damage to forests from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events

#### 8.2.5.3.3.1. Description of the type of operation

The following scheme will be supported:

- Forest Protection Scheme

##### **Description of the Operation**

Support will be provided for the prevention of pest and disease outbreaks and for restoration of forests following pest and disease outbreaks.

Activities to prevent the spread of non-endemic insect, pests and diseases. Dependent on the type of threat, activities may include premature felling of infected trees (for example to contain or eradicate the spread of *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* or Asian Longhorn Beetle), the removal of alternative host species (such as Rhododendron to contain or eradicate the spread of *Phytophthora* spp.) or the direct control of localised pest infestations (for example insecticidal spraying against *Thaumetopoea processionea*).

The supply and planting of replacement plants, in the case of damage caused by pests or diseases will be of alternative non-susceptible species, and their protection.

Damage must have been caused by a pest or disease that has emerged as significant risks in recent years as described by the UK Action Plan for Tree Health and Plant Bio-Security or following a natural disaster or forest fire. In all cases at least 20% of the trees in the affected stand must be infected or damaged.

#### 8.2.5.3.3.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Grant.

#### 8.2.5.3.3.3. Links to other legislation

Forestry Act (Northern Ireland) 2010

Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Northern Ireland) Regulations (2006).

Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC

Article 21 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

Article 67 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013

Article 6 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 807/2014

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 808/2014

Sustainable use of Pesticides Directive 2009/128/EC

Natura Directives

Regulation (EU) 702/2014 or alternatively de minimis Regulation (EU) 1407/2013

#### 8.2.5.3.3.4. Beneficiaries

The eligible beneficiaries are:

Private and public forest holders.

#### 8.2.5.3.3.5. Eligible costs

The following costs are eligible for preventative actions:

- The felling and thinning of affected stands beyond normal silvicultural interventions to remove trees, host vegetation and direct control of pest species and where commercial wood product will not be produced.
- The supply of seedlings of alternative species, their establishment and protection.

#### 8.2.5.3.3.6. Eligibility conditions

Support will only be considered for priority tree pests and pathogens as defined in the UK Plant Health Risk Register and which fall within the scope of the principles within the Plant Biosecurity Strategy for Great Britain. We will continue to work closely with GB to ensure the best possible protection to the UK as a whole, while recognising the importance of close collaboration with the Republic of Ireland to strengthen biosecurity for the whole island of Ireland.

Support relating to restoration will be limited to those cases where at least 20% of the relevant forest potential has been destroyed, this being defined as the loss or imminent loss (both of which have to be confirmed by the relevant plant health authority) of any tree species or combination of tree species that

comprise at least 20% of the net forest area within coupes identified in approved Forest Management or Woodland Creation Plans. Support for felling and thinning will be made for crops that due to their size, age or form will not produce a commercial wood product and where support will encourage woodland cover to be maintained after a pest and disease outbreak.

No support will be provided for loss of income resulting from a natural disaster. All operational work to deal with priority pests and pathogens will be required to comply with the UK Forestry Standard, relevant environmental legislation and biosecurity measures as stipulated by the plant health authority.

All applications seeking support under the Rural Development Programme shall have a woodland management plan that provides justification for the support. Management plans may be prepared specifically to support applications for grant aid or may be pre-existing. All plans must be in accordance with the principles of Sustainable Forest Management as defined by the UK Forestry Standard and shall be valid for a period of five years or more.

Eligibility conditions will be a clear yes/no, relevant and objective, and will be applied in a transparent and consistent way throughout the whole programming period. Failure to demonstrate eligibility will mean the application for support is rejected.

#### 8.2.5.3.3.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Eligibility conditions and selection criteria will consider the European Commission's document on 'Guidelines on Eligibility Conditions and Selection Criteria'. As a first step, projects will be required to meet all the 'eligibility criteria' and as a second step projects will be ranked using selection criteria. The selection process will be competitive and applications will be appraised against one another to ensure those with highest value added will be selected for support.

#### 8.2.5.3.3.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Support will be provided for 100% of the standard cost or the amount of eligible actions.

Where standard costs are used for restoration they will be made using a cost model of £1,585 per hectare for replanting and paid in pounds sterling (Equivalent to €1,932 per hectare at an exchange rate of one euro = £0.82 sterling).

Support for premature felling of infected [or affected] stands will be made available using standard costs for chainsaw fell to waste [including snedding and cross cutting to facilitate restoration planting]. Support will be made using a higher and lower tier approach based on the area to be treated as specified within the Scheme Information Booklet. Standard costs will be independently verified by The Department of Finance and will not exceed £1,000 per hectare.

Support for thinning will be made available using standard costs, independently verified by The Department of Finance and will not exceed £380 per hectare.

All State Aid will comply with Article 34 of Regulation (EU) 702/2014 or alternatively paid under de

minimis Regulation (EU) 1407/2013.

#### 8.2.5.3.3.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.5.3.3.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

##### 8.2.5.3.3.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

##### 8.2.5.3.3.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

#### 8.2.5.3.3.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

#### 8.2.5.3.3.11. Information specific to the operation

Definition and justification of the holding size above which support will be conditional on the submission of a forest management plan or equivalent instrument

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

##### Definition of an "equivalent instrument"

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

[Afforestation and creation of woodlands] Identification of species, areas and methods to be used to avoid inappropriate afforestation as referred to in Article 6(a) of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014, including the description of the environmental and climatic conditions of the areas in which afforestation is foreseen as referred to in Article 6(b) of that Regulation

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

[Afforestation and creation of woodlands] Definition of the minimum environmental requirements referred to in Article 6 of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

[Establishment of agro-forestry systems] Specification of minimum and maximum number of trees to be planted and, when mature, to be retained, per hectare and forest species to be used as referred to in Article 23(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

[Establishment of agro-forestry systems] Indication of environmental benefits of the supported systems

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] Where relevant, list of species of organisms harmful to plants which may cause a disaster

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] Identification of forest areas classified as being at medium to high risk of forest fire according to the relevant forest protection plan

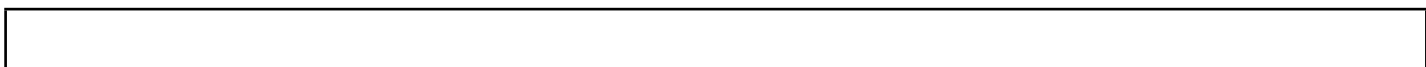
This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] In case of preventive actions concerning pests and diseases, description of a relevant disaster occurrence, supported by scientific evidence, including, where relevant, recommendations on dealing with pests and diseases made by scientific organisations

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

[Investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems] Definition of types of eligible investment and their expected environmental outcome and/or public amenity value

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level



#### 8.2.5.3.4. Sub-measure 8.5 - support for investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems

Sub-measure:

- 8.5 - support for investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems

##### 8.2.5.3.4.1. Description of the type of operation

The following scheme will be supported.

- Woodland Investment Grant

Support for investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems.

This sub measure will support sustainable forest management and improve the environmental value of woodlands, build resilience to climate change and enhance public amenity value of forests. In particular this relates to the needs of improving the management of land resulting in improved environmental and/or climate outcomes by improving resilience of forest ecosystems, protecting priority habitats, action to remove non native invasive species and contributing to improving the ecological status of rivers and water catchments, for example by encouraging low impact silvicultural systems and addressing acid sensitive water catchments.

Support will be for a number of areas:

- Woodland habitats and species - to support operations that will benefit priority habitats or species
- non-woodland habitats - to support operations that will benefit non-woodland habitats or species that are a priority under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan;
- restructuring regeneration - to improve the ecological and environmental value of woodlands through the regeneration of forests by replanting. The aim is to encourage species diversity and improve the resilience of forests to climate change;
- Investments to maintain or improve the quality of water draining from wooded watersheds, particularly the removal of coniferous species adjacent to water courses and replanting with broadleaves.
- investments in public amenity which aims to bring woods back into active woodland management and to enhance public access opportunities and bring the benefits of forests close to where people live. Support includes the establishment of paths, and other access infrastructure, signposting and interpretative information.
- Low Impact Silvicultural Systems – this aims to encourage low impact silviculture to achieve wider species and structural diversity in forests with less rapid change to the landscape and to the physical environment than clear felling systems. Support is for one off operations such as scarification and respacing of natural regeneration.
- support for removing non-native and/or invasive species such as laurel and rhododendron as one-



off intervention.

#### 8.2.5.3.4.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Grant support.

#### 8.2.5.3.4.3. Links to other legislation

Forestry Act (Northern Ireland) 2010

Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Northern Ireland) Regulations (2006).

Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC

Article 21 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

Article 67 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013

Article 6 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 807/2014

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 808/2014

Sustainable use of Pesticides Directive 2009/128/EC

Natura Directives

Regulation (EU) 702/2014 or alternatively de minimis Regulation (EU) 1407/2013

#### 8.2.5.3.4.4. Beneficiaries

The eligible beneficiaries are:

- Public forest holders
- Private forest holders
- Associations of public or private forest holders

The forest land can be owned by the State provided that the holder (manager) of the forest is a private

body or council.

#### 8.2.5.3.4.5. Eligible costs

Eligible costs may include:

- The direct costs associated with the implementation of the investments, this will include materials, services and labour.
- Support will be for the costs of labour and materials (where relevant) for a range of forestry operations such as costs for plants, tree protection by fencing and tree shelters, removal of trees, thinning and pruning to improve the ecological value of woodlands and the removal of non-native species such as rhododendron.

General maintenance and running costs will not be supported

#### 8.2.5.3.4.6. Eligibility conditions

All proposals must comply with the minimum environmental requirements of the UK Forestry Standard.

Support for woodland habitats and species, non- woodland habitats, restructuring regeneration, investments in public amenity will be conditional on providing a forest management plan.

All applications seeking support under the Rural Development Programme shall have a woodland management plan that provides justification for the support. Management plans may be prepared specifically to support applications for grant aid or may be pre-existing. All plans must be in accordance with the principles of Sustainable Forest Management as defined by the UK Forestry Standard and shall be valid for a period of five years or more.

Eligibility conditions will be a clear yes/no, relevant and objective, and will be applied in a transparent and consistent way throughout the whole programming period. Failure to demonstrate eligibility will mean the application for support is rejected.

#### 8.2.5.3.4.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Eligibility conditions and selection criteria will consider the European Commission's document on 'Guidelines on Eligibility Conditions and Selection Criteria'. As a first step, projects will be required to meet all the 'eligibility criteria' and as a second step projects will be ranked using selection criteria that will promote maximum benefit to increase resilience to climate change and enhance public amenity. The selection process will be competitive and applications will be appraised against one another to ensure those with highest value added will be selected for support.

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**8.2.5.3.4.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates**

Support will be provided at a rate of 100% of the eligible actions except where a standard cost is used for regeneration of forests by replanting which will be supported at £600 per hectare as a contribution to the costs defined in the standard cost model.

All State Aid will comply with Article 35 of Regulation (EU) 702/2014 or alternatively paid under de minimis Regulation (EU) 1407/2013.

**8.2.5.3.4.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations**

**8.2.5.3.4.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures**

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

**8.2.5.3.4.9.2. Mitigating actions**

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

**8.2.5.3.4.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure**

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

**8.2.5.3.4.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant**

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

**8.2.5.3.4.11. Information specific to the operation**

Definition and justification of the holding size above which support will be conditional on the submission of a forest management plan or equivalent instrument

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Definition of an "equivalent instrument"

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

[Afforestation and creation of woodlands] Identification of species, areas and methods to be used to avoid inappropriate afforestation as referred to in Article 6(a) of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014, including the description of the environmental and climatic conditions of the areas in which afforestation is foreseen as referred to in Article 6(b) of that Regulation

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

[Afforestation and creation of woodlands] Definition of the minimum environmental requirements referred to in Article 6 of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

[Establishment of agro-forestry systems] Specification of minimum and maximum number of trees to be planted and, when mature, to be retained, per hectare and forest species to be used as referred to in Article 23(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

[Establishment of agro-forestry systems] Indication of environmental benefits of the supported systems

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] Where relevant, list of species of organisms harmful to plants which may cause a disaster

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] Identification of forest areas classified as being at medium to high risk of forest fire according to the relevant forest protection plan

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] In case of preventive actions concerning pests and diseases, description of a relevant disaster occurrence, supported

by scientific evidence, including, where relevant, recommendations on dealing with pests and diseases made by scientific organisations

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

[Investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems] Definition of types of eligible investment and their expected environmental outcome and/or public amenity value

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

#### 8.2.5.3.5. Sub-measure 8.6 - Support for investments in forestry technologies, processing, mobilising and marketing of forestry products

Sub-measure:

- 8.6 - support for investments in forestry technologies and in processing, mobilising and marketing of forest products

##### 8.2.5.3.5.1. Description of the type of operation

The Forestry Competiveness Scheme will provide investments to improve the economic value of small forests of 0.2 hectare or greater and less than 5 hectares. Support will be provided for minor access improvements to forests where thinning/harvesting is imminent. Investment improvements will include: service places for forest machinery and lorries loading timber. Service places includes: lay-bys, loading bays, bell-mouths and timber stacking areas.

##### 8.2.5.3.5.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Support will be provided through grant aid. No advance payments will be available. Single payment of the support approved for the eligible operations will be made after conclusion of the improvements, and on receipt of relevant documentation (e.g. invoices).

##### 8.2.5.3.5.3. Links to other legislation

- Forestry Act (Northern Ireland) 2010
- Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Northern Ireland) Regulations (2006).
- Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC
- Article 21 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013
- Article 67 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013
- Article 6 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 807/2014
- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 808/2014
- Natura Directives

#### 8.2.5.3.5.4. Beneficiaries

- Private forest holders
- Associations of private land holders
- SMEs

There are no limitations on ownership.

#### 8.2.5.3.5.5. Eligible costs

Investments in mobilising of wood. This includes support investments for sustainable and effective use of forest resources. All costs related to the completion of an operation eligible for support will be supported. This includes the cost of materials, transportation of materials, costs of contractors and/or own labour.

The following costs are eligible for support:

- a. The construction, or improvement of immovable property;
- b. General costs linked to the expenditure such as architects, engineers and consultation fees, feasibility studies, the acquisition of patent rights and licences.

It should be noted that (a) and (b) are eligible for the project applicant only, and not for any individual or companies carrying out works on behalf of the project applicant.

Professional will be capped at a maximum of 10% of the total project cost.

The following costs are not eligible for support:

- a. Costs connected with the leasing contract, such as lessor's margin, interest refinancing costs, overheads and insurance charges.
- b. Investments which are likely to have an unacceptable negative effect on the environment.
- c. Holdings or enterprises in difficulty within the meaning of the Union guidelines for state aid in the agriculture and forestry sector and the Union guidelines on State aid for rescuing and restructuring firms in difficulty. (Current article 51 of R. 1974/2006).
- d. Replacement investments and maintenance.
- e. Interest on debt, except in relation to grants given in the form of an interest rate subsidy or guarantee fee subsidy.
- f. Value added tax except where it is non-recoverable under national VAT legislation.

#### 8.2.5.3.5.6. Eligibility conditions

All proposals must meet the minimum requirements of the UK Forestry Standard. A Felling Licence number for the area to be thinned/harvested will normally be required as evidence of imminent harvesting activity.

#### 8.2.5.3.5.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

The principles regarding selection criteria are as follows:

- long-term benefits i.e. will the project deliver outcomes beyond the period of funding;
- value for money i.e. are costs minimised, the relationship between output (wood volume) and cost, relationship between intended and actual outcomes.
- feasibility - e.g. an assessment of whether the project can be successfully completed within the specified timescales, to the agreed standards, and that payment will be realistically claimed within the defined timescale.

#### 8.2.5.3.5.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Support will be provided of 40% of eligible investments.

All State Aid will comply with Article 40 or 41 of Regulation (EU) 702/2014 or alternatively paid under de minimis Regulation (EU) 1407/2013.

#### 8.2.5.3.5.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.5.3.5.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

This has been covered at Measure level, not at Sub-Measure level.

##### 8.2.5.3.5.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

This has been covered at Measure level, not at Sub-Measure level.

##### 8.2.5.3.5.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

This has been covered at Measure level, not at Sub-Measure level.

#### 8.2.5.3.5.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

This has been covered at Measure level, not at Sub-Measure level.



#### 8.2.5.3.5.11. Information specific to the operation

Definition and justification of the holding size above which support will be conditional on the submission of a forest management plan or equivalent instrument

This has been covered at Measure level, not at Sub-Measure level.

Definition of an "equivalent instrument"

This has been covered at Measure level, not at Sub-Measure level.

[Afforestation and creation of woodlands] Identification of species, areas and methods to be used to avoid inappropriate afforestation as referred to in Article 6(a) of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014, including the description of the environmental and climatic conditions of the areas in which afforestation is foreseen as referred to in Article 6(b) of that Regulation

This has been covered at Measure level, not at Sub-Measure level.

[Afforestation and creation of woodlands] Definition of the minimum environmental requirements referred to in Article 6 of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014

This has been covered at Measure level, not at Sub-Measure level.

[Establishment of agro-forestry systems] Specification of minimum and maximum number of trees to be planted and, when mature, to be retained, per hectare and forest species to be used as referred to in Article 23(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

This has been covered at Measure level, not at Sub-Measure level.

[Establishment of agro-forestry systems] Indication of environmental benefits of the supported systems

This has been covered at Measure level, not at Sub-Measure level.

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] Where relevant, list of species of organisms harmful to plants which may cause a disaster

This has been covered at Measure level, not at Sub-Measure level.

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] Identification of forest areas classified as being at medium to high risk of forest fire according to the relevant forest protection plan

This has been covered at Measure level, not at Sub-Measure level.

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] In case of preventive actions concerning pests and diseases, description of a relevant disaster occurrence, supported by scientific evidence, including, where relevant, recommendations on dealing with pests and diseases made by scientific organisations

This has been covered at Measure level, not at Sub-Measure level.

[Investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems] Definition of types of eligible investment and their expected environmental outcome and/or public amenity value

This has been covered at Measure level, not at Sub-Measure level.

#### 8.2.5.4. *Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations*

##### 8.2.5.4.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

###### Risk(s)

An assessment of the proposed activities for the measure identified the following potential main root causes of error as defined in the Commission Staff Working Document SWD(2013) 244 final.

1. Root Cause 2 – Beneficiaries are sometimes not informed and do not take into account the changes caused by the update of the LPIS or other legal changes. The risk is that beneficiaries over-declare areas or do not fill in the maps correctly when claiming
2. Root Cause 7 – Beneficiaries provide incorrect area declarations on claim forms. The main risk is that beneficiaries over-declare areas or do not fill in the maps correctly when claiming.
3. Root Cause 8 – Beneficiaries do not respect commitments. The main risks are that the beneficiaries do not keep the documentation required to evidence that the commitments have been fulfilled; bad weather prevents implementation or deliberate failure to implement the requirements of the commitment.
4. Root cause 10 –Weakness in checking the reasonableness of costs or eligibility conditions. The risk is the information provided by the beneficiary is insufficient to enable the costs to be checked for reasonableness.
5. Root cause 12 – Incorrect system of checks and deficient administrative procedures. Risks could include errors by administrative staff and deficiencies in the checking, approval and recording process
6. Root Cause 15 - Handling of the payment claims by beneficiaries. Risks could include beneficiaries making errors in a claim for payment or failing to include or retain required

documentation.

#### 8.2.5.4.2. Mitigating actions

##### Mitigating Actions

The following mitigating actions will be implemented to address the risks identified:

1. Training and advice for beneficiaries to enhance understanding of scheme conditions, commitments and therefore increase accuracy of claims.
2. Area based data to be consistent with LPIS to improve controls.
3. Relevant training for administrative staff with emphasis on improving checks and controls and payment processing.
4. The provision of clear operating rules for administration teams including the requirements for determining eligible scheme expenditure and supporting evidence requirements for claims in order to complete the administrative check.
5. Completion of Fraud Risk Assessments on each scheme implemented.
6. The Letter of Offer to the beneficiary to clearly detail all eligible expenditure.
7. To make available information and advice to beneficiaries specifying the documentation and level of detail required as evidence of project expenditure and reasonableness of costs.
8. On the spot checks and management re-performance checks to be carried out on claims processed prior to release for payment to identify residual errors.

#### 8.2.5.4.3. Overall assessment of the measure

##### Overall assessment

An analysis of the errors and non-compliances in the implementation of similar measures in the 2007-2013 Rural Development Programme indicates that the Investments in forest area development and viability of forests scheme has a consistent error rate of below 2%. The scheme is currently administered directly by the Department and will continue to be implemented directly for the 2014-2020 programming period. Direct management of the scheme reduces the risk of a lack of experience and training by external providers.

- Corrective and preventative Action 1 – Training for administrative staff. DAERA will ensure that the staff implementing the measure are trained on the scheme requirements and the procedures for processing the payments to beneficiaries.
- Corrective and Preventative Action 2 – Information, training and advice for beneficiaries. One of the lessons learnt from the 2007-2013 current programming period was the need to provide training to beneficiaries. Training for beneficiaries under taking forestry commitments has been

included in Measure (Knowledge transfer and information actions).

- Corrective and Preventative Action 3 – information and guidance documents to ensure beneficiaries understand payment declarations, eligibility of areas and the claims process.
- Corrective and preventative Action 4 – improvement of IT tools to improve electronic applications with updated accurate information and the development of IT applications to check the reasonableness of the payment declarations.
- Corrective and preventative Action 6 – the use of simplified costs for beneficiaries, such as buying plants for planting to reduce the risk of errors and the administrative burden on beneficiaries and administration units.
- Corrective and Preventative Action 7 – improving internal control and coordination procedures through reviewing the results of management re-performance checks, on-the-spot checks, audit recommendations and the review of procedures and forms.
- Corrective and Preventative Action 8 – applying claim reductions in proportion with the non-compliance.

Following consideration of the mitigating actions and the corrective and preventative actions the Managing Authority and Paying Agency have assessed the error rate for the measure as **low**. This reflects the new proposed activity and the effectiveness of the mitigating actions will be reviewed during implementation and the risk rating reassessed.

#### *8.2.5.5. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant*

The payment rate has been based on an assessment of the additional costs incurred to carry out operations to meet commitments. The adequacy and accuracy of the calculation of payments under this Measure will be independently substantiated and certified by the Department of Finance and Personnel, a duly recognised and independent body with the appropriate expertise.

#### *8.2.5.6. Information specific to the measure*

Definition and justification of the holding size above which support will be conditional on the submission of a forest management plan or equivalent instrument

All applications seeking support under the Rural Development Programme shall have a woodland management plan that provides justification for the support. Management plans may be prepared specifically to support applications for grant aid or may be pre-existing. All plans must be in accordance with the principles of Sustainable Forest Management as defined by the UK Forestry Standard and shall be

valid for a period of five years or more.

#### Definition of an "equivalent instrument"

All applications for first afforestation grant support must be accompanied with a Forestry Establishment Plan (an equivalent instrument) which will detail:

1. Details of the objectives of the new planting
2. A map of the proposed planting area
3. A detailed planting plan describing ground preparation, species selection (with percentages), integral open space, planting density and protection needs.
4. Details of planned maintenance for the payment period
5. An indication of proposed management once established

[Afforestation and creation of woodlands] Identification of species, areas and methods to be used to avoid inappropriate afforestation as referred to in Article 6(a) of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014, including the description of the environmental and climatic conditions of the areas in which afforestation is foreseen as referred to in Article 6(b) of that Regulation

All applications will be subject to the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Northern Ireland) Regulations (2006) which will ensure that inappropriate woodland creation projects in sensitive areas are not supported. In all cases the selection of species to be planted shall be appropriate to meet the objectives of the woodland owner and meet the UK Forestry Standard (Governments' approach to sustainable forestry) as a minimum standard.

[Afforestation and creation of woodlands] Definition of the minimum environmental requirements referred to in Article 6 of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014

In all cases the selection of species to be planted shall be appropriate to meet the objectives of the woodland owner and meet the UK Forestry Standard (Governments' approach to sustainable forestry) as a minimum standard.

[Establishment of agro-forestry systems] Specification of minimum and maximum number of trees to be planted and, when mature, to be retained, per hectare and forest species to be used as referred to in Article 23(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

N/A

[Establishment of agro-forestry systems] Indication of environmental benefits of the supported systems

N/A

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] Where relevant, list of species of organisms harmful to plants which may cause a disaster

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) published UK Plant Health Risk Register will be used to inform which plant pests and diseases may cause a disaster.

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] Identification of forest areas classified as being at medium to high risk of forest fire according to the relevant forest protection plan

N/A

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] In case of preventive actions concerning pests and diseases, description of a relevant disaster occurrence, supported by scientific evidence, including, where relevant, recommendations on dealing with pests and diseases made by scientific organisations

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) published UK Plant Health Risk Register will be used to inform support provided under this measure.

[Investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems] Definition of types of eligible investment and their expected environmental outcome and/or public amenity value

The eligible investments are included in the RDP document. These include: Forest planning, restructuring regeneration and one off interventions to improve environmental value of woodlands, investments to maintain or improve water quality and investments in public amenity. Outcomes include protection and enhancement of the environment.

#### *8.2.5.7. Other important remarks relevant to understand and implement the measure*

##### Definition of forest

- “Forest” means land with a minimum area of 0.1 hectares and minimum width of 20 metres under stands of trees with, or with the potential to achieve, a height of 5 metres and crown cover of more than 20% of the ground.
- In the case of afforestation, in **exceptional and fully justified cases** to address water or air quality issues, such as riparian buffer strips or shelter belts, the minimum area may be reduced to 0.1ha (in keeping with the UK definition already accepted by the EU in Decision 529/2013) and minimum width to 10 metres.

- Integral open space shall be limited to 20% of the total forest area. Individual open spaces shall not exceed 0.5 ha or 20 metres in width. Any larger open areas shall not be considered as ‘forest’. Open space shall include forest tracks, rides, wayleaves and other permanent open areas.

### Short Rotation Coppice

Short Rotation Coppice is defined as < 8year rotation and Short Rotation Forestry as an 8 – 20 year rotation length.

## 8.2.6. M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)

### 8.2.6.1. *Legal basis*

Articles 28 and Recital 22 of Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) N° 1305/2013.

Article 67 of Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Common Provisions for the ESI funds N° 1303/2013.

### 8.2.6.2. *General description of the measure including its intervention logic and contribution to focus areas and cross-cutting objectives*

#### **General description of the measure**

With 73%[1] of the Northern Ireland land area in agricultural and forestry use, agriculture has a significant impact on the quality of the soil, water and biodiversity of the flora and fauna of the environment.

The prevailing trend towards fewer, larger, more intensive and specialised farm enterprises will continue to pose a threat to priority species and habitats. Therefore, it is important to ensure that any intensification of agriculture is environmentally sustainable and that environmental management is considered an integral part of agricultural production systems rather than as a separate option.

This measure will build upon the investment in agri-environment schemes since 1992. It is recognised that area based schemes require careful monitoring and control to ensure compliance and to deliver the necessary environmental benefit. During the 2007-2013 Rural Development Programme advice was provided through Countryside Management advisors with environmental training provided by CAFRE. For the 2014-2020 RDP, the provision of specific environmental training will be integrated into the delivery of the agri-environment programme.

#### **Water Quality**

A range of measures to improve water quality have been introduced since 2006. These include regulation through the Nitrates Action Programme and Pesticides National Action Plan, which applies to all farmers in NI, capital assistance for manure storage and advanced slurry spreading systems as well as training and advisory support. This has resulted in improvements in water quality. However, agriculture continues to be the main source of diffuse nutrient pollution of lakes and river systems. In addition to agricultural influences many of Northern Ireland's watercourses have been physically altered by drainage schemes, creation of reservoirs and the fishing industry.

Water Framework Directive (WFD) trophic classification for Northern Ireland's 27 surveillance lakes for 2009-2011 showed that eight lakes and reservoirs were classed as High or Good ecological status. Eight were classed as Moderate - indicative of eutrophic conditions - and 11 were classed as Poor/Bad or exhibiting hypereutrophic conditions.



Nitrate levels in surface freshwaters and groundwater are generally low and stable or decreasing. Long-term trend analysis shows that the monthly trends in average nitrate and phosphorus concentrations in rivers in Northern Ireland are predominantly decreasing or stable.

There is still evidence of eutrophication in a significant proportion of rivers and lakes. However, it will take time for a related response to reductions in nutrient inputs to be detected in biological indicators of trophic status, particularly in lakes which have nutrient build-up in sediments.

Reported failures of water quality standards due to pesticides levels in surface freshwaters and groundwaters are generally low. However, contamination is a problem in some catchments. In 2013 five catchments were identified as at risk from the presence of elevated pesticide levels and mitigation measures have been put in place to reduce the level of pesticides in drinking water at these sites. The Water Catchment Partnership set up in June 2013 is a working partnership between NI Water, Ulster Farmers Union, NIEA, the Voluntary Initiative, DAERA and the College of Agriculture, Food & Rural Enterprise, to promote best practice in pesticide usage within the catchments areas identified as high risk.

Under the Water Framework Directive, the main agricultural pressures on water quality have been identified as:

- Nutrient enrichment from excess phosphorus and nitrogen on agricultural land and farming practice.
- Sediment loss caused by livestock poaching and river bank erosion by livestock.
- Diffuse organic pollution arising from farmyards.

Elevated pesticide levels are a problem in some catchments.

### Biodiversity

Northern Ireland has 51 priority habitat types, several of which, such as peatlands, lowland raised bogs and purple-moor and rush pasture grasslands, are well represented compared to other parts of the UK and Europe. There are 481 priority species which have been identified as requiring conservation action.

At 31 March 2013, a total of 104,600 hectares across 360 sites had been declared as Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI), 85,900 hectares across 57 sites as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), 114,600 hectares across 17 sites as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and 77,700 hectares across 21 sites as Ramsar sites (areas of wetland and waterfowl conservation)[2]

Of the 51 priority habitats, 18 are in declining status, with the other remaining static. Grassland habitats, (and associated wetland habitats) had the largest decline. Conversely, woodland priority habitats have increased due to succession and some tree-planting schemes. The data available for priority species is varied, However, a number of species, including breeding waders such as curlew, are clearly in decline.[3]

The priority habitats and species identified are heavily influenced by land use and particularly agricultural practices. Agricultural intensification over many decades has resulted in a loss of habitat and a decline in biodiversity. Support for environmentally beneficial farming practices is therefore essential to ensure biodiversity is restored, preserved or enhanced. In recent years a number of threats to the native biodiversity of the region have been identified. These include non-native invasive species, scrub

encroachment, under-grazing, cultivation, fragmentation and use of pesticides.

### Climate Change and Air quality

Agriculture is Northern Ireland's most significant emitter of greenhouse gases and ammonia. This emissions profile is largely due to the dominance of the grassland livestock sector. Carbon sequestration through planting of woodland and appropriate management of peatland is also an important measure for mitigating GHG emissions. Spreading animal manures by low emission equipment, such as trailing shoe, will reduce ammonia emissions.

### Development Needs

The following development needs in the intervention logic have been identified:

- To protect priority habitats and species, and environmentally designated sites. This can be done by supporting environmental farming practices that restore, preserve and enhance biodiversity.
- To improve water quality in rivers and lakes through environmentally beneficial farming practices.
- To reduce the carbon footprint of Northern Ireland's agricultural systems.
- To increase small woodland creation in the region.[4]
- To restore, preserve and enhance habitats associated with native wildlife, including farmland birds, and encouraging creation of green infrastructure.
- To support habitat recreation where it contributes to the development of ecological coherent networks improving biodiversity.
- To protect native livestock breeds which are under threat.
- To control invasive alien species.
- To support training and advice for farmers and land managers in the implementation of their agri-environment-climate commitments.
- To ensure that sustainable environmental land management is considered an integral part of production systems.

The measure will support a range of actions which will be tailored to the specific needs of the individual farm. The measure will be complemented by additional actions from other parts of the Programme such as:

- Training for the implementation of agri-environment agreements under Measure 01 – Knowledge Transfer and Information.
- Advisory support for the conservation of priority habitats and species under Measure 02 (Advisory Services).

- Preparation for Natura 2000 Management Plans under Measure 07 (Basic Services and Village Renewal).
- Non-productive investments under Measure 04 (Investments in Physical Assets).
- Woodland Expansion Scheme under Measure 08 (Forestry). The agri-environment measure will support the creation of small woodland areas on farm.

#### Priority 4 Targets

The Priority 4 targets have been calculated only on the basis of the actual area where the management prescription will be implemented. Therefore the figures do not include the whole area of the field parcel within which the prescription is implemented. Previous agri-environment schemes in NI were whole farm schemes and therefore hectares under agreement were considerably higher.

More importantly, the Environmental Farming Scheme (EFS) has been developed to be very focussed. The measures in EFS are dark green and demanding of farmers. Therefore, while it may appear that a large amount of money is being spent in a relatively small area, projected uptake is around 10,000 farms. The target is to have 2,000 higher level and 8,000 wider level agreement holders the over the course of the programme.

It is also important to note that the EFS is part of a package which includes significant further support provided by M02 the Environmental Advisory Service and M07 N2k Management Plans. These elements combine to address the environmental needs identified in the SWOT and increase the overall area being supported. In addition, under M01 training and support for nutrient and soil management will be provided for farmers through Business Development Groups. Therefore, a significant area of land will benefit from improved soil and nutrient management and contribute to Focus Area 4A, 4B and 4C.

#### **Contribution to Focus Areas**

The measure will primarily contribute to focus areas 4A, 4B and 4C.

#### **Contribution to Cross-Cutting Objectives**

The activities funded under this measure will contribute to the cross-cutting objective of the environment, and climate change mitigation and adaptation, through restoring, preserving and enhancing biodiversity and improving soil and water quality.

[1] DARD – Statistical review of Northern Ireland Agriculture 2013

[2] DOE Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report - March 2014

[3] DOE Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report - March 2014

[4] The average area of woodland planted under an agri-environment scheme is 0.23ha.

Environmental Farming Scheme agreements will last for five years and may be revised with the consent of the Department during that period.

Payments for the Environmental Farming Scheme cover only those commitments going beyond the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Annex 2 of Regulation (EC) No 1306/2013, as well as minimum requirements for fertiliser and plant protection product use and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national legislation. Therefore, participants must maintain all land within the schemes in Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC). In particular, and where appropriate, stocking levels on livestock enterprises must be sufficient to prevent undergrazing.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and plant protection product use and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national legislation are set out in Annex B.

Annex A sets out the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 1306/2013 (the cross-compliance and GAEC baselines). These baselines and other relevant mandatory requirements will be clearly set out in the scheme documentation made available to applicants. Observing these baselines is a condition of scheme membership.

*8.2.6.3. Scope, level of support, eligible beneficiaries, and where relevant, methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate broken down by sub-measure and/or type of operation where necessary. For each type of operation specification of eligible costs, eligibility conditions, applicable amounts and support rates and principles with regard to the setting of selection criteria*

8.2.6.3.1. Sub-measure 10.1 – Payment for agri-environment-climate commitments.

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.6.3.1.1. Description of the type of operation

The following schemes/actions will be supported:

- Environmental Farming Scheme.

### **Description of the Operation**

#### **Environmental Farming Scheme**

The Environmental Farming Scheme will provide support to farmers and land managers to carry out environmentally beneficial farming practices. These practices will aim to restore, preserve and enhance biodiversity; improve the quality of water, air and soil; create small woodlands; and help to mitigate climate change.

The scheme will have three levels:

- Higher level - primarily for environmentally designated areas, and priority habitats and species.
- Wider level - to deliver benefits across the countryside, outside of environmentally designated areas; and
- Group level - to support co-operative action by farmers in specific areas such as a river catchment or commonages.

In line with European Commission objectives, a range of scheme measures will aim 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 scheme will provide a range of measures aimed at delivering benefits against the above objectives. The measures have been evaluated and selected under an objective framework, which assessed how they can help to meet scheme objectives, their technical complexity, and how they can be implemented.

#### Agri-environment-climate training

Training is a compulsory element of the Environmental Farming Scheme. The training will provide scheme participants with the knowledge and information required to understand the environmental commitments undertaken and the actions required for successful implementation of the measures within the scheme. Training may be delivered by DAERA staff or there may be situations where it would be contracted to an outside training provider. The training required has been programmed under Measure 01 – Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Payment for costs incurred or income foregone for producing an environmental benefit which is over and above what is required under Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC) , Statutory Management Requirements, Minimum requirements for pesticides and fertilisers, including Integrated Pest Management (IPM) general principles 2 & 8 and normal farming practice.

Support for transaction costs will be provided through actual costs capped at a maximum daily rate.

Non-productive investments required to help deliver certain measures of the Environmental Farming Scheme will be supported under Article 17 (Investments in Physical Assets).

The premia calculations have been approved by the Department of Finance, which is a body independent

from DAERA.

Measures where there is a risk of Greening double-funding have been identified, and payment will be reduced if there is an overlap with Greening requirements.

Support for agri-environment-climate training will be provided through grant aid and simplified costs.

No advance payments will be available.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.3. Links to other legislation

- European Council Regulation 1305/2013, known as the Rural Development Regulation (RDR) aims to encourage and sustain development in the rural areas of EU Member States and stipulates that each member state produces a rural development programme that implements certain measures of the RDR.
- European Council Regulation 1305/2013 aims to support rural development and improve the environment and the countryside. This regulation sets out the essential rules of and the policy measures available to rural development policy for the period 2014 to 2020.
- Payments cover only those commitments going beyond the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Annex 2 of Regulation (EC) No 1306/2013, as well as minimum requirements for fertiliser and plant protection product use and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national legislation. Therefore, participants must maintain all land within the Environmental Farming Scheme in Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC). In particular and where appropriate, stocking levels on livestock enterprises must be sufficient to prevent undergrazing.
- Regulation 808/2014 RD Implementing regulation Annex I, Part 1, point 9 as regards identifying the baseline elements
- Chapter 3 of Regulation 1307/2013 relating to the greening requirements.
- Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds.
- Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora
- Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy.
- Directive 91/676/EEC on nitrate pollution from agricultural sources.
- Directive 2009/128/EC Sustainable use of Pesticides Directive

- GAEC and cross compliance requirements: Organic farmers are subject, where applicable, to the full suite of GAEC and Cross Compliance Requirements (SMRs).
- Greening requirement: Organic farmers may meet the Greening requirement by virtue of a high proportion of permanent grassland or by any other of the various options available, including their organic status.
- Relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and relevant mandatory requirements established by national law.
- The minimum activity requirements will be the same as those under the Environmental Farming Scheme under Article 28

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRD baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.4. Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of the Environmental Farming Scheme will be farmers or land managers, or groups of farmers or land managers.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.5. Eligible costs

##### Environmental Farming Scheme

Payment for costs incurred or income foregone for producing an environmental benefit which is over and above the baseline elements and what is required under Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC), Statutory Management Requirements, minimum requirements for pesticides and fertilisers, other relevant mandatory requirements and normal farming practice.

The measures that are eligible for support under the Environmental Farming Scheme are listed under the Agri-environment-climate commitments and target the following scheme objectives:

- Restore, preserve and enhance biodiversity;
- Improve water management and water quality;
- Prevent soil erosion and improve soil management;
- Foster carbon conservation and sequestration in agriculture; and
- Reduce greenhouse gas and ammonia emissions from agriculture.

Non-productive investments required to help deliver certain measures of the Environmental Farming Schemes will be supported under Article 17 (Investments in Physical Assets).

#### Transaction Costs

Eligible costs will also include transaction costs for preparation of a site specific management plan (SSMP) within each EFS Higher Level agreement. The SSMP will be prepared by a planner that is external to the Department and will detail the environmentally beneficial actions that the farmer / land manager is required to carry out within their agreement.

The transaction cost will be paid on actual costs, which will be capped at a maximum value of £382 per day. It will be made as a one-off payment within the first year of the EFS agreement and will not exceed 20% of the value of the total AECM commitment over the 5 years of the EFS agreement.

#### Agri-environment-climate training

Scheme participants will be provided with the knowledge and information required to understand their agri-environment commitments undertaken. Support will be provided under Measure 01.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.6. Eligibility conditions

All farmers and agricultural land managers with at least 3 hectares of land eligible for Basic Payments will be eligible to apply to the Environmental Farming Scheme.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Scheme beneficiaries will be selected through a process of voluntary application.

Applications for the Environmental Farming Scheme will be invited during a specified period.

A prioritisation mechanism will target EFS support based on environmental criteria.



Applications which deliver most environmental benefit against the scheme objectives of restoring, preserving and enhancing biodiversity, improving water quality, mitigating against climate change, and creating small woodlands on farm, will receive priority entry into the scheme.

Certain areas such as Natura 2000 sites and specific river catchments will be given priority.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Support payment rates will be standard cost calculations, based on costs incurred or income foregone. The payment rates are detailed under the operation sub-measures.

100% of costs incurred and income foregone will be compensated.

The ceiling set for annual payment per hectare at Annex II of the Regulation (EU) 1305/2013 can be increased in duly justified and substantiated cases. Within the sub-measures there are five measures which are above the ceiling in Annex II (these are detailed in the table below).

The annual crop commitments are intended in particular to improve biodiversity of grassland and arable land. They also contribute to a variety of European and National Policy commitments which are described in each of the operational sub-measures.

EFS Options:

- Creation of arable margins – 6m width – cultivated uncropped
- Creation of arable margins – 6m width – rough grass
- Creation of Pollinator margin – 10m width – annual wildflower
- Provision of winter feed crop for wild birds
- Lapwing fallow plot

Costs that exceed the payment ceilings have been calculated on a per hectare (ha) basis. However, the relevant measures will be carried out on relatively small areas of land, mostly below 1 ha.

For example, most agreements will establish pollinator margins that are a lot less than 1 ha in size.

Therefore, the actual payment to the farmer for the measure will be much lower than the p/ha rate that is detailed.

Winter Feed Crop - This measure is restricted to improved, arable or temporary grassland (sown to grass for less than five years). The costs incurred in purchasing the seed are reflected in the payment rate and alone account for approximately 28% of the payment rate. When combined with the associated cultivation and sowing costs incurred by arable farming, the resulting payment rate exceeds the ceiling set in Annex II of Regulation 1305/2013. However, the measure has a maximum plot size of 1ha.

Lapwing Fallow - This measure is restricted to EFS Higher Level and only where the need is identified within a site specific Remedial Management Plan. Large, open arable fields are most suitable for this measure. As there is a relatively small amount of arable land in NI, it is envisaged that uptake of this measure will be low. The payment rate exceeds the ceilings set in Annex II of Regulation 1305/2013 and concerns the loss of production in the area of fallow plot. Moreover, the measure has a maximum plot

size of 2ha.

Transaction costs will be based on actual invoiced costs which will be capped at a maximum value of £382 per day. The number of days required to complete the SSMP will depend on the size and type of site and the complexity of work required for completion. SSMPs which are estimated to take more time than that specified in the guidance published on DAERA's website will require prior approval from DAERA. The overall cost must not exceed 20% of the value of the total AECM commitment over the 5 years of the EFS agreement.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.1.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

##### 8.2.6.3.1.9.2. Mitigating actions

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

##### 8.2.6.3.1.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

##### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4. Agri-environment-climate commitments

###### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.1. Creation of Arable Margins - 6 metre width - Cultivated Uncropped Margins

###### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.1.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below.

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.05

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
CUM1M	Complete the claimed area of 'Creation of Arable margins – 6m width – Cultivated uncropped' by 01 June each year of the EFS agreement		✓	✓
CUM2M	Establish, retain and manage the claimed area of 'Creation of Arable margins – 6m width – Cultivated uncropped' each year for the duration of the EFS agreement			
CUM3M	Establish the 'Creation of Arable margins – 6m width – Cultivated uncropped' adjacent to (physically touching) an arable crop		✓	✓
CUM4M	An average of 6m <sup>2</sup> per 1 metre length of margin must be established		✓	✓
CUM5M	No fertilisers (organic or inorganic) may be used	✓		✓
CUM6M	Do not apply any pesticide to the margin	✓		✓
CUM7M	Retain the 'Creation of Arable Margins – 6m width – Cultivated uncropped' at least until the harvest of the adjacent arable crop		✓	✓
CUM8M	Exclude livestock from date of cultivation until the adjacent arable crop is harvested		✓	✓

Creation of Arable margins – 6 metre width - Cultivated uncropped – verification

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.2. Creation of Arable Margins - 6 metre width - Rough Grass

##### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.2.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below:

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.04

Code	Non-productive investment requirements (capital works)	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
RGM1C	Complete all capital works required (establishing the rough grass margin) by 01 September in the first year of the EFS agreement	✓		✓
RGM2C	Establish the claimed area of 'Creation of arable margins – 6m width - Rough grass' in the field(s) where the option has been approved		✓	✓
RGM3C	An average of 6m <sup>2</sup> per 1 metre length of rough grass margins must be established		✓	✓
RGM4C	Sow a mixture of tussock forming grasses and fine grasses from the list in Table 1. Tussock forming grasses (Cocksfoot, Timothy and Yorkshire fog) must form 15% of the mixture	✓		✓
Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
RGM1M	Retain and manage the same area and location of 'Creation of arable margins – 6m width - Rough grass' for the duration of the EFS agreement		✓	✓
RGM2M	Cut the sward three times in the 12 month period following sowing to achieve successful establishment			✓
RGM3M	After the cutting in the first year following sowing, cut once again in either Year 3 or Year 4		✓	✓
RGM4M	Remove or shred and spread bulky cuttings after all cuttings		✓	✓
RGM5M	Exclude livestock from the rough grass margin in the 12 month period following sowing and from 1 <sup>st</sup> March to 31 <sup>st</sup> July in subsequent years	✓		✓
RGM6M	Keep and provide on request to DAERA evidence of seed mix used (labels/invoices detailing grass seed species, individual species weights and quantity supplied)	✓		✓

Creation of Arable margins – 6 metre width - Rough grass - verification

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.3. Creation of Pollinator Margins - 10 metre width - Annual Wildflower

##### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.3.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.03

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
WFM1M	Complete all claimed area of 'Creation of pollinator margins – 10m width – Annual wildflower' each year of the EFS agreement	✓		✓
WFM2M	Establish, retain and manage the claimed area of 'Creation of pollinator margins – 10m width – Annual wildflower' each year for the duration of the EFS(W) agreement		✓	✓
WFM3M	An average of 10m <sup>2</sup> of wildflower margin per 1 metre length of margin must be established		✓	✓
WFM4M	Sow a 100% wildflower mix containing at least five native annual wildflower species	✓		✓
WFM5M	Sow at a minimum seed rate of 10 kg/ha.	✓		
WFM6M	Do not include game cover crop seed or grass seed in the wildflower mix	✓		
WFM7M	Retain the established area of 'Creation of pollinator margins – 10m width – Annual wildflower' until 15 August each year		✓	✓
WFM8M	Exclude livestock from sowing to 15 August		✓	✓
WFM9M	Keep and provide on request to DAERA evidence of the annual wildflower mix used (labels, invoices detailing mix contents and quantity supplied)	✓		

Creation of Pollinator margins – 10 metre width – Annual wildflower

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.4. Creation of Pollinator Margins - 10 metre width - Pollen and Nectar

##### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.4.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.02

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
PAN1M	Complete the claimed area of 'Creation of Pollinator margins – 10m width – pollen and nectar' in the first year of the EFS agreement	✓		✓
PAN2M	Establish a maximum size of 0.50 ha 'Creation of Pollinator margins – 10m width – pollen and nectar' in any one location		✓	✓
PAN3M	Retain and manage the claimed area of 'Creation of Pollinator margins – 10m width – pollen and nectar' each year for the duration of the EFS agreement		✓	✓
PAN4M	An average of 10m <sup>2</sup> per 1 metre length of 'Creation of Pollinator margins – 10m width – pollen and nectar' must be established		✓	✓
PAN5M	Sow a mixture consisting of at least three species of flowering legumes, one of which must be late-flowering red clover	✓		✓
PAN6M	Cut or lightly graze the 'Creation of Pollinator margins – 10m width – pollen and nectar' every year between 15 September and 31 October, removing cuttings if the margin is cut	✓		✓
PAN7M	Exclude livestock from the margin between 1 March and 14 September.	✓		✓
PAN8M	Re-establish the 'Creation of Pollinator margins – 10m width – pollen and nectar' in the fourth year of the EFS agreement	✓		✓
PAN9M	Keep and provide on request to DAERA evidence of seed mix used (labels, invoices detailing mix contents, quantity supplied)	✓		✓

Creation of Pollinator margins – 10 metre width – Pollen and nectar - verification

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.5. Creation of Riparian Buffers - 10 metre width - Planted with Native Trees including Protective Fencing

##### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.5.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see tables below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.17

**Requirements and Controls**

		Table 1		
Code	Non-productive investment requirements (capital works)	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
BWT1C	Complete all non-productive works required (erection of protective fence, gate(s) and gate posts, planting native trees and shrubs and erecting tree guards and canes) by 01 June in the first year of the EFS agreement	✓		✓
BWT2C	Complete the claimed area of 'Creation of Riparian buffer – 10 metre width - Planted with native trees' in the correct location in the field(s) where the Option has been approved		✓	✓
BWT3C	An average of 10 square metres per 1 metre length of 'Creation of riparian buffer - 10m width - planted with native trees' must be established		✓	✓
BWT4C	Plant the trees at approximately 2.5 metre spacing (this is approximately 1600 trees/ha or 320 trees/0.2 ha in the planted blocks)		✓	✓
BWT5C	Plant the trees and shrubs in 7 metre x 4 metre clumps with approximately 10 m between blocks and protect from grazing livestock.			✓
BWT6C	Plant native trees and shrubs from the tree and shrub species list in Table 1 below	✓		✓
BWT7C	Protect each tree and shrub with a new 1.2 metre tubular or square tree guard and cane			✓
BWT8C	Erect a 'Creation of Riparian buffer – 10 metre width - Planted with native trees' protective fence to least BS 1722-2:2006 and BS 4102 standards on the field side of the riparian buffer		✓	✓
BWT9C	Erect a minimum of one 4.27 metre gate and two gateposts in each 150 metre linear length of protective fence or part 150 metre of protective fence		✓	✓

Creation of Riparian buffers – 10 metre width – Planted with native trees including protective fencing1

		Table 2		
Code	Non-productive investment requirements (capital works)	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
BWT1M	Retain and manage the same area and location of 'Creation of Riparian buffer – 10 metre width - Planted with native trees' for the duration of the EFS agreement. Under this option, farmers will be paid for a period of 5 years, and must retain the buffer for an additional period of 10 years. Farmers can claim the Basic Payment Scheme for the length of the commitment (inclusive of the retention period) if Single Farm Payment was claimed and paid on the land in 2008.		✓	✓
BWT2M	Maintain the 'Creation of Riparian buffer– 10 metre width - Planted with native trees' protective fence, gate(s) and gateposts in a stockproof condition for the duration of the EFS agreement		✓	✓
BWT3M	Successfully establish the newly planted native trees and shrubs for the duration of the EFS agreement		✓	✓
BWT4M	The riparian buffer must not be grazed		✓	✓
BWT5M	Do not cut the 2 metre strip nearest the watercourse between the planted blocks.			✓
BWT6M	No fertilisers (organic or inorganic) may be used	✓		✓

Creation of Riparian buffers – 10 metre width – Planted with native trees including protective fencing – verification

Creation of Riparian buffers – 10 metre width – Planted with native trees including protective fencing2

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.6. Creation of Riparian Buffers - 10 metre width - Ungrazed including Protective Fence

##### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.6.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.16



Code	Non-productive investment requirements (capital works)	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
RBW1C	Complete all capital works required (erection of protective fence and access gates and gateposts) by 01 June in the first year of the EFS agreement	✓		✓
RBW2C	Create the claimed area of 'Creation of Riparian buffers – 10 metre width – Ungrazed' in the correct location in the field(s) where the Option has been approved		✓	✓
RBW3C	An average of 10 square metres per 1 metre length of riparian buffer must be established		✓	✓
RBW4C	Erect the claimed length of riparian buffer protective fence to at least BS 1722-2:2006 and BS 4102 standards on the field side of the riparian buffer		✓	✓
RBW5C	Install a minimum of one 4.27 metre gate and two gateposts for each 150 metre (or part 150 metre) linear length of protective fence		✓	✓
Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
RBW1M	Retain and manage the same area and <del>adj.</del> location of 'Creation of Riparian buffers – 10 metre width – Ungrazed' for the duration of the EFS agreement. Under this option, farmers will be paid for a period of 5 years, and must retain the buffer for an additional period of 10 years. Farmers can claim the Basic Payment Scheme for the length of the commitment (inclusive of the retention period) if Single Farm Payment was claimed and paid on the land in 2008.		✓	✓
RBW2M	Maintain the riparian buffer protective fence and access gate(s) and gateposts in a <del>stockproof</del> condition for the duration of the EFS agreement		✓	✓
RBW3M	Do not cut or graze the vegetation in the 2 metre width next to the watercourse during the EFS agreement		✓	✓
RBW4M	Cut the vegetation in the 8 metre width next to the field after 15 July each year and remove the cuttings	✓		✓
RBW5M	The riparian buffer must not be grazed			✓
RBW6M	No fertilisers (organic or inorganic) may be used	✓		✓

Creation of Riparian buffer – 10 metre width – Ungrazed including protective fence – verification

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.7. Creation of Riparian Buffers - 2 metre width - Planted with Native Trees including Protective Fencing

##### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.7.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and

IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.15

**Requirements and Controls**

Code	Non-productive investment requirements (capital works)	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
BNT1C	Complete all non-productive works required (erection of protective fence, planting native trees and shrubs and erecting tree guards and canes) by 01 June in the first year of the EFS agreement	✓		✓
BNT2C	Complete the claimed area of 'Creation of riparian buffer – 2 metre width - Planted with native trees' in the correct location in the field(s) where the Option has been approved		✓	✓
BNT3C	An average of two square metres per 1 metre length of 'Creation of riparian buffer – 2 metre width - Planted with native trees' must be established		✓	✓
BNT4C	Plant the native trees and shrubs at approximately 2.5 metre spacing in the blocks (this is approximately 1600 trees/ha or 320 trees/0.2 ha)			✓
BNT5C	Plant the native trees and shrubs in 7 metre x 2 metre blocks with approximately 10 metres between blocks and protect from grazing livestock		✓	✓
BNT6C	Plant native trees and shrubs from the tree and shrub species list in Table 1 below	✓		✓
BNT7C	Protect each tree and shrub with a new 1.2 metre tubular or square tree guard and cane			✓
BNT8C	Erect the 'Creation of riparian buffer – 2 metre width - Planted with native trees' protective fence to at least BS 1722-2:2006 and BS 4102 standards on the field side of the riparian buffer		✓	✓

Creation of Riparian Buffers - 2m width - planted with native trees including protective fencing

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
BNT1M	Retain and manage the same area and location of 'Creation of riparian buffer – 2 metre width - Planted with native trees' for the duration of the EFS agreement. Under this option, farmers will be paid for a period of 5 years, and must retain the buffer for an additional period of 10 years. Farmers can claim the Basic Payment Scheme for the length of the commitment (inclusive of the retention period) if Single Farm Payment was claimed and paid on the land in 2008.		✓	✓
BNT2M	Maintain the 'Creation of riparian buffer – 2 metre width - Planted with native trees' protective fence in stockproof condition for the duration of the EFS agreement		✓	✓
BNT3M	Successfully establish the newly planted native trees and shrubs for the duration of the EFS agreement		✓	✓
BNT4M	The riparian buffer must not be cut or grazed		✓	✓
BNT5M	No fertilisers (organic or inorganic) may be used	✓		✓

Creation of Riparian Buffers - 2m width - planted with native trees including protective fencing - 2

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.8. Creation of Riparian Buffers - 2 metre width - Ungrazed including Protective Fence

##### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.8.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.14

## Requirements and Controls

Code	Non-productive investment requirements (capital works)	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
RBS1C	Complete all capital works required (erection of protective fence) by 01 June in the first year of the EFS agreement	✓		✓
RBS2C	Create the claimed area of 'Creation of Riparian buffers – 2 metre width – Ungrazed' in the correct location in the field(s) where the Option has been approved		✓	✓
RBS3C	An average of two square metres per 1 metre length of 'Creation of Riparian buffers – 2 metre width – Ungrazed' must be established		✓	✓
RBS4C	Erect the protective fence to at least BS 1722-2:2006 and BS 4102 standards on the field side of the riparian buffer		✓	✓
Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
RBS1M	Retain and manage the same area and location of 'Creation of Riparian buffers – 2 metre width – Ungrazed' for the duration of the EFS agreement. Under this option, farmers will be paid for a period of 5 years, and must retain the buffer for an additional period of 10 years. Farmers can claim the Basic Payment Scheme for the length of the commitment (inclusive of the retention period) if Single Farm Payment was claimed and paid on the land in 2008.		✓	✓
RBS2M	Maintain the protective fence in a stockproof condition for the duration of the EFS(W) agreement		✓	✓
RBS3M	The riparian buffer must not be cut or grazed		✓	✓
RBS4M	No fertiliser (organic or inorganic) may be used	✓		✓

Creation of Riparian buffers – 2 metre – Ungrazed including protective fence – verification

Creation of Riparian Buffers - 2m ungrazed with protective fence

### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.9. Creation of Traditional Orchard

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.9.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.07

Code	Non-productive investment requirements (capital items)	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
CTO1C	Complete all capital items works required (fruit tree planting, protection with spiral guards and fixing tree to a stake with a tie) by 01 June in the first year of the EFS agreement	✓		✓
CTO2C	Create the claimed area of 'Traditional orchard creation' in the correct location in the field(s) where it has been approved		✓	✓
CTO3C	Fruit trees must be from the approved list of varieties given in Tables 1-5 below			✓
CTO4C	Grafted trees must be grown on standard or half standard rootstock (MM106, MM111 or M116)			✓
CTO5C	At least three different varieties of apple trees must be planted. No variety should comprise more than half the total number of trees in the orchard			✓
CTO6C	Plant bare-rooted trees at an average of 10m spacing which is approximately 100 trees per hectare (approximately 10 trees per 0.10ha)		✓	✓
CTO7C	Fix each newly planted fruit tree to a new stake using a rubber tie			✓
CTO8C	Protect each newly planted fruit tree using a new spiral tree guard and cane. Also protect from grazing livestock.			✓
CTO9C	Retain invoice documents from the supplier showing the number of fruit trees, fruit tree varieties and the rootstocks on which they are grafted	✓		✓
Code	Annual management requirements	Control		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
CTO1M	Retain and manage the same area and location of 'Traditional orchard creation' for the duration of the EFS agreement		✓	✓
CTO2M	Successfully establish newly planted fruit trees for the duration of the EFS agreement			✓

Creation of Traditional orchard - verification

8.2.6.3.1.9.4.10. Creation of Tree Enhanced Boundaries

8.2.6.3.1.9.4.10.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an

integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks. Please see table below:

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.01

### Requirements and Controls

Code	Non-productive investment requirements (capital works)	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
TEB1C	Complete all capital works required (native tree planting, protection with 1.2m tubular or square tree guards and erection of woodcrete bat boxes) by 01 June in the first year of the EFS agreement	✓		✓
TEB2C	Establish the claimed length of 'Creation of Tree enhanced boundaries' in the field(s) where it has been approved	✓		✓
TEB3C	The minimum linear length that must be planted is 100 metres, excluding gate openings, and this must be in one continuous length	✓		✓
TEB4C	Ensure that native trees are planted at least 8m apart			✓
TEB5C	Plant at least eight native trees from the list of Tree species below in each 100 metres length of boundary			✓
TEB6C	Protect each newly planted native tree with a new 1.2m tubular or square tree guard and stake.			✓
TEB7C	Erect one new woodcrete bat box for each 500 metres (or part 500 metres) of tree-enhanced boundary	✓		✓
TEB8C	Erect each woodcrete bat box on a suitable existing mature tree or nearby farm building			✓

Creation of tree enhanced boundaries

### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.11. Follow Up Rush Control

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.11.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.19

### Requirements and Controls

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
RFC1M	Complete all 'Follow-up Rush control' as detailed in the site specific Remedial Management Plan each year in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement			✓
RFC2M	Complete the claimed area of 'Follow-up Rush control' in the fields where the works have been approved by cutting, between 15 July and 15 March	✓		✓
RFC3M	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Follow up rush control - verification

follow-up rush control



### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.12. Follow-up Treatment of Bracken - Mechanised or Chemical

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.12.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.27

#### Requirements and Controls

Code	Non-productive investment requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
BFU1C	Complete all 'Follow-up treatment of Bracken – mechanised or chemical' in the year specified in the site specific Remedial Management Plan			✓
BFU2C	'Complete the claimed area of 'Follow-up treatment of Bracken – mechanised or chemical' in the fields where the works have been approved	✓		✓
BFU3C	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Follow-Up treatment of Bracken – mechanised or chemical (only applicable to sites with no remedial grazing)

follow-up treatment of bracken

### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.13. Heather - Control Burning

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.13.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and



IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.30

Code	Non-productive investment requirements (capital works)	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
HRB1C	Complete all 'Heather - controlled burning' in the first year of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement			✓
HRB2C	Complete the claimed area of "Heather - controlled burning" in the fields where the works have been approved	✓		✓
HRB3C	Keep Field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP)	✓		✓

Heather – Controlled burning -

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.14. Heather Regeneration - Flailing

##### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.14.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.31

Code	Non-productive investment requirements (capital works)	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
HRF1C	Complete all 'Heather regeneration - Flailing' in the first year of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement			✓
HRF2C	Complete the claimed area of "Heather regeneration - Flailing" in the fields where the works have been approved	✓		✓
HRF3C	Heather regeneration - Flailing must be completed using mechanical means.	✓		✓
HRF4C	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management plan	✓		✓

Heather regeneration – Flailing

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.15. Hedge Laying including Two Protective Fences

##### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.15.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.66

Code	Non-productive investment requirements (capital works)	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
LAY1C	Complete all capital works required (hedge laying, interplanting, planting native hedgerow trees and protection with 1.2 metre tubular or square tree guards and erection of two protective fences) by 01 June in the first year of the EFS agreement	✓		✓
LAY2C	Establish the claimed length of 'Hedge laying and interplanting including two protective fences' in the fields where it has been approved	✓		✓
LAY3C	Each individual length of 'Hedge laying including two protective fences' must be a minimum of 10 metres			✓
LAY4C	Lay stems over as close as possible to ground level, and secure them by staking, where necessary, along the full length of the boundary			✓
LAY5C	Plant all gaps larger than one metre long with at least five native woody plants per metre from the Hedge species list in Table 1 below.			✓
LAY6C	Plant or leave un-laid on average eight trees per 100 metre length of boundary. New native trees are selected from the Tree species list in Table 2 below			✓
LAY7C	Ensure newly planted native trees are planted at least 8 m apart			✓
LAY8C	Protect each newly planted native tree with a new 1.2 metre tubular or square tree guard and stake			✓
LAY9C	Erect the claimed length of two protective fences to BS 1722-2: 2006 and BS 4102 on either side of the laid hedge in the field(s) where the Option has been approved in the first year of the EFS agreement		✓	✓

Hedge laying including two protective fences - verification

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.16. Invasive Species Control of Rhododendron and Laurel - Follow-up Spraying Regrowth Control

##### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.16.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.29

Requirements and Controls

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
RLF1M	Complete Rhododendron and Laurel – Follow-up spraying regrowth control detailed in the site specific Remedial Management Plan by 30 June each year, in years 2, 3, 4, and 5 of the EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement			✓
RLF2M	Complete foliar spraying on the claimed area of Rhododendron and Laurel – Follow-up spraying regrowth control in the fields where the works have been approved to ensure that regrowth is no more than 5% cover of the area	✓	✓	✓
RLF3M	Rhododendron and Laurel stems that require cutting should be cut to leave approximately 30 cm (12 inch) stumps			✓
RLF4M	Cut stems must be treated with glyphosate			✓
RLF5M	Rhododendron and Laurel cuttings must be removed from site or burned at an agreed location as identified in the site specific Remedial Management Plan			✓
RLF6M	Standing Rhododendron and Laurel must not be burned			✓
RLF7M	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Invasive species control of Rhododendron and Laurel – Follow-Up spraying regrowth control

rhododendron & laurel follow-up regrowth

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.17. Invasive Species Control of Rhododendron and Laurel - Primary Control

##### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.17.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.28

Requirements and Controls				
Code	Non-productive investment requirements (capital works)	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
RLP1C	Complete all Invasive species control of Rhododendron and Laurel – Primary control' as detailed in the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the first year of the EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement			✓
RLP2C	Complete foliar spraying on the claimed area of Invasive species control of Rhododendron and Laurel – Primary control' in the fields where the works have been approved to ensure that regrowth is no more than 10% cover	✓	✓	✓
RLP3C	Rhododendron and Laurel stems that require cutting should be cut to leave approximately 30 cm (12 inch) stumps			✓
RLP4C	Stems that require cutting must be treated with <del>glyphosate</del>			✓
RLP5C	Rhododendron and Laurel cuttings must be removed from site or burned at an agreed location as identified in the site specific Remedial Management Plan			✓
RFP6C	Standing Rhododendron and Laurel must not be burned			✓
RFP7C	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Invasive Species Control of Rhododendron and Laurel – Primary Control

rhododendron & laurel primary control

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.18. Lapwing Fallow Plot

##### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.18.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.64

## Requirements and Controls

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
LFP1M	Complete the claimed area of 'Lapwing fallow plot' each year of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement	✓		✓
LFP2M	Establish, retain and manage the claimed area of 'Lapwing fallow plot' as detailed in the site specific Remedial Management Plan each year	✓		✓
LFP3M	The minimum plot size is 1.00 ha and the maximum is 2.00 ha	✓		
LFP4M	The 'Lapwing fallow plot' must be in place by 20 March each year			✓
LFP5M	Retain the 'Lapwing fallow plot' until 31 July each year			✓
LFP6M	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Lapwing Fallow Plot

lapwing fallow plot

### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.19. Low Emission Slurry Application Methods

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.19.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.13

## Requirements and Controls

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
LES1M	Complete the claimed area of 'Low emission slurry application methods' each year for the duration of the EFS(W) agreement	✓		✓
LES2M	Slurry applied using band spreader or trailing hose, trailing shoe, or shallow slurry injection equipment or a combination of these methods	✓		✓
LES3M	Keep and provide on request to DARD contractor receipts showing fields where low emission slurry methods have been carried out, dates, method of application and volume (metres cubed/m <sup>3</sup> ) applied in each field	✓		✓

Low emission slurry application methods - verification

low emission slurry

### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.20. Natural Regeneration of Native Woodland

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.20.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.70

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
NRW1M	Establish the claimed area of 'Natural regeneration of Native woodland' Option by 01 June in the first year of the EFS agreement	✓		✓
NRW2M	Establish, retain and manage the same area and location of 'Natural regeneration of Native woodland' for the duration of the EFS agreement	✓		✓
NRW3M	Features within the scrub area, such as open ponds, must be retained		✓	✓
NRW4M	Grazing or cutting is not permitted			✓
NRW5M	Bracken spread must be controlled			✓
NRW6M	Rhododendron and Laurel spread must be controlled			✓
NRW7M	Burning is not permitted			✓
NRW8M	The 'Natural regeneration of native woodland' must be established, retained and managed as detailed in the ssRMP for EFS(H) sites			

Natural regeneration of native woodland – verification

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.21. Planting Native Tree Corridors

##### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.21.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.11



Code	Non-productive investment requirements (capital works)	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
NTC1C	Complete all capital works required (planting native trees and erecting tree guards and stakes) by 01 June in the first year of the EFS agreement	✓		✓
NTC2C	Complete the claimed area of 'Planting Native tree corridors' in the field(s) where the Option has been approved		✓	✓
NTC3C	Plant the trees at approximately 3 m spacing (this is approximately equivalent to 1111 trees/ha or 220 trees/0.2ha)		✓	✓
NTC4C	Plant at least three rows of native trees along the entire corridor from the Tree Species list in Table 1 below		✓	✓
NTC5C	Protect each tree with a tree spiral tree guard and cane			✓
Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
NTC1M	Retain and manage the same area and location of 'Planting Native tree corridors' for the duration of the EFS agreement		✓	✓
NTC2M	Successfully establish the newly planted native trees for the duration of the EFS agreement		✓	✓
NTC3M	Do not allow livestock to graze the tree corridor			✓

Planting Native tree corridors - verification

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.22. Planting New Hedgerows including Two Protective Fences

##### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.22.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any

other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.71

Code	Non-productive investment requirements (capital works)	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
PNH1C	Complete all capital works required (planting hedge, planting native hedgerow trees and protection with 1.2 metre tubular or square tree guards and erecting two protective fences) by 01 June in the first year of the EFS agreement	✓		✓
PNH2C	Each individual length of new hedge planted must be a minimum of 10 metres			✓
PNH3C	Plant the claimed length of 'Planting new hedgerows including two protective fences' in the field(s) where the Option has been approved		✓	✓
PNH4C	Plant at least five native woody plants (one or more species) per metre length from the hedge species listed in Table 1 below.			✓
PNH5C	Plant a native tree selected from the Tree species list below so that there are at least eight trees per 100 metre length of hedge			✓
PNH6C	Ensure the native trees are planted at least 8m apart			✓
PNH7C	Erect the claimed length of two protective fences to BS 1722-2:2006 and BS 4102, on either side of the newly planted hedge in the field(s) where the Option has been approved		✓	✓
PNH8C	Protect each newly planted native tree with a new 1.2 metre tubular or square tree guard and stake			✓

Planting new hedgerows including two protective fences - verification

### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.23. Primary Rush Control

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.23.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.18

### Requirements and Controls

Code	Non-productive investment requirements (capital works)	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
PRC1C	Complete all 'Primary Rush control' as detailed in the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the first year of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement			✓
PRC2C	Complete the claimed area of 'Primary Rush control' in the fields where the works have been approved by cutting between 15 July and 15 March	✓		✓
PRC3C	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Primary rush control - verification

primary rush control

### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.24. Primary Treatment of Bracken - Mechanised or Chemical

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.24.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an

integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.26

### Requirements and Controls

Code	Non-productive investment requirements (capital works)	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
BPT1C	Complete all 'Primary treatment of Bracken – mechanised or chemical' as detailed in the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the first year of the EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement	✓		✓
BPT2C	Complete the claimed area of 'Primary treatment of bracken – mechanised or chemical' in the fields where the works have been approved	✓		✓
BPT3C	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Primary Treatment of Bracken – mechanised or chemical

primary treatment of bracken

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.25. Provision of Winter Feed Crop for Wild Birds

##### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.25.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and

IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below:

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.06

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
WFC1M	Complete the claimed area of 'Provision of winter feed crop for wild birds' each year of the EFS agreement	✓		✓
WFC2M	The maximum size for each individual 'Provision of winter feed crop for wild birds' plot is 1.00ha		✓	✓
WFC3M	Establish, retain and manage the claimed area of 'Provision of winter feed crop for wild birds' each year for the duration of the EFS agreement		✓	✓
WFC4M	Sow a mix consisting of at least one recommended spring cereal from Table 1 below and at least one other seed-providing species from Table 2 below	✓		✓
WFC5M	Do not include grasses or legumes in the sown winter feed crop	✓		✓
WFC6M	Manage the winter feed crop to ensure that the sown species are present over at least 75% of the area		✓	✓
WFC7M	Do not harvest the winter feed crop and keep it in place from sowing to 1 March the following year	✓		✓
WFC8M	Exclude livestock from the winter feed crop from sowing to 1 March the following year			✓
WFC9M	Keep and provide on request to DAERA evidence of the seed mix used (labels, invoices detailing the mix contents and the quantity supplied	✓		

Provision of Winter feed crop for wild birds - verification

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.26. Remedial Management Plan - Breeding Wader

##### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.26.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an

integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.59

### Requirements and Controls

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
BWG1M	Maintain and manage to enhance the same area and location of 'Breeding wader site remedial management' for the duration of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement			✓
BWG2M	Implement the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the field(s) where it has been approved	✓		✓
BWG3M	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Remedial Management Plan – Breeding Wader

breeding wader

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.27. Remedial Management Plan - Calcareous Grassland - All Year Grazing

##### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.27.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS

cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.38

### Requirements and Controls

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
CAG1M	Maintain and manage to enhance the same area and location of 'Calcareous grassland remedial management – all year grazing' for the duration of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement			✓
CAG2M	Implement the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the field(s) where it has been approved	✓		✓
CAG3M	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Remedial Management Plan – Calcareous grassland – All year grazing - verification

calcareous all year grazing

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.28. Remedial Management Plan - Calcareous Grassland - Restricted Grazing

##### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.28.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below



An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.39

### Requirements and Controls

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
CRG1M	Maintain and manage to enhance the same area and location of 'Calcareous grassland remedial management – restricted grazing' for the duration of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement			✓
CRG2M	Implement the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the field(s) where it has been approved	✓		✓
CRG3M	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Remedial Management Plan – Calcareous Grassland – Restricted Grazing - verification

calcareous restricted grazing

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.29. Remedial Management Plan - Coastal Salt Marsh - Restricted Grazing

##### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.29.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.48



## Requirements and Controls

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
CSM1M	Maintain and manage to enhance the same area and location of 'Coastal salt marsh remedial management' for the duration of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement			✓
CSM2M	Implement the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the field(s) where it has been approved	✓		✓
CSM3M	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Remedial Management Plan – Coastal salt marsh – restricted grazing – verification

coastal salt marsh restricted grazing

### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.30. Remedial Management Plan - Coastal Sand Dunes - Restricted Grazing

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.30.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.47

## Requirements and Controls

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
CSD1M	Maintain and manage to enhance the same area and location of 'Coastal sand dunes remedial management' for the duration of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement			✓
CSD2M	Implement the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the field(s) where it has been approved	✓		✓
CSD3M	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Remedial Management Plan – Coastal sand dunes – restricted grazing

coastal sand dunes restricted grazing

### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.31. Remedial Management Plan - Coastal and Flood Plain Grazing Marsh - Restricted Grazing

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.31.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.49

## Requirements and Controls

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
CFR1M	Maintain and manage to enhance the same area and location of 'Coastal and flood plain grazing marsh remedial management' for the duration of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement			✓
CFR2M	Implement the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the field(s) where it has been approved	✓		✓
CFR3M	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Remedial Management Plan – Coastal and flood plain grazing marsh – restricted grazing

coastal & flood plain gazing marsh restricted

### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.32. Remedial Management Plan - Fen

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.32.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.61

## Requirements and Controls

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
FNG1M	Maintain and manage to enhance the same area and location of 'Fen remedial management' for the duration of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement			✓
FNG2M	Implement the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the field(s) where it has been approved	✓		✓
FNG3M	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Remedial Management Plan - Fen

fen

### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.33. Remedial Management Plan - Grasslands (Purple Moorgrass and Rush Pasture

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.33.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.37

## Requirements and Controls

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
PRG1M	Maintain and manage to enhance the same area and location of 'Purple moorgrass and rush pasture remedial management' for the duration of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement			✓
PRG2M	Implement the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the field(s) where it has been approved	✓		✓
PRG3M	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Remedial Management Plan - Grasslands (Purple moorgrass and rush pasture)

purple moorgrass rush pasture

### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.34. Remedial Management Plan - Grazed Mixed Ash Woodland

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.34.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.56

## Requirements and Controls

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
WAG1M	Maintain and manage to enhance the same area and location of 'Grazed mixed ash woodland remedial management' for the duration of the <del>EFS(F)</del> EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement			✓
WAG2M	Implement the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the field(s) where it has been approved	✓		✓
WAG3M	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Remedial Management Plan – Grazed mixed ash woodland

grazed mixed ash woodland

### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.35. Remedial Management Plan - Grazed Oakwood

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.35.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.57

## Requirements and Controls

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
WOG1M	Maintain and manage to enhance the same area and location of 'Grazed oak woodland remedial management' for the duration of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement			✓
WOG2M	Implement the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the field(s) where it has been approved	✓		✓
WOG3M	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Remedial Management Plan – Grazed Oakwood

grazed oakwood

### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.36. Remedial Management Plan - Grazed Wet Woodland

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.36.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.58

## Requirements and Controls

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
WWG1M	Maintain and manage to enhance the same area and location of 'Grazed wet woodland remedial management' for the duration of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement			✓
WWG2M	Implement the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the field(s) where it has been approved	✓		✓
WWG3M	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Remedial Management Plan – Grazed Wet Woodland

grazed wet woodland

### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.37. Remedial Management Plan - Limestone Pavement - All Year Grazing

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.37.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.40



## Requirements and Controls

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
LPA1M	Maintain and manage to enhance the same area and location of 'Limestone pavement remedial management – all year grazing' for the duration of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement			✓
LPA2M	Implement the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the field(s) where it has been approved	✓		✓
LPA3M	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Remedial Management Plan – Limestone Pavement – All Year Grazing - verification

limestone pavement all year grazing

### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.38. Remedial Management Plan - Limestone Pavements - Restricted Grazing

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.38.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.41

## Requirements and Controls

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
LPR1M	Maintain and manage to enhance the same area and location of 'Limestone pavement remedial management – restricted grazing' for the duration of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement			✓
LPR2M	Implement the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the field(s) where it has been approved	✓		✓
LPR3M	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Remedial Management Plan – Limestone Pavements – Restricted Grazing - verification

limestone pavement restricted grazing

### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.39. Remedial Management Plan - Lowland Dry Acid Grassland - All Year Grazing

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.39.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.45

## Requirements and Controls

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
LDA1M	Maintain and manage to enhance the same area and location of 'Lowland dry acid grassland remedial management - all year grazing' for the duration of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement			✓
LDA2M	Implement the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the field(s) where it has been approved	✓		✓
LDA3M	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Remedial Management Plan – Lowland dry acid grassland – all year grazed – verification

lowland dry acid all year grazing

### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.40. Remedial Management Plan - Lowland Dry Acid Grassland - Restricted Grazing

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.40.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.46

## Requirements and Controls

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
LDR1M	Maintain and manage to enhance the same area and location of 'Lowland dry acid grassland remedial management - restricted grazing' for the duration of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement			✓
LDR2M	Implement the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the field(s) where it has been approved	✓		✓
LDR3M	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Remedial Management Plan – Lowland dry acid grassland – restricted grazing

lowland dry acid restricted grazing

### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.41. Remedial Management Plan - Lowland Meadow - All Year Grazing

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.41.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.42

## Requirements and Controls

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
LMA1M	Maintain and manage to enhance the same area and location of 'Lowland meadow remedial management – all year grazing' for the duration of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement			✓
LMA2M	Implement the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the field(s) where it has been approved	✓		✓
LMA3M	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Remedial Management Plan – Lowland Meadow – All Year Grazing - verification

lowland meadow all year grazing

### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.42. Remedial Management Plan - Lowland Meadow - Restricted Grazing

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.42.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.43

## Requirements and Controls

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
LMR1M	Maintain and manage to enhance the same area and location of 'Lowland meadow remedial management – restricted grazing' for the duration of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement			✓
LMR2M	Implement the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the field(s) where it has been approved	✓		✓
LMR3M	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Remedial Management Plan – Lowland meadow – restricted grazing – verification

lowland meadow restricted grazing

8.2.6.3.1.9.4.43. Remedial Management Plan - Lowland Meadow and Purple Moorgrass and Rush Pasture - Cut for Hay

8.2.6.3.1.9.4.43.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.44

## Requirements and Controls

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
HAY1M	Maintain and manage to enhance the same area and location of 'Lowland meadow and purple moorgrass and rush pasture remedial management – cut for hay' for the duration of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement			✓
HAY2M	Implement the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the field(s) where it has been approved	✓		✓
HAY3M	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Remedial Management Plan – Lowland meadow and purple moorgrass and rush pasture – cut for hay

lowland meadow & purple moorgrass & rush pasture cut for hay

### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.44. Remedial Management Plan - Maritime Cliff and Slope - All Year Grazing

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.44.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.50

## Requirements and Controls

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
MCA1M	Maintain and manage to enhance the same area and location of 'Maritime cliff and slope remedial management - all year grazing' for the duration of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement			✓
MCA2M	Implement the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the field(s) where it has been approved	✓		✓
MCA3M	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Remedial Management Plan – Maritime cliff and slope – all year grazing

maritime cliff & slope all year grazing

### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.45. Remedial Management Plan - Maritime Cliff and Slope - Restricted Grazing

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.45.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.51



## Requirements and Controls

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
MCR1M	Maintain and manage to enhance the same area and location of 'Maritime cliff and slope remedial management - restricted grazing' for the duration of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement			✓
MCR2M	Implement the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the field(s) where it has been approved	✓		✓
MCR3M	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Remedial Management Plan – Maritime cliff and slope – restricted grazing  
maritime cliff & slope restricted grazing

### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.46. Remedial Management Plan - Marsh Fritillary

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.46.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.62

## Requirements and Controls

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
MFG1M	Maintain and manage to enhance the same area and location of 'Marsh fritillary remedial management' for the duration of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement			✓
MFG2M	Implement the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the field(s) where it has been approved	✓		✓
MFG3M	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Remedial Management Plan – Marsh Fritillary

marsh fritillary

### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.47. Remedial Management Plan - Moorlands (Blanket Bog)

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.47.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.35

## Requirements and Controls

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
BBG1M	Maintain and manage to enhance the same area and location of 'Moorland (blanket bog) remedial management' for the duration of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement			✓
BBG2M	Implement the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the field(s) where it has been approved	✓		✓
BBG3M	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Remedial Management Plan - Moorlands (Blanket Bog) - verification

moorlands blanket bog

### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.48. Remedial Management Plan - Moorlands (Intact Lowland Raised Bog)

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.48.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.63

## Requirements and Controls

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
ILR1M	Maintain and manage to enhance the same area and location of 'Intact lowland raised bog remedial management' for the duration of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement			✓
ILR2M	Implement the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the field(s) where it has been approved	✓		✓
ILR3M	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Remedial Management Plan – Moorlands (Intact Lowland raised bog)

moorlands intact lowland raised bog

### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.49. Remedial Management Plan - Moorlands (Lowland Raised Bog)

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.49.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.36

## Requirements and Controls

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
LRG1M	Maintain and manage to enhance the same area and location of 'Lowland raised bog remedial management' for the duration of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement			✓
LRG2M	Implement the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the field(s) where it has been approved	✓		✓
LRG3M	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Remedial Management Plan - Moorlands (Lowland Raised Bog) - verification

moorlands lowland raised bog

### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.50. Remedial Management Plan - Moorlands (Lowlands Heath)

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.50.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.33

## Requirements and Controls

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
LHG1M	Maintain and manage to enhance the same area and location of 'Moorland (lowland heath) remedial management' for the duration of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement			✓
LHG2M	Implement the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the field(s) where it has been approved	✓		✓
LHG3M	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Remedial Management Plan – Moorlands (Lowlands heath) - verification  
moorlands lowland heath

### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.51. Remedial Management Plan - Moorlands (Montane Heath)

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.51.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.34

## Requirements and Controls

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
MHG1M	Maintain and manage to enhance the same area and location of 'Moorland (montane heath) remedial management' for the duration of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement			✓
MHG2M	Implement the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the field(s) where it has been approved	✓		✓
MHG3M	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Remedial Management Plan - Moorlands (Montane Heath) - verification

moorlands montane heath

### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.52. Remedial Management Plan - Moorlands (Upland Heath)

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.52.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below:

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.32

## Requirements and Controls

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
UHG1M	Maintain and manage to enhance the same area and location of 'Moorland (upland heath) remedial management' option for the duration of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement			✓
UHG2M	Implement the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the field(s) where it has been approved	✓		✓
UHG3M	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Remedial Management Plan – Moorland (Upland heath) - verification

moorland upland heath

### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.53. Remedial Management Plan - Parkland

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.53.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.52



## Requirements and Controls

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
PKG1M	Maintain and manage to enhance the same area and location of 'Parkland remedial management' for the duration of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement			✓
PKG2M	Implement the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the field(s) where it has been approved	✓		✓
PKG 3M	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Remedial Management Plan – Parkland

parkland

### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.54. Remedial Management Plan - Reedbeds

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.54.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.60

## Requirements and Controls

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
RBG1M	Maintain and manage to enhance the same area and location of 'Reedbed remedial management' for the duration of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement			✓
RBG2M	Implement the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the field(s) where it has been approved	✓		✓
RBG3M	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Remedial Management Plan – Reedbeds

Remedial Management Plan – Reedbeds

### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.55. Remedial Management Plan - Ungrazed Mixed Ash Woodland

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.55.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.53

## Requirements and Controls

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
WAU1M	Maintain and manage to enhance the same area and location of 'Ungrazed mixed ash woodland remedial management' for the duration of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement			✓
WAU2M	Implement the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the field(s) where it has been approved	✓		✓
WAU3M	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Remedial Management Plan – Ungrazed mixed ash woodland

ungrazed mixed ash woodland

### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.56. Remedial Management Plan - Ungrazed Wet Woodland

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.56.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.55

## Requirements and Controls

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
WWU1M	Maintain and manage to enhance the same area and location of 'Ungrazed wet woodland remedial management' for the duration of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement			✓
WWU2M	Implement the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the field(s) where it has been approved	✓		✓
WWU3M	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

### Remedial Management Plan – Ungrazed Wet Woodland

ungrazed wet woodland

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.57. Remedial Management Plan -Ungrazed Oakwood

##### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.57.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.54

## Requirements and Controls

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
WOU1M	Maintain and manage to enhance the same area and location of 'Ungrazed oak woodland remedial management' for the duration of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement			✓
WOU2M	Implement the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the field(s) where it has been approved	✓		✓
WOU3M	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Remedial Management Plan – Ungrazed Oakwood

ungrazed oakwood

### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.58. Retention of Winter Stubble

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.58.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.09

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
RWS1M	Complete the claimed area of 'Retention of Winter stubble' for cereals or oilseed rape crop each year of the EFS agreement			✓
RWS2M	Establish, retain and manage the claimed area of 'Retention of Winter stubble' each year for the duration of the EFS agreement		✓	✓
RWS3M	Do not apply any pre-or post-harvest non-selective herbicides			✓
RWS4M	Noxious weeds must be controlled by non-chemical means, taking account of Integrated Pesticide Management and Health and Safety requirements			✓
RWS5M	Retain the uncultivated stubble post-harvest until 15 February		✓	✓
RWS6M	Harvest the crop and remove the straw		✓	✓
RWS7M	Do not undersow the crop with grasses or legumes	✓		✓

Retention of winter stubble - verification

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.59. Scrub Control - Follow-up Treatment - Sites with Greater than 7cm Diameter

##### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.59.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.25

Code	Non-productive investment requirements (capital works)	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
SHF1C	Complete all 'Scrub control - Follow-up treatment - sites with greater than 7cm diameter' in the specified year detailed in the site specific Remedial Management Plan			✓
SHF2C	Complete foliar spraying with an approved herbicide on the claimed area of 'Scrub control - Follow-up treatment - sites with greater than 7cm diameter' in the fields where the works have been approved to ensure that regrowth is no more than 5% cover over the area	✓	✓	
SHF3C	Scrub stems that require cutting must be cut as close as possible to ground level			✓
SHF4C	Cut stems must be treated with an approved herbicide			✓
SHF5C	Scrub cuttings must be removed from site or burned at an agreed location as identified in the site specific Remedial Management Plan			✓
SHF6C	Standing scrub must not be burned			✓
SHF7C	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Scrub Control – Follow-Up treatment – sites with greater than 7cm diameter

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.60. Scrub Control - Follow-up Treatment - Sites with Less Than 7cm diameter

##### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.60.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.24

Code	Non-productive investment requirements (capital works)	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
SLF1C	Complete all 'Scrub control - Follow-up treatment - sites with less than 7cm diameter' in the specified year detailed in the site specific Remedial Management Plan			✓
SLF2C	Complete foliar spraying with an approved herbicide on the claimed area of 'Scrub control - Follow-up treatment - sites with less than 7cm diameter' in the fields where the works have been approved to ensure that regrowth is no more than 5% cover over the area	✓	✓	
SLF3C	Scrub stems that require cuttings must be cut as close as possible to ground level			✓
SLF4C	Cut stems must be treated with an approved herbicide			✓
SLF5C	Scrub cuttings must be removed from site or burned at an agreed location as identified in the site specific Remedial Management Plan			✓
SLF6C	Standing scrub must not be burned			✓
SLF7C	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Scrub control follow-up - sites with less than 7cm diameter

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.61. Scrub Control Heavy - Greater Than 7cm Diameter - Machine Cut

##### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.61.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot



checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.21

Code	Non-productive investment requirements (capital works)	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
SHM1C	Complete all 'Scrub control heavy, greater than 7cm diameter, machine cut' as detailed in the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the first year of the EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement			✓
SHM2C	Complete foliar spraying with an approved herbicide on the claimed area of 'Scrub control heavy, greater than 7cm diameter, machine cut' in the fields where the works have been approved to ensure that regrowth is no more than 10% cover over the area	✓	✓	
SHM3C	Scrub stems that require cutting must be cut as close as possible to ground level			✓
SHM4C	Cut stems must be treated with an approved herbicide			✓
SHM5C	Scrub cuttings must be removed from site or burned at an agreed location as identified in the site specific Remedial Management Plan			✓
SHM6C	Standing scrub must not be burned			✓
SHM7C	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Scrub Control Heavy - greater than 7cm diameter - Machine Cut

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.62. Scrub Control Heavy - Greater Than 7cm Diameter - Manual Cut

##### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.62.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.23

Code	Non-productive investment requirements (capital works)	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
SHR1C	Complete all 'Scrub control heavy, greater than 7cm diameter, manual cut' as detailed in the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the first year of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement			✓
SHR2C	Complete foliar spraying with an approved herbicide on the claimed area of 'Scrub control heavy, greater than 7cm diameter, manual cut' in the fields where the works have been approved to ensure that regrowth is no more than 10% cover	✓	✓	
SHR3C	Scrub stems that require cutting must be treated with an approved herbicide			✓
SHR4C	Scrub must be cut as close as possible to ground level			✓
SHR5C	Scrub cuttings must be removed from site or burned at an agreed location as identified in the site specific Remedial Management Plan			✓
SHR6C	Standing scrub must not be burned			✓
SHR7C	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

scrub control heavy - greater than 7cm diameter - manual cut

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.63. Scrub Control Light - Less Than 7cm Diameter - Machine Cut

##### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.63.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.20

Code	Non-productive investment requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
SLM1C	Complete all 'Scrub control light, less than 7cm diameter, machine cut' as detailed in the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the first year of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement			✓
SLM2C	Complete the foliar spraying with an approved herbicide on the claimed area of 'Scrub control light, less than 7cm diameter, machine cut' in the fields where the works have been approved to ensure that regrowth is no more than 10% cover	✓	✓	
SLM3C	Cut stems must be treated with an approved herbicide			✓
SLM4C	Scrub stems that require cutting must be cut as close as possible to ground level			✓
SLM5C	Scrub cuttings must be removed from site or burned at an agreed location as identified in the site specific Remedial Management Plan			✓
SLM6C	Standing scrub must not be burned			✓
SLM7C	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

Scrub Control light – less than 7 cm diameter – Machine Cut

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.64. Scrub Control Light - Less Than 7cm Diameter - Manual Cut

##### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.64.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any

other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.22

Code	Non-productive investment requirements (capital works)	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
SLH1C	Complete all 'Scrub control light, less than 7cm diameter, manual cut' as detailed in the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the first year of the EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement			✓
SLH2C	Complete foliar spraying with an approved herbicide on the claimed area of 'Scrub control light, less than 7cm diameter, manual cut' in the fields where the works have been approved to ensure that regrowth is no more than 10% cover over the area	✓	✓	
SLH3C	Scrub stems that require cutting must be cut as close as possible to ground level			✓
SLH4C	Cut stems must be treated with an approved herbicide			✓
SLH5C	Scrub cuttings must be removed from site or burned at an agreed location as identified in the site-specific Remedial Management Plan			✓
SLH6C	Standing scrub must not be burned			✓
SLH7C	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan	✓		✓

scrub control light - less than 7 cm - manual cut

### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.65. Traditional Dry Stone Wall Rebuilding (Double Skin)

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.65.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.68

Code	Non-productive investment requirements (capital works)	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
DSW1C	Complete all capital works required (rebuilding double skin dry stone wall) by 01 June in the first year of the EFS agreement	✓		✓
DSW2C	Each individual length of rebuilt double skin dry stone wall must be a minimum of 2 metres			✓
DSW3C	Complete the claimed length of 'Traditional dry stone wall rebuilding – Double skin' in the field(s) where the Option has been approved			✓
DSW4C	Securely rebuild the double skin dry stone wall from the base		✓	✓
DSW5C	Build walls to reflect the height of nearby stone walls which will generally be a maximum of 1.8 metres			✓
DSW6C	Do not use mortar or cement.			✓

Traditional Dry Stone Wall Rebuilding - Double Skin

### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.66. Traditional Dry Stone Wall Rebuilding (Single Skin)

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.66.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.67

Code	Non-productive investment requirements (capital works)	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
SSW1C	Complete all capital works required (rebuilding single skin dry stone wall) by 01 June in the first year of the EFS agreement	✓		✓
SSW2C	Each individual length of rebuilt single skin dry stone wall must be a minimum of 2 metres			✓
SSW3C	Complete the claimed length of 'Traditional stone wall rebuilding – Single skin' in the field(s) where the Option has been approved			✓
SSW4C	Securely rebuild the single stone wall from the base		✓	✓
SSW5C	Build walls to reflect the height of nearby stone walls which will generally be a maximum of 1.8 metres			✓
SSW6C	Do not use mortar or cement.			✓

Traditional Dry Stone Wall Rebuilding (Single skin) - Verification

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.67. Traditional Native Breeds

##### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.67.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.10

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
IMC1M	Female Irish Moiled cattle must be in herd for the whole of the claim year, with the exception of transferred animals which must be in herd for 11 months of the claim year.	✓		
IMC2M	Female animals must be registered with the Irish Moiled Cattle Society Breed Register.	✓		
IMC3M	Ear tag numbers for all Irish Moiled female animals claimed must be provided so that a cross reference with APHIS and the Irish Moiled Cattle Society Breed Register can be made.	✓		

Traditional native breeds - verification

#### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.68. Watercourse Stabilisation with Fencing

##### 8.2.6.3.1.9.4.68.1. Verification methods of commitments

A robust assessment procedure involving cross checks with IACS, LPIS and GIS databases will be an integral part of pre-approval assessments. Random and targeted, and appropriately timed on-the-spot checks will include visual inspection and GPS measurement supported by inspector checklists which will record individual commitment verification. Farm records will be checked including field records and any other relevant farm records. Annual claims will be subjected to a comprehensive schedule of LPIS and



IACS cross-checks.

Please see table below

An inspector will check the commitments as described in sub-measure 10.1.12

Code	Non-productive investment requirements (capital works)	Control type		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
WSF1C	Complete all capital works required (erection of watercourse stabilisation fencing) by 01 June in the first year of the EFS agreement	✓		✓
WSF2C	Erect the claimed length of watercourse stabilisation fencing in the correct location on the field side of the watercourse in the fields where the Option has been approved		✓	✓
WSF3C	Erect the claimed length of watercourse stabilisation fence to at least BS 1722-2:2006 and BS 4102 standards		✓	✓

Watercourse stabilisation with fencing – verification

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European

Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

#### *8.2.6.3.1.10.1. Agri-environment-climate commitments*

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.1. Creation of Arable Margins - 6 metre width - Cultivated Uncropped Margins

###### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.1.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.5 for this information.

Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level.

Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Phosphorous (Use in Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012

Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Control of Pesticides Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 as amended by the Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997.

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.1.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice on improved, arable and temporary grassland would involve the economic grazing or cropping of the area, and would not involve the creation of blocks of sacrificial crops or unharvested margins which are retained throughout the year.

Therefore this operation is considered not to represent usual farming practice.

Where pesticides use is proposed Integrated Pest Management (IPM), including General Principles 2 and 8, will be considered to be part of usual farming practice.

## 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.2. Creation of Arable Margins - 6 metre width - Rough Grass

### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.2.1. Baseline

#### Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.4 for this information.

#### Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level.

#### Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Control of Pollution (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (SSAFO)

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Phosphorous (Use in Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012

Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Control of Pesticides Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 as amended by the Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997.

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.

\* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.

\* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.

\* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.2.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice on improved, arable and temporary grassland would involve the economic grazing or cropping of the area, and would not involve the creation of blocks of sacrificial crops or unharvested margins which are retained throughout the year.

Therefore this operation is considered not to represent usual farming practice.

Where pesticides use is proposed Integrated Pest Management (IPM), including General Principles 2 and 8, will be considered to be part of usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.3. Creation of Pollinator Margins - 10 metre width - Annual Wildflower

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.3.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.3 for this information.

#### Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level.

#### Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Control of Pollution (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (SSAFO)

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Phosphorous (Use in Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012

Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Control of Pesticides Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 as amended by the Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997.

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
  - \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
  - \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
  - \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
  - \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.
- It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.3.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice on improved, arable and temporary grassland would involve the economic grazing or cropping of the area, and would not involve the creation of blocks of sacrificial crops or unharvested margins which are retained throughout the year.

Therefore this operation is considered not to represent usual farming practice.

Where pesticides use is proposed Integrated Pest Management (IPM), including General Principles 2 and 8, will be considered to be part of usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.4. Creation of Pollinator Margins - 10 metre width - Pollen and Nectar

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.4.1. Baseline

##### Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.2 for this information.

##### Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level

##### Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012

The Control of Pesticides Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 as amended by the Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997.

##### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRD baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.4.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice on improved, arable and temporary grassland would involve the economic grazing or cropping of the area, and would not involve the creation of blocks of sacrificial crops of unharvested margins which are retained throughout the year.

Therefore this operation is considered not to represent usual farming practice.

Where pesticides use is proposed Integrated Pest Management (IPM), including General Principles 2 and 8, will be considered to be part of usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.5. Creation of Riparian Buffers - 10 metre width - Planted with Native Trees including Protective Fencing

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.5.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.17 for this information.

#### Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level

#### Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Control of Pollution (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (SSAFO)

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999



The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Phosphorous (Use in Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012

The Control of Pesticides Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 as amended by the Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997.

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.5.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these riparian areas. Option provides protection and creation of riparian buffer areas with tress, removing them from intensive agricultural production and where necessary providing alternative drinking sources. There is no requirement for land managers to exclude livestock from natural flowing watercourses, plant trees and provide alternative drinking sources Therefore the establishment of these riparian buffer areas, planted with trees, on potentially productive land is considered not to represent usual farming practice.

Where pesticides use is proposed Integrated Pest Management (IPM), including General Principles 2 and 8, will be considered to be part of usual farming practice.

## 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.6. Creation of Riparian Buffers - 10 metre width - Ungrazed including Protective Fence

### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.6.1. Baseline

#### Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.16 for this information.

#### Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level

#### Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Control of Pollution (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (SSAFO)

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Phosphorous (Use in Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRD

baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.6.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these riparian areas. Option provides protection and creation of riparian buffer areas, removing them from intensive agricultural production and where necessary providing alternative drinking sources. Therefore the establishment of these riparian buffer areas on potentially productive land is considered not to represent usual farming practice. There is no requirement for land managers to exclude livestock from natural flowing watercourses and provide alternative drinking sources. This option will restrict livestock from watercourses and may provide alternative drinkers. Therefore this operation is considered not to represent usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.7. Creation of Riparian Buffers - 2 metre width - Planted with Native Trees including Protective Fencing

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.7.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.15 for this information.

#### Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level

#### Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Control of Pollution (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (SSAFO)

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Phosphorous (Use in Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012

The Control of Pesticides Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 as amended by the Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997.

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.7.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these riparian areas. Option provides protection and creation of riparian buffer areas with tress, removing them from intensive agricultural production and where necessary providing alternative drinking sources. There is no requirement for land managers to exclude livestock from natural flowing watercourses, plant trees and provide alternative drinking sources. Therefore the establishment of these riparian buffer areas, planted with trees, on potentially productive land is considered not to represent usual farming practice.

Where pesticides use is proposed Integrated Pest Management (IPM), including General Principles 2 and 8, will be considered to be part of usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.8. Creation of Riparian Buffers - 2 metre width - Ungrazed including Protective Fence

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.8.1. Baseline

##### Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.14 for this information.

##### Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level

##### Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Control of Pollution (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (SSAFO)

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Phosphorous (Use in Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

##### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRD

baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.8.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these riparian areas. Option provides protection and creation of riparian buffer areas, removing them from intensive agricultural production and where necessary providing alternative drinking sources. There is no requirement for land managers to exclude livestock from natural flowing watercourses and provide alternative drinking sources. Therefore the establishment of these riparian buffer areas on potentially productive land is considered not to represent usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.9. Creation of Traditional Orchard

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.9.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.7 for this information.

#### Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level

#### Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007, (also known as the Habitat Regulations), which transposes the Habitats Directive.

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012

The Control of Pesticides Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 as amended by the Control of Pesticides

(Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997.

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.9.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Traditional orchards are managed extensively – that is little or no use of fertilisers or herbicides beneath the trees, or chemical insecticides and fungicides among the branches. The grassland sward is either grazed (by sheep or cattle) or allowed to grow and cut for hay.

Agricultural intensification has led to a fall in this type of land management. The total area of traditional orchard in Northern Ireland is significantly smaller than the rest of the UK.

Therefore this operation is considered not to represent usual farming practice.

Where pesticides use is proposed Integrated Pest Management (IPM), including General Principles 2 and 8, will be considered to be part of usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.10. Creation of Tree Enhanced Boundaries

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.10.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.1 for this information.

#### Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level

#### Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007, (also known as the Habitat Regulations), which transposes the Habitats Directive.

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012

The Control of Pesticides Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 as amended by the Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997.

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

\* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.

\* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.

\* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.10.2. Relevant usual farming practices

The intensification of agriculture (intermittent hedgerow maintenance, hedgerow removal, removal of large hedgerow trees and farmyard building works) contributes to the:

1. Loss or degradation of habitat, e.g. woodland, river corridors, water bodies



2. Loss, disturbance and destruction of roosts

3. Loss and disruption of flight line features (linear landscape elements) such as hedgerows and treelines

This, in turn, contributes to the pressures on bat populations in Northern Ireland.

Therefore this operation is considered not to represent usual farming practice.

Where pesticides use is proposed Integrated Pest Management (IPM), including General Principles 2 and 8, will be considered to be part of usual farming practice.

8.2.6.3.1.10.1.11. Follow Up Rush Control

8.2.6.3.1.10.1.11.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.19 for this information.

Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level

Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Control of Pesticides Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 as amended by the Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
  - \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
  - \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
  - \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
  - \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
  - \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
  - \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.
- It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.11.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these areas and there would be no incentive for land managers to consider all of the pressures adversely affecting the ecological status of semi-natural areas.

Therefore this operation is considered not to represent usual farming practice and goes beyond minimum activities.

Where pesticides use is proposed Integrated Pest Management (IPM), including General Principles 2 and 8, will be considered to be part of usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.12. Follow-up Treatment of Bracken - Mechanised or Chemical

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.12.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.27 for this information.

Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level

Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012

The Control of Pesticides Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 as amended by the Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997.

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.12.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing of these areas, and there would be no incentive for land managers to consider all of the grazing pressures and flora, which have the potential to adversely affect the ecological status of semi-natural areas.

Therefore the establishment of different and beneficial grazing regimes is not considered to represent usual

farming practice.

Where pesticides use is proposed Integrated Pest Management (IPM), including General Principles 2 and 8, will be considered to be part of usual farming practice.

8.2.6.3.1.10.1.13. Heather - Control Burning

8.2.6.3.1.10.1.13.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.30 for this information.

Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level

Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

\* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.

\* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.

\* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value

– a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.

\* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.

\* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.

\* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.

\* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.13.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing and cropping of these areas. There is no incentive for a land manager to burn heather to create firebreaks or create a mosaic of moorland habitats. Therefore heather - controlled burning is not considered to be usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.14. Heather Regeneration - Flailing

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.14.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.31 for this information.

#### Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level

#### Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.14.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing and cropping of these areas. There is no incentive for a land manager to regenerate heather and create a mosaic of moorland habitats on a rotational basis. Therefore heather regeneration through flailing is not considered to be usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.15. Hedge Laying including Two Protective Fences

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.15.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.66 for this information.

#### Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level.

#### Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007, (also known as the Habitat Regulations), which transposes the Habitats Directive.

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012

The Control of Pesticides Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 as amended by the Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997.

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRD baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.15.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Hedgerows are one of the few remaining areas of semi-natural, uncultivated land in the modern farmed

landscape. It is common for hedgerows to remain without maintenance until they become tall and gappy, thus losing their biodiversity benefits and stock proofing qualities. Mechanised cutting and maintenance is replacing traditional methods of rotational management, such as coppicing, laying and pollarding, which can no longer be considered normal farming practices.

Where pesticides use is proposed Integrated Pest Management (IPM), including General Principles 2 and 8, will be considered to be part of usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.16. Invasive Species Control of Rhododendron and Laurel - Follow-up Spraying Regrowth Control

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.16.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.29 for this information.

Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level

Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012

The Control of Pesticides Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 as amended by the Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997.

Minimum activities



In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
  - \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
  - \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
  - \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
  
  - \* As a minimum, the establishment of invasive species on land must be prevented.
  - \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
  - \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
  - \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.
- It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.16.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing and cropping of these areas. Rhododendron is known to be a host for Phytophthora Ramorum, which is the causative agent for Sudden Oak Death and Ramorum Disease of Larch. Despite this, there is no legal imperative for a landowner to remove existing established areas of alien invasive species from their own land. There is no incentive for land managers to actively reduce invasive plant species, which may be adversely affecting the ecological status of semi-natural areas.

Therefore removal of rhododendron is not considered to represent usual farming practice. The control of invasive plant species goes beyond the mandatory requirements (minimum activities) as the objective is to decrease the area of the invasive species on priority habitats, as opposed to merely preventing encroachment.

Where pesticides use is proposed Integrated Pest Management (IPM), including General Principles 2 and 8, will be considered to be part of usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.17. Invasive Species Control of Rhododendron and Laurel - Primary Control

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.17.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.28 for this information.

## Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level

## Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012

The Control of Pesticides Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 as amended by the Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997.

## Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
  
- \*As a minimum, the establishment of invasive species on land must be prevented.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

8.2.6.3.1.10.1.17.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing and cropping of these areas. Rhododendron is known to be a host for Phytophthora Ramorum, which is the causative agent for Sudden Oak Death and Ramorum Disease of Larch. Despite this, there is no legal imperative for a landowner to remove existing established areas of alien invasive species from their own land. There is no incentive for land managers to actively reduce invasive plant species, which may be adversely affecting the ecological status of semi-natural areas.

Therefore removal of rhododendron is not considered to represent usual farming practice. The control of invasive plant species goes beyond the mandatory requirements (minimum activities) as the objective is to decrease the area of the invasive species on priority habitats, as opposed to merely preventing encroachment.

Where pesticides use is proposed Integrated Pest Management (IPM), including General Principles 2 and 8, will be considered to be part of usual farming practice.

8.2.6.3.1.10.1.18. Lapwing Fallow Plot

8.2.6.3.1.10.1.18.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.64 for this information.

Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level

Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012

The Control of Pesticides Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 as amended by the Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997.

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.18.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic cropping and grazing of these areas, which would include spring ground preparation. This option restricts the economic cropping of the area. Therefore this operation is considered not to represent usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.19. Low Emission Slurry Application Methods

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.19.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.13 for this information.

#### Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level

#### Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Control of Pollution (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (SSAFO)

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Phosphorous (Use in Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRD baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.19.2. Relevant usual farming practices

There is no requirement to spread slurry using advanced low-emission techniques. Inverted splash plate is commonplace, resulting in up to 80% of nutrients being lost to the atmosphere in the form of ammonia. Therefore this operation is considered not to represent usual farming practice.

## 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.20. Natural Regeneration of Native Woodland

### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.20.1. Baseline

#### Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.70 for this information.

#### Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level.

#### Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment)

Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRD

baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.20.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing of these areas, and there would be no incentive for land manager to consider all of the grazing pressures adversely affecting the ecological status of semi-natural areas. Therefore this operation is considered not to represent usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.21. Planting Native Tree Corridors

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.21.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.11 for this information.

#### Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level

#### Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Control of Pollution (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (SSAFO)

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012

The Control of Pesticides Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 as amended by the Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997.

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or

cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
  - \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
  - \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
  - \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
  - \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
  - \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
  - \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.
- It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.21.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing of these areas, and there would be no incentive for a land manager to address GHG and biodiversity issues by carrying out measures that will reduce the area available for grazing.

Therefore this operation is considered not to represent usual farming practice.

Where pesticides use is proposed Integrated Pest Management (IPM), including General Principles 2 and 8, will be considered to be part of usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.22. Planting New Hedgerows including Two Protective Fences

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.22.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.1 for this information.

Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level.

Other relevant national/regional requirements



The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Control of Pollution (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (SSAFO)

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999

The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012

The Control of Pesticides Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 as amended by the Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997.

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.22.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Agricultural intensification has led to field boundary removals and reductions in this habitat type. Economies of scale in agriculture mean that there is no incentive to create this habitat.

Therefore this operation is considered not to represent usual farming practice.

Where pesticides use is proposed Integrated Pest Management (IPM), including General Principles 2 and 8, will be considered to be part of usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.23. Primary Rush Control

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.23.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.18 for this information.

Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level

Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Control of Pesticides Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 as amended by the Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

\* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.

\* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.

\* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.  
\* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.  
\* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.  
\* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.  
\* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.  
It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.23.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these areas and there would be no incentive for land managers to consider all of the pressures adversely affecting the ecological status of semi-natural areas.

Therefore this operation is considered not to represent usual farming practice and goes beyond minimum activities.

Where pesticides use is proposed Integrated Pest Management (IPM), including General Principles 2 and 8, will be considered to be part of usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.24. Primary Treatment of Bracken - Mechanised or Chemical

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.24.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.26 for this information.

Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level

Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012

The Control of Pesticides Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 as amended by the Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997.

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible, the establishment of which is to be prevented..
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.24.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing of these areas, and there would be no incentive for land managers to consider all of the grazing pressures and flora, which have the potential to adversely affect the ecological status of semi-natural areas.

Therefore the establishment of different and beneficial grazing regimes is not considered to represent usual farming practice and goes beyond minimum activities.

Where pesticides use is proposed Integrated Pest Management (IPM), including General Principles 2 and 8, will be considered to be part of usual farming practice.

8.2.6.3.1.10.1.25. Provision of Winter Feed Crop for Wild Birds

8.2.6.3.1.10.1.25.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.6 for this information.

Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level

Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Control of Pollution (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (SSAFO)

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Phosphorous (Use in Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012

Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Control of Pesticides Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 as amended by the Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997.

Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

\* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.

\* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.

\* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.

\* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.25.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice on improved, arable and temporary grassland would involve the economic grazing or cropping of the area, and would not involve the creation of blocks of sacrificial crops or unharvested margins which are retained throughout the year.

Therefore this operation is considered not to represent usual farming practice.

Where pesticides use is proposed Integrated Pest Management (IPM), including General Principles 2 and 8, will be considered to be part of usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.26. Remedial Management Plan - Breeding Wader

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.26.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.59 for this information.

Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level

Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Control of Pollution (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (SSAFO)

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Phosphorous (Use in Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.26.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these areas. Remedial management will address undergrazing, overgrazing, damage associated with supplementary feeding sites and lack of active management on grassland, upland moorland sites and other grazed farm habitats. Therefore this operation is considered not to represent usual farming practice.

## 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.27. Remedial Management Plan - Calcareous Grassland - All Year Grazing

### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.27.1. Baseline

#### Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.38 for this information.

#### Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level

#### Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis



throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.27.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these sensitive habitats, which are susceptible to poaching and damage by grazing livestock, as well as being susceptible to undergrazing. There is no incentive for land managers to consider all of the grazing pressures adversely affecting the ecological status of these priority habitats and so the establishment of beneficial grazing regimes is not considered to represent usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.28. Remedial Management Plan - Calcareous Grassland - Restricted Grazing

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.28.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.39 for this information.

Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level

Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

## Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.28.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these sensitive habitats, which are susceptible to poaching and damage by grazing livestock, as well as being susceptible to undergrazing. There is no incentive for land managers to consider all of the grazing pressures adversely affecting the ecological status of these priority habitats and so the establishment of beneficial grazing regimes is not considered to represent usual farming practice.

### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.29. Remedial Management Plan - Coastal Salt Marsh - Restricted Grazing

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.29.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.48 for this information.

#### Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level

#### Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Phosphorous (Use in Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.29.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these sensitive habitats, which are susceptible to poaching and damage by grazing livestock, as well as being susceptible to undergrazing. There is no incentive for land managers to consider all of the grazing pressures adversely affecting the ecological status of these priority habitats and so the establishment of beneficial grazing regimes is not considered to represent usual farming practice.

8.2.6.3.1.10.1.30. Remedial Management Plan - Coastal Sand Dunes - Restricted Grazing

8.2.6.3.1.10.1.30.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.47 for this information.

Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level

Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the

percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.

\* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.30.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these sensitive habitats, which are susceptible to poaching and damage by grazing livestock, as well as being susceptible to undergrazing. There is no incentive for land managers to consider all of the grazing pressures adversely affecting the ecological status of these priority habitats and so the establishment of beneficial grazing regimes is not considered to represent usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.31. Remedial Management Plan - Coastal and Flood Plain Grazing Marsh - Restricted Grazing

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.31.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.49 for this information.

Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level

Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

## The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.31.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these sensitive habitats, which are susceptible to poaching and damage by grazing livestock, as well as being susceptible to undergrazing. There is no incentive for land managers to consider all of the grazing pressures adversely affecting the ecological status of these priority habitats and so the establishment of beneficial grazing regimes is not considered to represent usual farming practice.

### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.32. Remedial Management Plan - Fen

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.32.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.61 for this information.

### Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level

#### Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRD baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.32.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these sensitive habitats, which are susceptible to poaching and damage by grazing livestock, as well as being susceptible to undergrazing. There is no incentive for land managers to consider all of the grazing pressures adversely affecting the ecological status of these priority habitats and so the establishment of beneficial grazing regimes is not

considered to represent usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.33. Remedial Management Plan - Grasslands (Purple Moorgrass and Rush Pasture

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.33.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.37 for this information.

Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level

Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates



that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.

\* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.

\* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.33.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these sensitive habitats, which are susceptible to poaching and damage by grazing livestock, as well as being susceptible to undergrazing. There is no incentive for land managers to consider all of the grazing pressures adversely affecting the ecological status of these priority habitats and so the establishment of beneficial grazing regimes is not considered to represent usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.34. Remedial Management Plan - Grazed Mixed Ash Woodland

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.34.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.56 for this information.

Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level

Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.34.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these sensitive habitats, which are susceptible to poaching and damage by grazing livestock, as well as being susceptible to undergrazing. There is no incentive for land managers to consider all of the grazing pressures adversely affecting the ecological status of these priority habitats and so the establishment of beneficial grazing regimes is not considered to represent usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.35. Remedial Management Plan - Grazed Oakwood

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.35.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.57 for this information.

#### Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level

#### Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.35.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these sensitive habitats, which are susceptible to poaching and damage by grazing livestock, as well as being susceptible to undergrazing. There is no incentive for land managers to consider all of the grazing pressures adversely affecting the

ecological status of these priority habitats and so the establishment of beneficial grazing regimes is not considered to represent usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.36. Remedial Management Plan - Grazed Wet Woodland

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.36.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.58 for this information.

Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level

Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.

\* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.

\* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.

\* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.36.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these sensitive habitats, which are susceptible to poaching and damage by grazing livestock, as well as being susceptible to undergrazing. There is no incentive for land managers to consider all of the grazing pressures adversely affecting the ecological status of these priority habitats and so the establishment of beneficial grazing regimes is not considered to represent usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.37. Remedial Management Plan - Limestone Pavement - All Year Grazing

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.37.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.40 for this information.

##### Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level.

##### Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.37.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these sensitive habitats, which are susceptible to poaching and damage by grazing livestock, as well as being susceptible to undergrazing. There is no incentive for land managers to consider all of the grazing pressures adversely affecting the ecological status of these priority habitats and so the establishment of beneficial grazing regimes is not considered to represent usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.38. Remedial Management Plan - Limestone Pavements - Restricted Grazing

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.38.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.41 for this information.

Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level.

Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.38.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these sensitive habitats, which are susceptible to poaching and damage by grazing livestock, as well as being susceptible to undergrazing. There is no incentive for land managers to consider all of the grazing pressures adversely affecting the ecological status of these priority habitats and so the establishment of beneficial grazing regimes is not considered to represent usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.39. Remedial Management Plan - Lowland Dry Acid Grassland - All Year Grazing

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.39.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.45 for this information.

#### Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level.

#### Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or



cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
  - \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
  - \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
  - \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
  - \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
  - \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
  - \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.
- It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.39.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these sensitive habitats, which are susceptible to poaching and damage by grazing livestock, as well as being susceptible to undergrazing. There is no incentive for land managers to consider all of the grazing pressures adversely affecting the ecological status of these priority habitats and so the establishment of beneficial grazing regimes is not considered to represent usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.40. Remedial Management Plan - Lowland Dry Acid Grassland - Restricted Grazing

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.40.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.46 for this information.

Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level.

Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.40.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these sensitive habitats, which are susceptible to poaching and damage by grazing livestock, as well as being susceptible to undergrazing. There is no incentive for land managers to consider all of the grazing pressures adversely affecting the ecological status of these priority habitats and so the establishment of beneficial grazing regimes is not considered to represent usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.41. Remedial Management Plan - Lowland Meadow - All Year Grazing

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.41.1. Baseline

##### Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.42 for this information.

##### Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level.

##### Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

##### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the

percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.

\* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.41.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these sensitive habitats, which are susceptible to poaching and damage by grazing livestock, as well as being susceptible to undergrazing. There is no incentive for land managers to consider all of the grazing pressures adversely affecting the ecological status of these priority habitats and so the establishment of beneficial grazing regimes is not considered to represent usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.42. Remedial Management Plan - Lowland Meadow - Restricted Grazing

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.42.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.43 for this information.

#### Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level.

#### Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.42.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these sensitive habitats, which are susceptible to poaching and damage by grazing livestock, as well as being susceptible to undergrazing. There is no incentive for land managers to consider all of the grazing pressures adversely affecting the ecological status of these priority habitats and so the establishment of beneficial grazing regimes is not considered to represent usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.43. Remedial Management Plan - Lowland Meadow and Purple Moorgrass and Rush Pasture - Cut for Hay

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.43.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.44 for this information.

## Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level.

## Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Control of Pollution (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (SSAFO)

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Phosphorous (Use in Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

## Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDП baseline.

8.2.6.3.1.10.1.43.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice on lowland meadow would involve grazing and cropping of these areas, using practices which are more economic and less susceptible to the effects of bad weather. Therefore, there would be no incentive for land managers to implement such a traditional management regime to benefit this priority habitat. Therefore this operation is considered not to represent usual farming practice.

8.2.6.3.1.10.1.44. Remedial Management Plan - Maritime Cliff and Slope - All Year Grazing

8.2.6.3.1.10.1.44.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.50 for this information.

Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level.

Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985  
Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011  
Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007  
The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002  
The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003  
The Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999  
The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998  
The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or

cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
  - \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
  - \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
  - \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
  - \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
  - \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
  - \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.
- It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.44.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these sensitive habitats, which are susceptible to poaching and damage by grazing livestock, as well as being susceptible to undergrazing. There is no incentive for land managers to consider all of the grazing pressures adversely affecting the ecological status of these priority habitats and so the establishment of beneficial grazing regimes is not considered to represent usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.45. Remedial Management Plan - Maritime Cliff and Slope - Restricted Grazing

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.45.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.51 for this information.

Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level.

Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985



Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.45.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these sensitive habitats, which are susceptible to poaching and damage by grazing livestock, as well as being susceptible to undergrazing. There is no incentive for land managers to consider all of the grazing pressures adversely affecting the ecological status of these priority habitats and so the establishment of beneficial grazing regimes is not considered to represent usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.46. Remedial Management Plan - Marsh Fritillary

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.46.1. Baseline

##### Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.62 for this information.

##### Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level.

##### Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

##### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the

percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.

\* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.46.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these sensitive habitats, which are susceptible to poaching and damage by grazing livestock, as well as being susceptible to undergrazing. There is no incentive for land managers to consider all of the grazing pressures adversely affecting the ecological status of these priority habitats and so the establishment of beneficial grazing regimes is not considered to represent usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.47. Remedial Management Plan - Moorlands (Blanket Bog)

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.47.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.35 for this information.

##### Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level.

##### Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.47.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these sensitive habitats, which are susceptible to poaching and damage by grazing livestock, as well as being susceptible to undergrazing. There is no incentive for land managers to consider all of the grazing pressures adversely affecting the ecological status of these priority habitats and so the establishment of beneficial grazing regimes is not considered to represent usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.48. Remedial Management Plan - Moorlands (Intact Lowland Raised Bog)

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.48.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.63 for this information.

Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level.

#### Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.48.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these sensitive habitats, which are susceptible to poaching and damage by grazing livestock, as well as being susceptible to undergrazing. There is no incentive for land managers to consider all of the grazing pressures adversely affecting the

ecological status of these priority habitats and so the establishment of beneficial grazing regimes is not considered to represent usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.49. Remedial Management Plan - Moorlands (Lowland Raised Bog)

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.49.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.36 for this information.

Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level.

Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value

– a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.

\* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.

\* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.

\* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.

\* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.49.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these sensitive habitats, which are susceptible to poaching and damage by grazing livestock, as well as being susceptible to undergrazing. There is no incentive for land managers to consider all of the grazing pressures adversely affecting the ecological status of these priority habitats and so the establishment of beneficial grazing regimes is not considered to represent usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.50. Remedial Management Plan - Moorlands (Lowlands Heath)

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.50.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.33 for this information.

#### Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level.

#### Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRD baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.50.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these sensitive habitats, which are susceptible to poaching and damage by grazing livestock, as well as being susceptible to undergrazing. There is no incentive for land managers to consider all of the grazing pressures adversely affecting the ecological status of these priority habitats and so the establishment of beneficial grazing regimes is not considered to represent usual farming practice.



8.2.6.3.1.10.1.51. Remedial Management Plan - Moorlands (Montane Heath)

8.2.6.3.1.10.1.51.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.34 for this information.

Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level.

Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates

that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.

\* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.

\* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.51.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these sensitive habitats, which are susceptible to poaching and damage by grazing livestock, as well as being susceptible to undergrazing. There is no incentive for land managers to consider all of the grazing pressures adversely affecting the ecological status of these priority habitats and so the establishment of beneficial grazing regimes is not considered to represent usual farming practice

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.52. Remedial Management Plan - Moorlands (Upland Heath)

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.52.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.32 for this information.

Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level

Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.52.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these sensitive habitats, which are susceptible to poaching and damage by grazing livestock, as well as being susceptible to undergrazing.

There is no incentive for land managers to consider all of the grazing pressures adversely affecting the ecological status of these priority habitats and so the establishment of beneficial grazing regimes is not considered to represent usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.53. Remedial Management Plan - Parkland

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.53.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.52 for this information.

## Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level.

## Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Control of Pollution (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (SSAFO)

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Phosphorous (Use in Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012

The Control of Pesticides Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 as amended by the Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

## Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the

percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.

\* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.53.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these sensitive habitats, which are susceptible to poaching and damage by grazing livestock, as well as being susceptible to undergrazing. There is no incentive for land managers to consider all of the grazing pressures adversely affecting the ecological status of these priority habitats and so the establishment of beneficial grazing regimes is not considered to represent usual farming practice.

Where pesticides use is proposed Integrated Pest Management (IPM), including General Principles 2 and 8, will be considered to be part of usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.54. Remedial Management Plan - Reedbeds

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.54.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.60 for this information.

#### Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level.

#### Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.54.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these sensitive habitats, which are susceptible to poaching and damage by grazing livestock, as well as being susceptible to undergrazing. There is no incentive for land managers to consider all of the grazing pressures adversely affecting the ecological status of these priority habitats and so the establishment of beneficial grazing regimes is not considered to represent usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.55. Remedial Management Plan - Ungrazed Mixed Ash Woodland

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.55.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.53 for this information.

Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level.

Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.55.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these sensitive habitats, which are susceptible to poaching and damage by grazing livestock, as well as being susceptible to undergrazing. There is no incentive for land managers to consider all of the grazing pressures adversely affecting the ecological status of these priority habitats and so the establishment of beneficial grazing regimes is not considered to represent usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.56. Remedial Management Plan - Ungrazed Wet Woodland

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.56.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.55 for this information.

#### Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level.

#### Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:



\* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.  
\* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.  
\* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.  
\* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.  
\* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.  
\* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.  
\* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.  
It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.56.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these sensitive habitats, which are susceptible to poaching and damage by grazing livestock, as well as being susceptible to undergrazing. There is no incentive for land managers to consider all of the grazing pressures adversely affecting the ecological status of these priority habitats and so the establishment of beneficial grazing regimes is not considered to represent usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.57. Remedial Management Plan -Ungrazed Oakwood

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.57.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.54 for this information.

##### Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level.

##### Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.57.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these sensitive habitats, which are susceptible to poaching and damage by grazing livestock, as well as being susceptible to undergrazing. There is no incentive for land managers to consider all of the grazing pressures adversely affecting the ecological status of these priority habitats and so the establishment of beneficial grazing regimes is not considered to represent usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.58. Retention of Winter Stubble

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.58.1. Baseline

##### Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.9 for this information.

##### Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level.

##### Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Control of Pollution (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (SSAFO)

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Phosphorous (Use in Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012

The Nitrates Action Programme 2015-2018

- The Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 apply to all agricultural land in Northern Ireland.

- The rules aim to improve water quality by protecting water against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources. Key requirements of the regulations include record keeping, adhering to N application limits and observing closed periods when no N applications can be made.

The Control of Pesticides Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 as amended by the Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

##### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

\* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.

\* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.

\* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.58.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Agricultural intensification has led to the establishment of winter cereal crops becoming normal practice. Ploughing in stubbles and resowing in the autumn has significantly reduced the abundance of seed as a winter food source for farmland birds. To retain stubbles and preserve this valuable seed source throughout the winter is no longer considered normal farming practice.

Where pesticides use is proposed Integrated Pest Management (IPM), including General Principles 2 and 8, will be considered to be part of usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.59. Scrub Control - Follow-up Treatment - Sites with Greater than 7cm Diameter

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.59.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.25 for this information.

##### Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level.

##### Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012

The Control of Pesticides Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 as amended by the Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible, the establishment of which is to be prevented.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.59.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these areas. It is likely that scrub encroachment will have an adverse effect on priority habitats before the land becomes ineligible for basic payment and so there is no incentive to act to control scrub at an opportune time.

Therefore this operation is considered not to represent usual farming practice and goes beyond minimum

activities.

Where pesticides use is proposed Integrated Pest Management (IPM), including General Principles 2 and 8, will be considered to be part of usual farming practice.

8.2.6.3.1.10.1.60. Scrub Control - Follow-up Treatment - Sites with Less Than 7cm diameter

8.2.6.3.1.10.1.60.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.24 for this information.

Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level.

Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012

The Control of Pesticides Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 as amended by the Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

## Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible, the establishment of which is to be prevented.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.60.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these areas. It is likely that scrub encroachment will have an adverse effect on priority habitats before the land becomes ineligible for basic payment and so there is no incentive to act to control scrub at an opportune time.

Therefore this operation is considered not to represent usual farming practice and goes beyond minimum activities.

Where pesticides use is proposed Integrated Pest Management (IPM), including General Principles 2 and 8, will be considered to be part of usual farming practice.

### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.61. Scrub Control Heavy - Greater Than 7cm Diameter - Machine Cut

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.61.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.21 for this information.

## Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level.

#### Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012

The Control of Pesticides Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 as amended by the Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible, the establishment of which is to be prevented.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.



#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.61.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these areas. It is likely that scrub encroachment will have an adverse effect on priority habitats before the land becomes ineligible for basic payment and so there is no incentive to act to control scrub at an opportune time.

Therefore this operation is considered not to represent usual farming practice and goes beyond minimum activities.

Where pesticides use is proposed Integrated Pest Management (IPM), including General Principles 2 and 8, will be considered to be part of usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.62. Scrub Control Heavy - Greater Than 7cm Diameter - Manual Cut

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.62.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.23 for this information.

Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level.

Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012

The Control of Pesticides Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 as amended by the Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible, the establishment of which is to be prevented.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.62.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these areas. It is likely that scrub encroachment will have an adverse effect on priority habitats before the land becomes ineligible for basic payment and so there is no incentive to act to control scrub at an opportune time. Therefore this operation is considered not to represent usual farming practice and goes beyond minimum activities.

Where pesticides use is proposed Integrated Pest Management (IPM), including General Principles 2 and 8, will be considered to be part of usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.63. Scrub Control Light - Less Than 7cm Diameter - Machine Cut

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.63.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.20 for this information.

Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level.

Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012

The Control of Pesticides Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 as amended by the Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible, the establishment of which is to be prevented.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis

throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.63.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these areas. It is likely that scrub encroachment will have an adverse effect on priority habitats before the land becomes ineligible for basic payment and so there is no incentive to act to control scrub at an opportune time. Therefore this operation is considered not to represent usual farming practice and goes beyond minimum activities.

Where pesticides use is proposed Integrated Pest Management (IPM), including General Principles 2 and 8, will be considered to be part of usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.64. Scrub Control Light - Less Than 7cm Diameter - Manual Cut

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.64.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.22 for this information.

#### Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level.

#### Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012

The Control of Pesticides Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 as amended by the Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible, the establishment of which is to be prevented.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.64.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these areas. It is likely that scrub encroachment will have an adverse effect on priority habitats before the land becomes ineligible for basic payment and so there is no incentive to act to control scrub at an opportune time.

Therefore this operation is considered not to represent usual farming practice and goes beyond minimum activities.

Where pesticides use is proposed Integrated Pest Management (IPM), including General Principles 2 and 8, will be considered to be part of usual farming practice.

8.2.6.3.1.10.1.65. Traditional Dry Stone Wall Rebuilding (Double Skin)

8.2.6.3.1.10.1.65.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.68 for this information.

Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level.

Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007, (also known as the Habitat Regulations), which transposes the Habitats Directive.

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

\* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.

\* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRD baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.65.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Stone walls are most common in upland rocky areas, where soils are thin and the climate too harsh for hedgerows. Agricultural intensification has meant that many stones have been neglected or removed and replaced by fencing.

Therefore this operation is considered not to represent usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.66. Traditional Dry Stone Wall Rebuilding (Single Skin)

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.66.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.67 for this information.

#### Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level.

#### Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007, (also known as the Habitat Regulations), which transposes the Habitats Directive.

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP

baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.66.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Stone walls are most common in upland rocky areas, where soils are thin and the climate too harsh for hedgerows. Agricultural intensification has meant that many stones have been neglected or removed and replaced by fencing.

Therefore this operation is considered not to represent usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.67. Traditional Native Breeds

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.67.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.10 for this information.

#### Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level.

#### Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

The Control of Pollution (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (SSAFO)

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

#### Minimum activities



In NI the minimum activity on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
  - \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
  - \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
  - \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
  - \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
  - \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
  - \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.
- It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.67.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Irish Moiled cattle are small animals, compared to more common continental breeds. An adult female equates to 0.8LU.

Agricultural intensification has led to larger, more productive breeds being favoured over small breeds.

Therefore, stocking Irish Moiled cattle is considered not to represent usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.68. Watercourse Stabilisation with Fencing

##### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.68.1. Baseline

Relevant GAEC and/or SMR

Please see sub-measure 10.1.12 for this information.

##### Minimum requirements for fertilisers and pesticides

This has been covered at measure level.

##### Other relevant national/regional requirements

The Control of Pollution (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (SSAFO)

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

The Water (Northern Ireland ) Order 1999

The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

#### Minimum activities

In NI the minimum activity on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- \* Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- \* Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- \* Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- \* Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- \* Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- \* If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- \* Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.6.3.1.10.1.68.2. Relevant usual farming practices

Usual farming practice would involve the economic grazing or cropping of these riparian areas. There is no requirement for land managers to exclude livestock from natural flowing watercourses and provide alternative drinking sources. This option will restrict livestock from watercourses and may provide alternative drinkers. Therefore this operation is considered not to represent usual farming practice.

#### 8.2.6.3.2. Sub-measure 10.1.01 - Creation of Tree Enhanced Boundaries (NPI)\*

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.2.1. Description of the type of operation

\* This is a one-off action, to be completed in year one of the agreement, and as such the provisions of M4.4 (non-productive investments) apply.

Aim of commitment: Increase the wildlife value of our existing field boundaries by planting native hedgerow trees and putting up woodcrete bat boxes which will particularly benefit bats. This option will also link existing farmland habitats and enhance the landscape patterns of hedgerows in the countryside.

Description of the commitment: This Option is a combination of essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works) to establish the option with a range of recurring annual management requirements to ensure successful establishment, retention and maintenance of the Option. Payment for the essential capital works is included in the Option payment rate. For EFS(H) sites 'Creation of tree-enhanced boundaries' 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).

Tree-enhanced boundaries are created by planting new native trees, of species from the approved list, into existing field boundaries and putting up bat boxes on suitable existing mature trees. Existing non-gappy hedges with few hedgerow trees are most suitable. There should be some mature trees on the farm so that woodcrete bat boxes can be erected.

The inspector will check:

- That all capital works required (native tree planting, protection with 1.2m tubular or square tree guards and erection of woodcrete bat boxes) have been completed by 01 June in the first year of the EFS agreement;
- That the claimed length of 'Creation of Tree enhanced boundaries' in the field(s) has been established where it has been approved;
- That one continuous length, of at least 100 metres excluding gate openings, has been planted;
- That native trees are planted at least 8m apart;
- That at least eight native trees, from the list of Tree species, has been planted in each 100 metres length of boundary;
- That each newly planted native tree has been protected with a new 1.2m tubular or square tree guard and stake;
- That one new woodcrete bat box, for each 500 metres (or part 500 metres) of tree-enhanced boundary, has been erected on a suitable existing mature tree or nearby farm building;

- That the same linear length and location of ‘Creation of Tree enhanced boundaries’ including number and location of woodcrete bat boxes, has been retained and managed for the duration of the EFS agreement;
- That newly planted native trees have not been cut back; and,
- That the newly planted native trees have been successfully established.

Tree species list:

Crab apple, *Malus sylvestris*

Wild pear, *Pyrus pyrastrer*

Wild plum/Damson, *Prunus domestica*

Wild cherry, *Prunus avium*

Bird cherry, *Prunus padus*

Willow, *Salix* species

Birch, *Betula*

Oak, *Quercus*

Juniper, *Juniperus communis*

Rowan, *Sorbus aucuparia*

Whitebeam, *Sorbus hibernica*

Scots pine, *Pinus sylvestris*

Alder, *Alnus glutinosa*

#### 8.2.6.3.2.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Payment per metre.

#### **Essential capital works:**

The native tree planting, protection with 1.2m tubular or square tree guards and erection of new woodcrete bat boxes are considered as essential capital works.

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Stock-proof fencing

Permanent electric fencing

Where an ssRMP applies, other additional capital works may be included.

8.2.6.3.2.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.2.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.2.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.2.6. Eligibility conditions

The 'Creation of tree-enhanced boundaries' Option is not suitable in breeding wader sites.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

8.2.6.3.2.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.2.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£0.10 per metre.

#### 8.2.6.3.2.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.2.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.2.9.2. Mitigating actions

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.2.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.2.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- GAEC 7: Land managers must not remove or destroy hedges, or any other landscape feature, without the prior written consent of DAERA. Land managers must not cut hedges between 1st March and 31st August.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, their eggs and nests by preserving and maintaining land classified as a Special Protection Area (SPA).
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training

obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

Basis of calculations:

8 trees planted/100m length

1.2m Tubex treeguard @ £1.62 + 1.2cm x 1.2cm x 1.2m tree shelter stake @ £2.40 = £4.02

Chainsaw @ £35/day or £4.47/hr (PED)

Hire tractor (4wd) - £80/day + twin axle trailer - £42.50/day = £122.50 (PED)

Hire 12m trailer mount (for safe access to attach bat box without ladder or scaffolding) @ £100/day

One woodcrete bat box/500m length of hedging @ £60/unit

Costs incurred	£ / m	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required/100m	total cost / m
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>					
Hedgerow trees - plant 8 every 100m			£0.86	8	£0.07
Stakes and Guards			£4.02	8	£0.32
Weed control (1X1m) pre-planting preparation			£0.12	8	£0.01
Labour: notching hedge and planting (2 hours notching + 4 hours planting per 100m)		£6.91		6	£0.41
Hire chainsaw to cut notches and trim hedge @£35/day. 100m completed in 2hours.		£4.37		2	£0.09
Hire tractor and trailer at £122.50/day or £15.31/hr to remove brash and carry materials. 0.4 hour per 100m.		£15.31		0.4	£0.06
Bat box £60.00 each every 500m.			£60.00	0.2	£0.12
12m trailer mount (for safe access to attach bat box without ladder or scaffolding). Minimum hire is 1 day at £100.			£100.00	0.2	£0.20
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					<b>£1.28</b>

creation of tree enhanced boundaries calculations table



#### 8.2.6.3.3. Sub-measure 10.1.02 - Creation of Pollinator Margins - 10m width - Pollen and Nectar

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.3.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: This Option will increase the availability of essential food sources for nectar-feeding insects, including bumblebees and butterflies. The Option also benefits predators, phytophagous (feeding on plants) and other invertebrates, small mammals and farmland birds.

Description of the commitment: This Option is an annual management Option and does not contain essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). A 10m wide margin will be successfully established, re-established in the fourth year, and managed to provide pollen and nectar rich habitat. The ideal location is improved, arable and temporary grassland (sown to grass for less than five years). Choose sheltered sites that receive plenty of sunlight, often the south side of hedges and field corners

The inspector will check that:

- The claimed area of ‘Creation of Pollinator margins – 10m width – pollen and nectar’ has been completed in the first year of EFS;
- The maximum size of 0.50 ha ‘Creation of Pollinator margins – 10m width – pollen and nectar’ in any one location;
- The claimed area of ‘Creation of Pollinator margins – 10m width – pollen and nectar’ has been established, retained and managed each year for the duration of the EFS agreement;
- An average of 10m<sup>2</sup> per 1 metre length of ‘Creation of Pollinator margins – 10m width – pollen and nectar’ has been established;
- A mixture, consisting of at least three species of flowering legumes, one of which must be late-flowering red clover, has been sown;
- The ‘Creation of Pollinator margins – 10m width – pollen and nectar’ has been cut or lightly grazed every year between 15 September and 31 October. If cut, the cuttings have been removed;
- Livestock have been excluded from the margin between 1 March and 14 September;
- The ‘Creation of Pollinator margins – 10m width – pollen and nectar’ has been re-established in the fourth year of the EFS agreement; and,
- Evidence of seed mix used (labels, invoices detailing mix contents, quantity supplied) are available for inspection by DAERA.

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#### 8.2.6.3.3.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

#### **Essential capital works:**

This Option does not contain an essential capital works element.

#### **Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

None.

Where an ssRMP applies, additional capital works may be included.

#### 8.2.6.3.3.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.3.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.3.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.3.6. Eligibility conditions

The Option should not be established on Permanent Grassland Sensitive.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

#### 8.2.6.3.3.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

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8.2.6.3.3.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£465 per hectare
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8.2.6.3.3.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.6.3.3.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.
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8.2.6.3.3.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.
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8.2.6.3.3.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.
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8.2.6.3.3.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- |  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants</li><li>• GAEC4 Land managers must ensure that, after harvest, soil cover is present until the end of the winter. Sow either in March/April or August.</li><li>• GAEC 5 Land managers must ensure that land cultivation is not carried out if water is standing on the surface, or if the soil is waterlogged. Avoid excessive trampling/poaching by livestock</li><li>• SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas</li><li>• SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as</li></ul> |
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### Special Areas of Conservation

- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use
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The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

#### **Basis of calculations:**

Pollen and nectar margins required on all farm types to increase the quantity of food source available to pollen and nectar feeders, in particular bumblebees and butterflies.

Margins will require re-establishment in Year 4 of agreement.

Costings weighted to reflect that 6% of land area is already used for cereal production.

Income forgone is 70% of weighted average income foregone as the limited forage produced can be lightly grazed or mowed and conserved as silage.

	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Costs incurred</b>						
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
Not Applicable						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£0.00	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping (estimated 0.5 hours/ha/year at AWB 2015 management grade Pg. 105)		£9.34		2.5	£23.35	£4.67
Pre-establishment herbicide - £20.21, i.e. 94% of sward kill avg/ha in FBD 2014 Pg. 21 (£21.50/ha). Required each year to achieve good control of grass weeds prior to establishment of margin.	£20.21			0	£0.00	£0.00
Pre-establishment spraying - £25.85, i.e. 94% of £27.50/ha from PED 2014 (£27.50/ha) - excludes chemical. Spray every year of establishment.	£25.85			0	£0.00	£0.00
Ploughing - £68.15, i.e. 94% of Average ploughing lea & stubble avg/ha in FBD 2014 Pg. 98 (£72.50). Required for each establishment, (i.e. x2.)	£68.15			2	£136.30	£27.26
Cultivation - £35.25/ha, i.e. 94% of power harrowing avg /ha in FBD 2014 Pg. 98 (£37.50/ha). Required twice in each establishment (i.e. x4).	£35.25			4	£141.00	£28.20
Seed sowing - £28.80, i.e. 94% of combined drilling avg /ha in FBD 2014 Pg. 98 (£30/ha).	£28.80			2	£57.60	£11.52

Creation of Pollinator margins – 10 metre width – Pollen and nectar (1)

Costs incurred	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required	total cost	£ / ha / yr
Seed. Required in year 1 & 4 of EFS. Prices online from Cotswold Seeds (Operation pollinator mix) = £106.92/ha based on 12Kg/ha excluding carriage; Boston Seeds Premium nectar flower mix = £253.00/ha based on 20Kg/ha excluding carriage. Average of these used.	£180.00			2	£360.00	£72.00
Rolling (heavy avg/ha in FBD 2014 Pg. 98). Required in year 1 & 4 of EFS.	£21.50			2	£43.00	£8.60
Mowing for management. (Conventional mowing avg/ha FBD 2014 Pg. 99).	£35.00			5	£175.00	£35.00
Removing of forage cuttings - £7.75 avg big bale silage cost in FBD 2014 Pg. 99 at 4 bales per ha based on 16% of avg commercial big bale production of 25 bales per ha (Cafre). Recommended for each mowing.	£31.00			5	£155.00	£31.00
<i>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</i>						£218.25
<b>Income forgone</b>	<b>£ / ha</b>	<b>% loss</b>			<b>total loss</b>	<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
Lowland Gross Margin	£353.00	70.00%		5	£1,235.50	£247.10
<i>Subtotal (Income forgone)</i>						£247.10
						<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						<b>£465.35</b>
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						<b>£465/ha</b>

Creation of Pollinator margins – 10 metre width – Pollen and nectar (2)

#### 8.2.6.3.4. Sub-measure 10.1.03 - Creation of Pollinator Margins 10m width - Annual Wildflower Margins

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.4.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To create wildflower rich areas on cultivated land that will provide a food source for a range of nectar-feeding insects, including butterflies and bumblebees.

Description of the commitment: This Option is an annual management Option and does not contain essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). A 10 metres annual wildflower margin is created each year. Re-establishing each year will create an annual flower-rich habitat. The ideal location is improved, arable and temporary grassland (sown to grass for less than five years). Choose sheltered sites that receive plenty of sunlight, often the south side of hedges. This is a rotational option. This means that it can be moved around the farm in the normal rotation, but the agreed total area must be planted and maintained each year of the agreement.

The inspector will check that:

- All of the claimed area of ‘Creation of pollinator margins – 10m width – Annual wildflower’ has been completed in each year of the EFS agreement;
- The claimed area of ‘Creation of pollinator margins – 10m width – Annual wildflower’ has been established and retained and managed in each year for the duration of the EFS agreement;
- An average of 10m<sup>2</sup> of wildflower margin per 1 metre length of margin has been established;
- A 100% wildflower mix containing at least five annual wildflower species has been sown;
- The seed has been sown at a minimum seed rate of 10 kg/ha;
- Game cover crop seed or grass seed has not been included in the wildflower mix;
- The established area of ‘Creation of pollinator margins – 10m width – Annual wildflower’ is been retained until 15 August each year;
- Livestock are excluded from sowing to 15 August; and,
- Evidence of the annual wildflower mix used (labels, invoices detailing mix contents and quantity supplied is available to DAERA for inspection.

##### 8.2.6.3.4.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Essential capital works:**

This Option does not contain an essential capital works element.

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

None.

Where an ssRMP applies, additional capital works may be included.

8.2.6.3.4.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.4.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.4.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.4.6. Eligibility conditions

Wildflower margins should not be sited on permanent grassland sensitive, on wet or shaded areas or adjacent to semi-natural or species-rich grassland.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1



#### 8.2.6.3.4.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.4.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£2530 per hectare

#### 8.2.6.3.4.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.4.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.4.9.2. Mitigating actions

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.4.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.4.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants
- GAEC4 Land managers must ensure that, after harvest, soil cover is present until the end of the

winter. Sow either in March/April or August.

- GAEC 5 Land managers must ensure that land cultivation is not carried out if water is standing on the surface, or if the soil is waterlogged. Avoid excessive trampling/poaching by livestock
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Wildflower margins required on all farm types to increase the quantity of food source available to pollen and nectar feeders, in particular bumblebees and butterflies.

It is anticipated that there will be more suited to arable farmers who have the necessary skills to establish this type of crop.

Location may change each year. Costings weighted to assume that 10% of scheme participants will

change location annually.

Costings wighted to reflect that 6% of land area is already used for cereal production.

Seed prices:

- (i) 20Kg/ha @ £99/Kg = £1980/ha 1 year Hi-colour mix at 2.0g/m<sup>2</sup> (online from ECO seeds Co-Down).
- (ii) 20kg/ha @ £79.32/kg = £1586.40/ha WF10 Cornfields annuals (online from Germinal Holdings, Banbridge)

Costs incurred (assuming annual mix chosen)	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
N/A						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£0.00	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
<b>Planning, resource sourcing, organisation &amp; record keeping</b> (estimated 1hours/ha/year at AWB 2015 management grade		£9.34		5	£46.70	£9.34
<b>Pre-establishment herbicide</b> £20.21, i.e. 94% of sward kill avg/ha in FBD 2014 Pg. 21 (£21.50/ha). Only pre-sowing herbicide allowed. Weeds can restrict establishment of sown species so weed control pre-sowing is recommended. Where option is following grass, 2 treatments are recommended. When following arable crop, 1 treatment should suffice. Approx 10% will require two treatments since 10% of scheme participants will change location annually.	£20.21			0	£0.00	£0.00
<b>Ploughing</b> Ploughing - £68.15, i.e. 94% of Average ploughing lea & stubble avg/ha in FBD 2014 Pg. 98 (£72.50). Required in Year 1 - 5.	£68.15			5	£340.75	£68.15
<b>Cultivation</b> Cultivation - £35.25/ha, i.e. 94% of power harrowing avg /ha in FBD 2014 Pg. 98 (£37.50/ha). Required in Year 1 - 5.	£35.25			10	£352.50	£70.50
<b>Spraying</b> £25.85, i.e. 94% of £27.50/ha from PED 2014 (£27.50/ha)) - excludes chemical. Required each year. Assumptions as above.	£25.85			0	£0.00	£0.00

Costs incurred (assuming annual mix chosen)	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Seed mix</b>	£1,980.00			5	£9,900.00	£1,980.00
<b>Seed sowing</b> - £28.80, i.e. 94% of combined drilling avg /ha in FBD 2014 Pg. 98 (£30/ha).	£28.80			5	£144.00	£28.80
<b>Rolling</b> (heavy avg/ha in FBD 2014 Pg. 98). Required each year of EFS.	£21.50			5	£107.50	£21.50
<i>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</i>						£2,178.29
<b>Income forgone</b>	£ / ha	% loss			<b>total loss</b>	£ / ha / yr
Average Gross Margin	£353.00	100.00 %		5	£1,765.00	£353.00
<i>Subtotal (Income forgone)</i>						£353.00
						£ / ha / yr
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						£2,531.29
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						£2,530.00

Creation of Pollinator margins – 10 metre width – Annual wildflower (2)

#### 8.2.6.3.5. Sub-measure 10.1.04 - Creation of Arable Margins - 6m width - Rough Grass Margins

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.5.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: Rough grass margins provide habitat for overwintering invertebrates, some of which prey on pests of cereals, and nesting and foraging sites for birds and mammals.

Description of the commitment: This Option is a combination of essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works) to establish the Option with a range of annual management requirements to ensure successful establishment, retention and maintenance of the Option. Successfully establish and manage 6m wide rough grass margins to provide a structurally diverse non-competitive grass sward habitat for the period of the agreement. They must be established in the first year of the agreement. 'Creation of arable margins – 6m width - Rough grass' must be established in arable fields, preferably adjacent to woodland, scrub, hedgerows or waterways for maximum wildlife benefit.

##### Seed Mix:

The seed mix must contain both tussock-forming grasses and fine grasses.

Table 1:

- Tussock-forming grasses (15% of mix)
- Cocksfoot
- Timothy
- Yorkshire fog

Fine grasses (85% of mix)

- Red fescue
- Sheep's fescue
- Creeping fescue
- Rough stalked meadow grass
- Smooth meadow grass
- Common bent
- Creeping bent
- Sweet vernal grass
- Crested dog's tail
- Meadow foxtail

Recommended seed rate is 20 kg/ha.

The inspector will check that:

- All capital works required (establishing the rough grass margin) have been completed by 1 September in the first year of the EFS agreement;
- The claimed area of ‘Creation of arable margins – 6m width - Rough grass’ in the field(s) has been established where the option has been approved;
- An average of 6m<sup>2</sup> per 1 metre length of rough grass margins has been established;
- A mixture of tussock forming grasses and fine grasses from the list in Table 1 has been sown and that tussock forming grasses (Cocksfoot, Timothy and Yorkshire fog) form 15% of the mixture;
- The same area and location of ‘Creation of arable margins – 6m width - Rough grass’ is retained and managed for the duration of the EFS agreement;
- The sward is cut three times in the 12 month period following sowing to achieve successful establishment;
- The sward is cut once again in either Year 3 or Year 4;
- After each cutting, bulky cuttings are removed or shredded and spread;
- Exclude livestock from the rough grass margin in the 12 month period following sowing and from 1st March to 31st July in subsequent years; and,
- Evidence of seed mix used (labels/invoices detailing grass seed species, individual species weights and quantity supplied) is available to DAERA, for inspection.

#### 8.2.6.3.5.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

#### **Essential capital works:**

Establishing the rough grass margin (cultivation and sowing the grasses) is considered as essential capital works.

#### **Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

None.

Where an ssRMP applies, additional capital works may be included.

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#### 8.2.6.3.5.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.
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#### 8.2.6.3.5.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.
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#### 8.2.6.3.5.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.
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#### 8.2.6.3.5.6. Eligibility conditions

Creation of arable margins – 6m width - Rough grass’ must be established in arable fields. Rough Grass margins should not be sited on Permanent Grassland Sensitive (PGS) fields. For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1
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#### 8.2.6.3.5.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.
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#### 8.2.6.3.5.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£707 per hectare
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#### 8.2.6.3.5.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.5.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.5.9.2. Mitigating actions

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.5.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.5.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants
- GAEC4 Land managers must ensure that, after harvest, soil cover is present until the end of the winter. Sow either in March/April or August.
- GAEC 5 Land managers must ensure that land cultivation is not carried out if water is standing on the surface, or if the soil is waterlogged. Avoid excessive trampling/poaching by livestock
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use



The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Rough grass margins required on arable farms to provide habitat for overwintering invertebrates, some of which prey on pests of cereals, and nesting and foraging sites for birds and mammals.

No ploughing cultivation costs as this option will only be on arable farms where the option area would normally be ploughed and cultivated.

Option area mowed three times in year of establishment and then once again in Year3/Year 4 (4 mowings in total), with a yield of approx 16% of average silage yield or 4 big bales/ha.

Big bale silage estimated sale value = £15/bale

Income forgone is 100% of average income foregone for cereal farms.

Basis of calculations:						
Rough grass margins required on arable farms to provide habitat for overwintering invertebrates, some of which prey on pests of cereals, and nesting and foraging sites for birds and mammals.						
No ploughing cultivation costs as this option will only be on arable farms where the option area would normally be ploughed and cultivated.						
Option area mowed three times in year of establishment and then once again in Year3/Year 4 (4 <del>cuttings</del> in total), with a yield of approx 16% of average silage yield of 4 big bales/ha.						
Big bale silage estimated sale value = £15/bale						
Income forgone is 100% of average income foregone for cereal farms.						
Costs incurred	£/ ha	£/ hr	£/ unit	number required	total cost	£/ ha / yr
<b>Non-productive Investment (NPI)</b>						
Seed. Required in year 1 of EFB. Price from online Cotswold Seeds (Buffer strip mix) based on 25Kg/ha excluding carriage.	£134.50			1	£134.50	£26.90
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					<b>£134.50</b>	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping (estimated 0.5 hours/ha/year at AWB 2015 management grade)		£9.34		2.5	£23.35	£4.67
Mowing for establishment. (Conventional mowing @£/ha FBD 2014 Pg. 99). Recommended 3 times in 12 months post sowing.	£35.00			3	£105.00	£21.00
Mowing for management. (Conventional mowing @£/ha FBD 2014 Pg. 99). Recommended once in year 3/4 post establishment.	£35.00			1	£35.00	£7.00
Removal of forage cuttings - (£7.75 @ big bale silage cost in FBD 2014 Pg. 99 at 4 bales per ha based on 16% of @ commercial big bale production of 25 bales per ha (Cotsw)). Recommended for each mowing.	£31.00			4	£124.00	£24.80
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						<b>£57.47</b>
<b>Income forgone</b>						
	£/ ha	% loss			total loss	£/ ha / yr
Cereal Gross Margin	£696.22	100.00%		5	£3,491.10	£696.22
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						<b>£696.22</b>
<b>Income gained</b>						
	£/ ha	£/ hr	£/ unit	number required	total loss	£/ ha / yr
Forage cuttings - 4 big bales silage/cut @ £15.00/bale			£15.00	16	£240.00	£48.00
<b>Subtotal (Income gained)</b>						<b>£48.00</b>
						<b>£/ ha / yr</b>
<b>Total cost incurred + Income forgone</b>						<b>£707.69</b>
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						<b>£707/ha*</b>

\*This payment rate equates to 7p per m<sup>2</sup>.

Creation of Arable margins – 6 metre width - Rough grass - cost calculation

#### 8.2.6.3.6. Sub-measure 10.1.05 - Creation of Arable Margins - 6m width - Cultivated Uncropped Margins

Sub-measure:

##### 8.2.6.3.6.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: Enhance biodiversity in arable field margins by encouraging common and rare annual arable plants. These margins will also benefit insects and seed eating birds

Description of the commitment: This Option is an annual management Option and does not contain essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). Successfully establish and manage 6m wide cultivated uncropped margins each year of the EFS agreement, which must be created adjacent to an arable crop.

The inspector will check that:

- The claimed area of ‘Creation of Arable margins – 6m width – Cultivated uncropped’ has been completed by 01 June each year of the EFS agreement;
- The claimed area of ‘Creation of Arable margins – 6m width – Cultivated uncropped’ has been established, retained and managed each year for the duration of the EFS agreement;
- The ‘Creation of Arable margins – 6m width – Cultivated uncropped’ has been established adjacent to (physically touching) an arable crop;
- An average of 6m<sup>2</sup> per 1 metre length of ‘Creation of Arable margins – 6m width – Cultivated uncropped’ has been established;
- No fertilisers (organic or inorganic) have been used;
- Pesticides have not been applied to the margin;
- The ‘Creation of Arable Margins – 6m width – Cultivated uncropped’ has been retained at least until the harvest of the adjacent arable crop;

Livestock has been excluded from date of cultivation until the adjacent arable crop has been harvested

##### 8.2.6.3.6.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

#### **Essential capital works:**

This Option does not contain an essential capital works element.

#### **Additional optional capital items for this Option:**

None

Where an ssRMP applies, other additional capital works may be included.

#### 8.2.6.3.6.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.6.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.6.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.6.6. Eligibility conditions

‘Arable margins – 6m width - Cultivated uncropped’ must be created in arable fields adjacent to (physically touching) an arable crop.

Cultivated uncropped margins should not be sited on Permanent Grassland Sensitive (PGS) fields.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

#### 8.2.6.3.6.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.6.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£702 per hectare

#### 8.2.6.3.6.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.6.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.6.9.2. Mitigating actions

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.6.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.6.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants
- GAEC4 Land managers must ensure that, after harvest, soil cover is present until the end of the winter. Sow either in March/April or August.
- GAEC 5 Land managers must ensure that land cultivation is not carried out if water is standing on the surface, or if the soil is waterlogged. Avoid excessive trampling/poaching by livestock
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European

Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**  
Cultivated areas required on arable farms to promote native arable plants.  
No costs incurred as land normally cultivated for arable crops

Costs incurred	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required	total cost ha	£ / ha / yr
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
Not Applicable						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£0.00	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping (estimated 0.5 hours/ha/year at AWB 2015 management grade)		£9.34		0.5	£23.35	£4.67
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£4.67
<b>Income forgone</b>	<b>£ / ha</b>	<b>% loss</b>			<b>total loss</b>	<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
Cereal Gross Margin	£698.22	100.00%				£698.22
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£698.22
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						<b>£702.89</b>
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						<b>£702.00*</b>

\*This payment rate equates to 7p per m<sup>2</sup>

Creation of arable margins 6m cultivated uncropped margins - cost calculation

#### 8.2.6.3.7. Sub-measure 10.1.06 - Provision of Winter Feed Crop for Wild Birds

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.7.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To provide foraging habitat and food, primarily during the winter period, as crop and weed seed for farmland birds.

Description of the commitment: This Option is an annual management Option and does not contain essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). Areas of winter feed crops are created each year to provide winter feed for wild birds. The winter feed crop may be grown as a plot or as a crop margin. This is a rotational option. This means that it can be moved around the farm in the normal rotation, but the same total area must be established and maintained each year of the agreement

A mix is sown, which consists of at least one recommended spring cereal from Table 1 below and at least one other seed-providing species from Table 2 below

Table 1: Recommended spring cereals

- Oats
- Wheat
- Barley
- Triticale

Table 2: Recommended seed-providing species

- Linseed
- Oilseed rape
- Mustard
- Quinoa

The inspector will check that:

- The claimed area of 'Winter feed crop for wild birds' is completed each year of the EFS agreement;
- The size for each individual 'Winter feed crop for wild birds' plot does not exceed 1.00ha;
- The claimed area of 'Winter feed crop for wild birds' is established, retained and managed each year, for the duration of the EFS agreement;
- A mix is sown, which consists of at least one recommended spring cereal from Table 1 below and at least one other seed-providing species from Table 2 below;
- Grasses or legumes are not included in the sown winter feed crop;



- The winter feed crop is managed to ensure that the sown species are present over at least 75% of the area;
- The winter feed crop is not harvested and is in place time of sowing to 1 March the following year;
- Livestock are excluded from the winter feed crop from date of sowing to 1 March the following year ; and,
- Evidence of the seed mix used (labels, invoices detailing the mix contents and the quantity supplied is available to DAERA for inspection.

#### 8.2.6.3.7.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

#### **Essential capital works:**

This Option does not contain an essential capital works element.

#### **Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

None.

Where an ssRMP applies, additional capital works may be included.

#### 8.2.6.3.7.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.7.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.7.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.7.6. Eligibility conditions

The location must be improved, arable and temporary grassland (sown to grass for less than five years). It should not be established on permanent grassland sensitive.

8.2.6.3.7.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.7.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£590 per hectare

£278 per hectare with greening

8.2.6.3.7.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.6.3.7.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.7.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.7.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.7.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants
- GAEC4 Land managers must ensure that, after harvest, soil cover is present until the end of the winter. Sow either in March/April or August.
- GAEC 5 Land managers must ensure that land cultivation is not carried out if water is standing on the surface, or if the soil is waterlogged. Avoid excessive trampling/poaching by livestock
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to

exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

Please see tables below

Without greening						
<b>Basis of calculations;</b>						
Wild bird cover required on all farm types to provide feed for wild birds in absence of mixed farming landscape.						
Costings weighted to reflect that 6% of land area is already used for cereal production.						
Average seed cost for cereals is £89.96, i.e. £21.96 more expensive than wild bird cover seed cost.						
Costs incurred	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required	total cost ha	£ / ha / yr
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
Not Applicable						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					<b>£0.00</b>	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping (estimated 0.5 hours/ha/year at AWB 2015 management grade)		£9.34		0.5		£4.67
Pre-establishment herbicide - £20.21, i.e. 94% of sward kill avg/ha in FBD 2014 Pg. 21 (£21.50/ha). Required each year to achieve good control of grass weeds prior to establishment of margin.	£20.21			0		£0.00
Pre-establishment spraying - £25.85, i.e. 94% of £27.50/ha from PED 2014 (£27.50/ha) - excludes chemical. Spray every year.	£25.85			0		£0.00
Ploughing - £68.15, i.e. 94% of Average ploughing lea & stubble avg/ha in FBD 2014 Pg. 98 (£72.50). Required in each year of EFS.	£68.15			1		£68.15
Cultivation - £35.25/ha, i.e. 94% of power harrowing avg/ha in FBD 2014 Pg. 98 (£37.50/ha). 2 treatments required in each year of EFS.	£35.25			2		£70.50
Seed sowing - £28.80, i.e. 94% of combined drilling avg/ha in FBD 2014 Pg. 98 (£30/ha).	£28.80			1		£28.80
Seed cost. Required in each year of EFS. Prices online from Cotswold seeds + carriage = £68/ha	£68.00			1		£68.00
Seed cost differential for existing cereal area (6% of seed price differential)	-£21.96			0.06		-£1.32

Provision of winter feed crop for wild birds (without greening) (1)

Costs incurred	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required	total cost ha	£ / ha / yr
<i>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</i>						£238.80
Income forgone	£ / ha	% loss			total loss	£ / ha / yr
Adjusted average GM/ha	£353.00	100.00 %				£353.00
<i>Subtotal (Income forgone)</i>						£353.00
						£ / ha / yr
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						<b>£591.80</b>
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						<b>£590/ha *</b>

\*This payment rate equates to 6p per m<sup>2</sup>.

Provision of winter feed crop for wild birds (without greening) (2)

With greening:

**Basis of calculations;**

Wild bird cover required on all farm types to provide feed for wild birds in absence of mixed farming landscape.

Costings weighted to reflect that 6% of land area is already used for cereal production.

Average seed cost for cereals is £89.96, i.e. £21.96 more expensive than wild bird cover seed cost.

Costs incurred	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required	total cost ha	£ / ha / yr
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
Not Applicable						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£0.00	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping (estimated 0.5 hours/ha/year at AWB 2015 management grade)		£9.34		0.5		£4.67
Pre-establishment herbicide - £20.21, i.e. 94% of sward kill avg/ha in FBD 2014 Pg. 21 (£21.50/ha). Required each year to achieve good control of grass weeds prior to establishment of margin.	£20.21			0		£0.00
Pre-establishment spraying - £25.85, i.e. 94% of £27.50/ha from PED 2014 (£27.50/ha)) - excludes chemical. Spray every year.	£25.85			0		£0.00
Ploughing - £68.15, i.e. 94% of Average ploughing lea & stubble avg/ha in FBD 2014 Pg. 98 (£72.50). Required in each year of EFS.	£68.15			0		£0.00
Cultivation - £35.25/ha, i.e. 94% of power harrowing avg/ha in FBD 2014 Pg. 98 (£37.50/ha). 2 treatments required in each year of EFS.	£35.25			0		£0.00
Seed sowing - £28.80, i.e. 94% of combined drilling avg/ha in FBD 2014 Pg. 98 (£30/ha).	£28.80			1		£28.80
Seed cost. Required in each year of EFS. Prices online from Cotswold seeds + carriage = £68/ha	£68.00			1		£68.00

Provision of winter feed crop for wild birds (with greening) (1)

Seed cost differential for existing cereal area (6% of seed price differential)	- £21.96				0.06		-£1.32
<i>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</i>							£100.15
<b>Costs incurred</b>	<b>£ / ha</b>	<b>£ / hr</b>	<b>£ / unit</b>	<b>number required</b>	<b>total cost ha</b>	<b>£ / ha / yr</b>	
<b>Income forgone</b>	<b>£ / ha</b>	<b>% loss</b>			<b>total loss</b>	<b>£ / ha / yr</b>	
Adjusted average GM/ha	£353.00	50.41 %					£177.95
<i>Subtotal (Income forgone)</i>							£177.95
							£ / ha / yr
<b>Total cost incurred + income forgone</b>							£278.10
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>							£278.00

Provision of winter feed crop for wild birds (with greening) (2)

#### 8.2.6.3.8. Sub-measure 10.1.07 - Creation of Traditional Orchard

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.8.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To conserve local, rare and unusual varieties of traditional fruits.

Description of the commitment: This Option is a combination of essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works) to establish the Option with a range of annual management requirements to ensure retention and maintenance of the Option. Create a traditional orchard to maintain and conserve the genetic resource of traditional fruit varieties, in accordance with Article 7(4) of EC 807/2014.

The inspector will check that:

- All capital works required (fruit tree planting, protection with spiral guards and fixing tree to a stake with tie) has been completed by 01 June in the first year of the EFS agreement;
- The claimed area of 'Traditional orchard creation' has been created in the correct location in the field(s) where it has been approved;
- The fruit tree are from the approved list of varieties;
- The grafted trees have been grown on standard or half standard rootstock;
- At least three different varieties of apple trees have been planted and that no variety is more than half of the total number of trees in the orchard;
- Bare-rooted trees have been planted on average of 10m spacing equally approximately 100 trees per hectare (10 trees per 0.10ha);
- Each newly planted fruit tree is fixed to a new stake with a rubber tie and it is protected by a spiral guard;
- Invoice documents from the supplier showing the number of fruit tree varieties and the rootstocks on which they are grafted, has been retained;
- The same area and location of 'Traditional orchard creation' has been retained and managed for the duration of the EFS agreement;
- Newly planted fruit trees have been successfully established for the duration of the EFS(W) agreement



#### 8.2.6.3.8.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

##### **Essential capital works:**

The fruit tree planting, protection with spiral guards and fixing tree to a stake with a tie are considered as essential capital works.

##### **Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Stock-proof fencing

Gates and gate posts

Parkland / Fruit / Standard native tree guards

Drinking trough

Drinking trough base

Drinking trough pipe work

Solar-powered pump to supply drinking trough

Pasture pump and associated pipe work

Where an ssRMP applies, other additional capital works may be included.

#### 8.2.6.3.8.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.8.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.8.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.8.6. Eligibility conditions

Whole or part land parcels may be used for traditional orchard creation.

Traditional orchards should not be sited on Permanent Grassland Sensitive (PGS) fields or on breeding wader sites.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

#### 8.2.6.3.8.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.8.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£110 per hectare

#### 8.2.6.3.8.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.8.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.8.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

### 8.2.6.3.8.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

Please see overall measure description.

### 8.2.6.3.8.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants
- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Approved fruit tree cultivar and rootstock used.

Average 7 m plant spacing = 200 plants/ha.

Basis of calculations: Approved fruit tree cultivar and rootstock used. Average 7 m plant spacing = 200 plants/ha.						
Costs incurred	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required	total cost ha	£ / ha / yr
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
Creating a planting plan (recommended) and sourcing materials - 2 hrs - Rate Source: ANB 2015 management guide		£9.34		2	£18.68	£3.74
Approved fruit tree cultivar and rootstock (e.g. Supplied by IBBA, Bp), Average 7 m plant spacing = 200 plants/ha			£15.08	200	£3,012.00	£602.40
Shipping (e.g. From Bp to NI for 1-10 trees @£15, exchange rate 0.80)			£1.20	200	£240.00	£48.00
Stake 100 cm above ground recommended by IBBA & Nat. Eng (TIN014). Thus use 0.75 m x 25 mm stake, source <a href="http://store.tv.org.uk/">http://store.tv.org.uk/</a>			£0.25	200	£50.00	£10.00
Tie (source <a href="http://store.tv.org.uk/">http://store.tv.org.uk/</a> )			£0.56	200	£112.00	£22.40
Spiral guard 0.75 cm x 80 cm (source <a href="http://store.tv.org.uk/">http://store.tv.org.uk/</a> )			£0.30	200	£60.00	£12.00
Labour for planting and initial pruning : average time to plant tree = 10 o/p/h @ £6.91/hr = £1.15/tree			£1.15	200	£230.00	£46.00
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					<b>£3,722.88</b>	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
<b>Post planting management</b>						
Annual Tree Pruning and maintenance: 200 trees x 8 o/p/h/tree = 1000 o/p/h = 18.68 hrs on 2000 o/p/h		£6.91		33.32	£230.24	£46.05
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						<b>£46.05</b>
<b>Income foregone</b>						
15% Gross margin reduction due to stocking restrictions	£353.00	15.00%		5	£264.75	£52.95
10% reduction in yield of fruit. Average fruit yield of 7.40 t/ha valued at £100/tonne.	£100.00	10.00%		5	£50.00	£10.00
<b>Subtotal (Income foregone)</b>						<b>£62.95</b>
						<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
<b>Total cost incurred + Income foregone</b>						<b>£108.00</b>
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						<b>£110/ha</b>

creation of traditional orchard

#### 8.2.6.3.9. Sub-measure 10.1.09 - Retention of Winter Stubble

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.9.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To increase the diversity of habitats and species within farming systems. The option will benefit farmland birds that feed on grain left after harvest.

Description of the commitment: This option is an annual management option and does not contain essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). Stubbles from cereals and oilseed rape grown using reduced pesticides and retained to 15th February after harvest.

The inspector will check:

- That the claimed area of retention of winter stubbles for cereals or oilseed rape crop has been completed each year of the EFS agreement;
- That the claimed area of retention of winter stubbles has been established and managed for the duration of the agreement;
- That pre-harvest non-selective herbicides have not been applied,
- That noxious weeds have been controlled by non-chemical means, taking account of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Health and Safety requirements;
- That stubble has been retained until 15 February;
- That the crop has been harvested and the straw removed; and,
- That the crop has not been undersown with legumes.

##### 8.2.6.3.9.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

##### **Essential capital works:**

This option does not contain an essential capital works element

##### **Additional optional capital works available for this option:**

None.

Where an ssRMP applies, additional capital works may be included.

#### 8.2.6.3.9.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.9.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.9.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.9.6. Eligibility conditions

This option may be established on arable fields and fields of improved grassland that are ploughed and a cereal crop grown. The option should not be established on Permanent Grassland Sensitive fields.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

#### 8.2.6.3.9.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.9.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£85 per hectare normally / £80 per hectare with Greening reduction

#### 8.2.6.3.9.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.9.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.9.9.2. Mitigating actions

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.9.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.9.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC 4: Land managers must ensure that, after harvest, soil cover is present until the end of the winter, either by retaining stubble or sowing grass or another crop, which will take up nitrogen.
- GAEC 5: For late harvested crops where conditions prevent a subsequent cover to be sown, land managers must put in place measures to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 6: Land managers must maintain the level of soil organic matter through appropriate practices, which includes a ban on burning arable stubble.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.

- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

Basis of calculations:

Crop establishment costs are excluded as a crop will be established whether option is applied or not.

Costings are based on difference in gross margins between winter and spring cereals and additional crop drying costs due to prohibition of use of pre-harvest glyphosate.

Winter cereals account for approx 34% of total cereal acreage. Estimated that 30% of Retention of winter stubble option will be sited on a winter cereal stubble each year. This represents 10% of entire option area/year (entire area x 34% x 30% = 10%).

Winter cereal income foregone adjusted to 10% to account for approx 10% of option area that will utilise a



winter crop for this option.

Spring cereal income gained figure only applicable to.

Additional drying costs are based on spring barley crop yield of 4.25 t/ha (average 5t/ha reduced by 15%) with additional 1.5% moisture content & drying costs of £3.75 per 1% moisture removed plus a fixed handling charge of £2.25/tonne (2014 DARD Farm Business Data). This equates to £7.88/tonne or £39.40 ha @ 1.5% moisture reduction. Additional moisture % based on Scottish research quoted in HGCA information Sheet 02/Summer 2008 where pre-harvest glyphosate is not used.

Basis of calculations:						
Crop establishment costs are excluded as a crop will be established whether option is applied or not.						
Costings are based on difference in gross margins between winter and spring cereals and additional crop drying costs due to prohibition of use of pre-harvest glyphosate.						
Winter cereals account for approx 34% of total cereal acreage. Estimated that 30% of Retention of winter stubble option will be sited on winter cereal stubble each year. This represents 10% of entire option area/year (entire area x 34% x 30% = 10%).						
Winter cereal income forgone adjusted to 10% to account for approx 10% of option area that will utilise a winter crop for this option.						
Spring cereal income gained figure only applicable to 10% of option area.						
Additional drying costs are based on spring barley crop yield of 4.25 t/ha (average 5t/ha reduced by 15%) with additional 1.5% moisture content & drying costs of £3.75 per 1% moisture removed plus a fixed handling charge of £2.25/tonne (2014 DARD Farm Business Data). This equates to £7.88/tonne or £39.40 ha @ 1.5% moisture reduction. Additional moisture % based on Scottish research quoted in HGCA information Sheet 02/Summer 2008 where pre-harvest glyphosate is not used.						
Costs incurred	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required	total cost ha	£ / ha / yr
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
N/A						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£0.00	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping (estimated 0.25 hours/ha/year at AWB 2015 management grade)		£9.34		1.25	£11.68	£2.34
Additional drying costs for cereal (based on 5.00t yield/ha with additional 1.5% moisture content & drying costs of £3.75 per 1% moisture removed plus a fixed handling charge of £2.25/tonne. This equates to £7.88/tonne or £39.40 ha @ 1.5% moisture reduction. Additional moisture % based on Scottish research quoted in HGCA information Sheet 02/Summer 2008 where pre-harvest glyphosate is not used; avg drying cost including handling charge from FBD 2015 Pg. 99).	£39.40			5	£197.00	£39.40
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£41.74
<b>Income forgone</b>	£ / ha	% loss			total loss	£ / ha / yr
10% reduction in winter cereals gross margin.	£970.41	10.00%		5	£485.21	£97.04
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£97.04
<b>Income gained</b>	£ / ha	% gain			total gain	£ / ha / yr
Spring Cereals Gross Margin applicable to 10% of option area.	£517.00	10.00%		5	£258.50	£51.70
<b>Subtotal (Income gained)</b>						£51.70
						£ / ha / yr
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						£87.08
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						£85/ha

retention of winter stubble

**Retention of Winter stubble - with Greening reduction**

**TABLE PART 1**

Basis of calculations;  
 Crop establishment costs are excluded as a crop will be established whether option is applied or not.  
 Costs are based on difference in gross margins between winter and spring cereals and additional crop drying costs due to prohibition of use of pre-harvest glyphosate.  
 Winter cereals account for approx. 34% of total cereal acreage. Estimated that 30% of Retention of winter stubble option will be sited on ~~3,000~~ cereal stubble each year. This represents 10% of entire option area/year (entire area x 34% x 30% = 10%).  
 Winter cereal income forgone adjusted to 10% to account for approx. 10% of option area that will utilise a winter crop for this option.  
 Spring cereal income gained figure only applicable to 10% of option ~~area~~.  
 Additional drying costs are based on spring barley crop yield of 4.25 t/ha (average 5t/ha reduced by 15%) with additional 1.5% moisture content & drying costs of £3.75 per 1% moisture removed plus a fixed handling charge of £2.25/tonne (2014 DARD Farm Business Data). This equates to £7.88/tonne or £39.40 ha @ 1.5% moisture reduction. Additional moisture % based on Scottish research quoted in HGCA Information Sheet 02/Summer 2008 where pre-harvest glyphosate is not used.

Costs incurred	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required	total cost ha	£ / ha / yr	Greening Comments
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>							
N/A							
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£0.00		
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>							
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping (estimated 0.25 hours/ha/year at AWB 2015 management grade)		£9.34		1.25	£11.68	£2.34	ok
Additional drying costs for cereal (based on 5.00t yield/ha with additional 1.5% moisture content & drying costs of £3.75 per 1% moisture removed plus a fixed handling charge of £2.25/tonne. This equates to £7.88/tonne or £39.40 ha @ 1.5% moisture reduction. Additional moisture % based on Scottish research quoted in HGCA Information Sheet 02/Summer 2008 where pre-harvest glyphosate is not used; <del>avg.</del> drying cost including handling charge from FBD 2015 Pg. 99).	£39.40			5	£197.00	£39.40	ok
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£41.74	

retention of winter stubble

Retention of Winter stubble - with Greening reduction						TABLE PART 2
<p><b>Basis of calculations;</b>  Crop establishment costs are excluded as a crop will be established whether option is applied or not.  Costings are based on difference in gross margins between winter and spring cereals and additional crop drying costs due to prohibition of use of pre-harvest glyphosate.  Winter cereals account for approx 34% of total cereal acreage. Estimated that 30% of Retention of winter stubble option will be sited on winter cereal stubble each year. This represents 10% of entire option area/year (entire area x 34% x 30% = 10%).  Winter cereal income forgone adjusted to 10% to account for approx 10% of option area that will utilise a winter crop for this option.  Spring cereal income gained figure only applicable to...  Additional drying costs are based on spring barley crop yield of 4.25 t/ha (average 5t/ha reduced by 15%) with additional 1.5% moisture content &amp; drying costs of £3.75 per 1% moisture removed plus a fixed handling charge of £2.25/tonne (2014 DARD Farm Business Data). This equates to £7.88/tonne or £39.40 ha @ 1.5% moisture reduction. Additional moisture % based on Scottish research quoted in HGCA Information Sheet 02/Summer 2006 where pre-harvest glyphosate is not used.</p>						
Retention of Winter stubble - with Greening reduction						
Income forgone	£ / ha	% loss			total loss	£ / ha / yr
10% reduction in winter cereals gross margin.	£970.41	9.59%		5	£485.26	£93.05
Subtotal (Income forgone)						£93.05
Income gained						
Spring Cereals Gross Margin applicable to 10% of option area.	£517.00	9.59%		5	£247.88	£49.58
Subtotal (Income gained)						£49.58
						£ / ha / yr
Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone						£85.21
Proposed payment rate						£80/ha

retention of winter stubble 3

#### 8.2.6.3.10. Sub-measure 10.1.10 - Traditional Native Breeds

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.10.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To help secure the long-term survival of Irish Moiled cattle and thereby conserve biodiversity by maintaining local agricultural genetic diversity.

Description of the commitment: This Option is an annual management Option and does not contain essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). It will help ensure survival of the Irish Moiled traditional breed. Female Irish Moiled animals aged 6 months or over on the 01 January in the claim year are eligible for payment.

The UK's Farm Animal Genetic Resources Committee gives advice to the government on the conservation and sustainable use of farm animal genetic resources.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/farm-animal-genetic-resources-committee-fangr#role-of-the-committee>

It lists the Irish Moiled breed as 'at risk' on its Native Breeds at Risk List:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/320123/uk-native-breeds-risk.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/320123/uk-native-breeds-risk.pdf)

The Irish Moiled breed is recognised as 'at risk' by the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, as there are currently only between 450 and 750 registered breeding females in the United Kingdom.

<https://www.rbst.org.uk/Our-Work/Watchlist>

The Irish Moiled Cattle Society maintains a Breed Register (herd book), with which all female animals must be registered in order to receive support through the Environmental Farming Scheme.

<http://www.irishmoiledcattlesociety.com/the-society.html>

The inspector will check that:

- For the claimed year the female Irish Moiled cattle has been in the herd, with the exception of transferred animals which must be in herd for 11 months of the claim year;
- Female animals have been registered with the Irish Moiled Cattle Society Breed Register;
- For all claimed Irish Moiled female animals, the ear tag numbers have been provided so that a cross reference with APHIS and the Irish Moiled Cattle Society Breed Register can be made

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#### 8.2.6.3.10.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Payment per unit

#### **Capital works:**

Planting the trees and erecting a tree guard and stake are considered as capital works.

#### **Additional capital works available for this Option:**

Where an ssRMP applies, additional capital works may be included.

#### 8.2.6.3.10.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.10.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.10.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.10.6. Eligibility conditions

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

8.2.6.3.10.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.10.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£95 per livestock unit

8.2.6.3.10.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

*8.2.6.3.10.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

*8.2.6.3.10.9.2. Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

*8.2.6.3.10.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.10.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 5: Land managers are prohibited from using substances, which contain hormonal or thyrosatic action and beta-agonists, in way that allows residues to enter the human or animal food chain.
- SMR 7: landowners are required to maintain the system (APHIS) for the registration, identification and traceability of cattle.
- SMR 11: Sets minimum standards for the care and protection of calves

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to

exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Payment made on LU basis - 1 Irish Moiled cow = 0.8 LU; 12 - 24 months = 0.6 LU; 6 - 12 months 0.4 LU

Irish moiled cow + calf =(0.8 + 0.4) 1.2 LU

Payment will be based on age of animal at date of EFS claim submission.

Female animals aged six months or greater on the 1st January in year of EFS claim submission are eligible for payment.

0.92 calves reared per cow per year.

Basis of calculations:  
 Payment made on LU basis - 1 Irish Moiled cow = 0.8 LU; 12 - 24 months = 0.6 LU; 6 - 12 months 0.4 LU  
 Irish moiled cow + calf =(0.8 + 0.4) 1.2 LU  
 Payment will be based on age of animal at date of EFS claim submission.  
 Female animals aged six months or greater on the 1st January in year of EFS claim submission are eligible for payment.  
 0.92 calves reared per cow per year.

Costs incurred	£ / m	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required (LU)	total cost	£ / LU / Yr
Non-productive Investment (NPI)						
Not Applicable						
Total Year 1 NPI cost					£0.00	
Annual recurring maintenance costs						
Planning for traditional native breeds = 0.1 hr / LU / yr		£9.34		0.5	£4.67	£0.93
Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)						£0.93
Income forgone	£ / ha	% loss	£ / unit	No rears	total loss	£ / LU / Yr
Poor quality suckler calf for sale = 230kg @ £1.30/kg (traditional breed) = £299.00 compared to 250kg @ £1.80/kg (standard suckler calf) = £450.00. Difference = £151.00.			£151.00	4.6	£694.60	£115.77
Subtotal (Income forgone)						£115.77
Income gain	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	No rears	total gain	£ / LU / Yr
10% reduction in variable costs = £267 lowland sucklers / £224 hill suckers = £245.50 = £24.55			£24.55	5	£122.75	£20.46
Subtotal (Income gain)						£20.46
Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone						£96.24
Proposed payment rate						£96.11 LU

traditional native breeds



#### 8.2.6.3.11. Sub-measure 10.1.11 - Planting Native Tree Corridors

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.11.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: Native tree corridors will reduce ammonia and particulate matter emissions, especially where the trees are planted downwind from agricultural buildings. The Option will also increase the area of native tree corridors which will provide areas free from disturbance for a range of wildlife and contribute to the landscape character of the countryside.

Description of the commitment: This Option is a combination of essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works) to establish the Option with a range of annual management requirements to ensure retention and maintenance of the Option. Ungrazed native tree corridor(s) are planted either downwind from an agricultural building or as a shelterbelt.

##### **List of Tree species suitable for planting in a Native Tree Corridor**

- Alder – *Alnus glutinosa*
- Aspen – *Populus tremula*
- Birch – *Betula pendula*
- Bird cherry – *Prunus padus*
- Wild cherry – *Prunus avium*
- Wild Pear – *Pyrus Pyraister*
- Wild Plum/Damson – *Prunus domestica*
- Crab apple – *Malus sylvestris*
- Hazel – *Corylus avellana*
- Holly – *Ilex aquifolium*
- Pedunculate oak – *Quercus robur*
- Sessile oak – *Quercus petraea*
- Rowan – *Sorbus aucuparia*
- Scots pine – *Pinus sylvestris*
- Whitebeam – *Sorbus aria*
- Willow – *Salix species*
- Wych elm – *Ulmus glabra*

The inspector will check that:

- All capital works required (planting native trees and erecting tree guards and canes) to be completed by 01 June by the first year of the EFS agreement;
- The claimed area of 'Planting Native tree corridors' has been completed in the field(s) where the option has been approved;

- The trees are planted at approximately 3m spacing (approximately equivalent to 1111 trees/ha or 220 trees/0.2ha);
- At least three rows of native trees have been planted along the entire corridor from the Tree Species list;
- Each tree has been protected with a new tree spiral tree guard and cane;
- The same area and location of 'Planting Native Tree corridors' has been retained and managed for the duration of the EFS agreement;
- The newly planted native trees have been successfully established for the duration of the EFS agreement;
- The tree corridor has not been grazed by livestock.

#### 8.2.6.3.11.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

##### **Essential capital works:**

Planting the native trees and erecting a spiral tree guard and cane are considered as essential capital works.

##### **Payment for capital items:**

Stock-proof fencing

Gate and posts

Drinking trough

Drinking trough base

Drinking trough pipe work

Solar-powered pump to supply drinking trough

Pasture pump and associated pipe work

Where an ssRMP applies, other additional capital works may be included.

#### 8.2.6.3.11.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.11.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.11.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.11.6. Eligibility conditions

Trees should be planted on improved land, downwind from agricultural buildings and/or to link with existing woodlands and hedgerows. Trees should not be planted on permanent grassland sensitive (PGS) or on breeding wader sites.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

#### 8.2.6.3.11.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.11.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£465 per hectare normally

£115 per hectare with greening

#### 8.2.6.3.11.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.11.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.11.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.11.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.11.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.

- GAEC 7: Land managers must not remove or destroy hedges, or any other landscape feature, without the prior written consent of DAERA. Land managers must not cut hedges between 1st March and 31st August.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

Please see tables below

Without greening

Basis of calculations:						
Forest Service <del>costs</del> for 1100 tree plant density used						
10% factor applied to 2014 FCS labour charges to account for wider tree spacing (as per F5 <del>costings</del> )						
Assume 1% replacement rate for tree guards.						
Assume 25% refilling and repositioning tree guards required.						
Costs incurred	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
Pre-plant appl. spray (herbicide) (+10% factor increase to account for wider spacing)			£0.09	1100	£102.30	£20.46
Plant supply - broadleaf			£0.39	1100	£429.00	£85.80
Planting by hand - labour 2014 FCS prices c.30p per tree (+10% factor increase to account for wider spacing)			£0.35	1100	£385.00	£76.96
Tree guards (£0.26) and care (£0.09) = £0.35			£0.35	1100	£385.00	£77.00
Installing guards - labour (+10% factor increase to account for wider spacing)			£0.35	1100	£385.00	£76.96
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					<b>£1,691.30</b>	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning for creation of native tree corridors, AWQ 2015 management rate, 2 hrs (planting/ha/year 1 + 1hr/ha/yr in Years 2-5)		£2.34		5	£9.04	£11.21
Weeding year 1 (+10% factor increase to account for wider spacing)			£0.09	1100	£102.30	£20.46
Weeding year 2 (+10% factor increase to account for wider spacing)			£0.09	1100	£102.30	£20.46
Weeding year 3 (+10% factor increase to account for wider spacing)			£0.09	1100	£102.30	£20.46
Seeding up (labour) - 10% replacement rate			£0.52	110	£57.42	£11.48
Seeding up (trees) - 10% replacement rate			£0.39	110	£42.90	£8.58
Replacement care (10% replacement rate)			£0.09	110	£9.90	£1.98
Refilling and repositioning guards - labour, 25% need attention, 2014 FCS price c.30p per tree (+10% factor increase to account for wider spacing)			£0.35	275	£95.70	£19.14
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						<b>£112.77</b>
<b>Income forgone</b>						
	£ / ha	% loss			total loss	£ / ha / yr
Average 10% gross margin	£383.00	100.00%		5	£1,765.00	£353.00
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						<b>£353.00</b>
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						<b>£465.77</b>
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						<b>£465/ha</b>

planting native tree corridors

With greening

Blank of calculations:  
 Forest Service charges for 1100 tree plant density used  
 10% factor applied to 2014 FCS labour charges to account for wider tree spacing (as per FCS cap/opp)  
 Assume 1% replacement rate for tree guards.  
 Assume 20% refitting and repositioning tree guards required.

Costs incurred	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Non-productive investment (NI%)</b>						
Pre plant appl spray (herbicide) (+ 10% factor increase to account for wider spacing)			£0.09	1100	£102.30	£20.46
Plant supply - broadleaf			£0.39	1100	£429.00	£85.80
Planting by hand - labour 2014 FCS prices c.30p per tree (+ 10% factor increase to account for wider spacing)			£0.35	1100	£385.00	£76.90
Tree guards (£0.26) and care (£0.09) = £0.35			£0.35	1100	£385.00	£77.00
Installing guards - labour (+ 10% factor increase to account for wider spacing)			£0.35	1100	£385.00	£76.90
<b>Total Year 1 (NI) cost</b>					<b>£1,681.00</b>	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning for creation of native tree corridors. AWG 2015 management rate. 2 hrs planning/ha/year 1 + 1hr/ha/yr in Years 2-5		£3.34		6	£9.94	£11.21
Weeding year 1 (+ 10% factor increase to account for wider spacing)			£0.09	1100	£102.30	£20.46
Weeding year 2 (+ 50% factor increase to account for wider spacing)			£0.09	1100	£102.30	£20.46
Weeding year 3 (+ 50% factor increase to account for wider spacing)			£0.09	1100	£102.30	£20.46
Seeding (labour) - 10% replacement rate			£0.52	110	£57.42	£11.48
Seeding (trees) - 10% replacement rate			£0.39	110	£42.90	£8.58
Replacement care (10% replacement rate)			£0.09	110	£9.90	£1.98
Refitting and repositioning guards - labour. 20% need attention. 2014 FCS prices c.30p per tree (+ 10% factor increase to account for wider spacing).			£0.35	275	£96.75	£19.34
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						<b>£113.77</b>
<b>Income forgone</b>						
	£ / ha	% loss			total loss	£ / ha / yr
Average NI gross margin	£353.00	0.00%		5	£0.00	£0.00
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						
						<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
						<b>£113.77</b>
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						<b>£113.00/ha</b>

planting native tree corridors

#### 8.2.6.3.12. Sub-measure 10.1.12 - Watercourse Stabilisation with Fencing (NPI)\*

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.12.1. Description of the type of operation

\* This is a one-off action, to be completed in year one of the agreement, and as such the provisions of M4.4 (non-productive investments) apply.

Aim of commitment: Improve water quality by reducing poaching and sedimentation along the watercourse bank. There will be associated biodiversity benefits.

Description of the commitment: This Option is a combination of essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works) to establish the Option with a range of annual management requirements to ensure retention and maintenance of the Option. Erect a stockproof fence on the bankside of a watercourse in Year 1 if the EFS (W) agreement. The most suitable location is where there is evidence of damage to bankside or where livestock access a watercourse to drink or cross to another field. It is not suitable to fence off watercourses at breeding wader sites as the fence posts provide observation posts for predators.

The inspector will check that:

- All capital works required (erection of watercourse stabilisation fencing) has been completed by 01 June in the first year of the EFS agreement;
- The claimed length of watercourse stabilisation fencing has been erected in the correct location on the field side of the watercourse in the fields where the option has been approved;
- The claimed length of watercourse stabilisation fencing has been erected to at least BS1722-2:2006 and BS4102 standards;
- The same linear length and location of 'Watercourse stabilisation with fencing' has been retained and managed for the duration of the EFS agreement;
- The watercourse stabilisation fence has been maintained in stockproof condition for the duration of the EFS agreement.

##### 8.2.6.3.12.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Payment per unit



**Essential capital works:**

Erecting the watercourse stabilisation fencing is considered as essential capital works.

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Drinking trough

Drinking trough base

Drinking trough pipework

Solar powered pump to supply drinking trough

Pasture pump and associated pipework

Where an ssRMP applies, other additional capital works may be included.

**8.2.6.3.12.3. Links to other legislation**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.12.4. Beneficiaries**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.12.5. Eligible costs**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.12.6. Eligibility conditions**

A watercourse is a dry sheugh, wet sheugh, stream, river, lake or waterway which is at least one metre wide

on average.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

8.2.6.3.12.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.12.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£0.02 per metre

8.2.6.3.12.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.6.3.12.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.12.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.12.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.12.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where

relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Stockproof fence - sheep wire + 3 rows barb @ £5.25/m (PED) required on field side of eligible watercourse.

**Basis of calculations:**

Stockproof fence - sheep wire + 3 rows barb @ £5.25/m (PED) required on field side of eligible watercourse.

	£ / m	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required/100 m	total cost / m	£ / m / yr
<b>Costs incurred</b>						
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
Stockproof fence = £6.00/m (PED)	£6.00				£6.00	£1.05
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£6.00	
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						<b>£6.00/m</b>

watercourse stabilisation with fencing

### 8.2.6.3.13. Sub-measure 10.1.13 - Low Emission Slurry Application Methods

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

#### 8.2.6.3.13.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: Use low emission slurry application methods to achieve nitrogen efficiency and reduce the risk of water pollution.

Description of the commitment: This Option is an annual management Option and does not contain essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). Slurry will be applied using a band spreader or trailing hose, trailing shoe, or shallow slurry injection system. These low emission slurry spreading application methods effectively reduce nutrient losses to the environment. This Option can be rotated around the farm.

The inspector will check that:

- The claimed area of ‘Low emission slurry application methods’ has been completed each year for the duration of the EFS(W) agreement
- The slurry has been applied using band spreader or trailing hose, trailing shoe or shallow slurry injection equipment or a combination of these methods;
- Contractor receipts showing fields where low emission slurry methods have been carried out, dates, method of application and volume (metres cubed/m<sup>3</sup>) applied in each field is available to DAERA for inspection.

#### 8.2.6.3.13.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

##### **Capital works:**

This Option does not contain an essential capital works element.

##### **Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Where an ssRMP applies, additional capital works may be included

#### 8.2.6.3.13.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.13.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.13.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.13.6. Eligibility conditions

This Option is suitable for use on any land on which slurry is normally applied. The Option is not suitable for permanent grassland sensitive fields.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

#### 8.2.6.3.13.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.13.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£65 per hectare

#### 8.2.6.3.13.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.13.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.13.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.13.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.13.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants
- GAEC 4: Land managers must ensure that, after harvest, soil cover is present until the end of the winter, either by retaining stubble or sowing grass or another crop, which will take up nitrogen.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Dairy farmers normally spread 33.72m<sup>3</sup>/ha for first cut, 22.48 m<sup>3</sup>/ha for second cut and 16.87 m<sup>3</sup>/ha for third cut/aftermath grazing; total 73.07m<sup>3</sup>

Beef farmers normally spread 33.72m<sup>3</sup>/ha for first cut and 22.48 m<sup>3</sup>/ha for second cut/aftermath grazing; total 56.20 m<sup>3</sup>/ha

60% of option participants will be dairy farmers and 40% will be non-dairy farmers, therefore average slurry application rate/ha will be  $(73.07 \times 0.60) + (56.20 \times 0.40) = 66.32$  m<sup>3</sup>/ha.

Option uptake ratio based on information from CAFRE re uptake of METS2 Scheme



**Basis of calculations:**  
 Dairy farmers normally spread 33.72m<sup>3</sup>/ha for first cut, 22.48 m<sup>3</sup>/ha for second cut and 16.87 m<sup>3</sup>/ha for third cut/aftermath grazing; total 73.07m<sup>3</sup>  
 Beef farmers normally spread 33.72m<sup>3</sup>/ha for first cut and 22.48 m<sup>3</sup>/ha for second cut/aftermath grazing; total 56.20 m<sup>3</sup>/ha  
 60% of option participants will be dairy farmers and 40% will be non-dairy farmers, therefore average slurry application rate/ha will be (73.07 x 0.60) + (56.20 x 0.40) = 66.32 m<sup>3</sup>/ha.  
 Option uptake ratio based on information from CAPRE re uptake of METS2 Scheme

	£/m	£/hr	£/unit	num ber requi red	total cost ha	£/ha/ yr
<b>Costs incurred</b>						
Non-productive investment (NPI)						
N/A						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£0.00	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning for advanced slurry spreading technology. AWB 2015 management rate. 0.1 hrs planning per spreading		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
Additional cost of advanced technology is £0.99 per cubic metre. Refer to paper at <a href="http://www.citap-tfm.org/webfm_send/406">http://www.citap-tfm.org/webfm_send/406</a> (Slide 16)			£0.99	66.32		£64.99
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£66.86
<b>Income forgone</b>	£/ha	% loss			total loss	£/ha/ yr
N/A		0.00%				
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£0.00
						£/ha/ yr
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						£66.86
<b>Proposed annual recurring management payment rate</b>						£65/ha

low emission slurry application

#### 8.2.6.3.14. Sub-measure 10.1.14 - Creation of Riparian Buffers - 2m width - Ungrazed including Protective Fencing

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.14.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: This Option will reduce the risk of nutrients, sediment, manure and pesticides entering watercourses. It will also reduce bankside damage.

Description of the commitment: This Option is a combination of essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works) to establish the Option with a range of annual management requirements to ensure successful establishment, retention and maintenance of the Option. A stockproof fence is erected two metres on average from the top of the bank of a watercourse. The vegetation in the riparian buffer is not cut or grazed. It is not suitable at breeding wader sites. This is because the fence posts provide observation sites for predators. Furthermore, livestock grazing right up to the edge of watercourses can provide suitable conditions for wading birds, including fledglings, to feed.

The inspector will check that:

- All capital works required (erection of protective fence) has been completed by 01 June in the first year of the EFS agreement;
- The claimed area of 'Creation of Riparian buffers – 2 metre width – Ungrazed' has been created in the correct location in the field(s) where the option has been approved;
- An average of two square metres per 1metre length of 'Creation of Riparian buffers – 2 metre width – Ungrazed' has been established;
- The protective fences have been erected on the field side of the riparian buffer to at least BS1722-2:2006 and BS4102 standards
- The same area and location of 'Creation of Riparian buffers – 2 metre width – Ungrazed' has been retained and managed for the duration of the EFS agreement;
- The protective fence has been maintain in a stockproof condition for the duration of the EFS(W) agreement;
- The riparian buffer has not been cut or grazed;
- No fertiliser (organic or inorganic) has been used.

##### 8.2.6.3.14.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Essential capital works:**

Creating the 'Creation of Riparian buffers – 2 metre width – Ungrazed' by erecting a protective fence is considered as essential capital works.

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Gate and two gate posts

Drinking trough

Drinking trough base

Drinking trough pipework

Solar-powered pump to supply drinking trough

Pasture pump and associated pipework

Where an ssRMP applies, other additional capital works may be included.

8.2.6.3.14.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.14.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.14.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

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**8.2.6.3.14.6. Eligibility conditions**

This Option is suitable for undesignated watercourses alongside grazed grassland fields. It is particularly suitable where there is bankside damage or where livestock access a watercourse to drink or cross.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

**8.2.6.3.14.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.14.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates**

£355 per hectare

**8.2.6.3.14.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations**

**8.2.6.3.14.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures**

Please see overall measure description.

**8.2.6.3.14.9.2. Mitigating actions**

Please see overall measure description.

**8.2.6.3.14.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure**

Please see overall measure description.



#### 8.2.6.3.14.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC 1: land managers must protect water courses from pollution from chemical fertiliser and organic manure
- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
  
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Buffer will have an average area of at least 2m<sup>2</sup> per metre length.

5000m length required per hectare of buffer.

Stock proof fence required on field side of buffer.

Basis of calculations; Buffer will have an average area of at least 2m <sup>2</sup> per metre length. 5000m length required per hectare of buffer. Stock proof fence required on field side of buffer.						
Costs incurred	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
Planning for Creation of Riparian buffer - ungrazed - 2 metres including protective fence. AWB 2015 management rate. 1hr / ha in year 1		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
Stockproof fence to ensure an average buffer area of at least 2m <sup>2</sup> per metre length of riparian buffer. Stockproof fence = £6.00/m (PED). 5000m buffer = 1ha = £30000/ha	£30,000.00			1	£30,000.00	£6000.00
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£30,009.34	
					or £6.00/m	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
N/A						
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£0.00
<b>Income forgone</b>	£ / ha	% loss			total loss	£ / ha / yr
All NI GM - 2 square metres per 1 metre length of buffer	£353.00	100.00%		5	£1,765.00	£353.00
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£353.00
						£ / ha / yr
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>					1765	£353.00
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						£355/ha or £0.07/m

Creation of riparian buffers 2m ungrazed with fencing - costs

### 8.2.6.3.15. Sub-measure 10.1.15 - Creation of Riparian Buffers - 2m width - Planted with Native Trees including Protective Fencing

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

#### 8.2.6.3.15.1. Description of the type of operation

**Aim of commitment:** To plant native trees and shrubs to establish a 2 metre wide buffer of dense woodland next to an undesignated watercourse which will reduce the potential for pollution from fertilisers and pesticides. Riparian buffers planted with native trees can also reduce soil erosion, river siltation, transportation of diffuse pollutants and reduce peak flood flows.

**Description of the commitment:** This Option is a combination of essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works) to establish the Option with a range of recurring annual management requirements to ensure successful establishment, retention and maintenance of the Option. Native trees are planted in a 2 metre wide buffer along a watercourse which will provide water quality and biodiversity benefits. Furthermore, the trees will sequester carbon.

#### **List of Tree and Shrub species suitable for planting**

- **Tree species**

- Alder
- Birch
- Native willow
- Crab apple
- Oak
- Scots pine
- Rowan
- Wild cherry
- Whitebeam
- Juniper
- Wych Elm
- Aspen
- Wild Pear
- Wild Plum/Damson
- Bird Cherry

- **Shrub species**

- Guelder rose
- Blackthorn
- Hawthorn
- Hazel
- Whin (gorse)
- Holly
- Dog rose



The inspector will check that:

- All non-productive works required (erection of protective fence, planting native trees and shrubs and erecting tree guards and canes) has been completed by 01 June in the first year of the EFS agreement;
- The claimed area of ‘Creation of riparian buffer – 2 metre width – Planted with native trees’ has been completed in the correct location in the field(s) where the option has been approved;
- An average of two square metres per 1 metre length of ‘Creation of riparian buffer – 2 metre width – Planted with native trees’ has been established;
- The native trees and shrubs have been planted at approximately 2.5 metre spacing (this is approximately 1600 trees/ha or 320 trees/0.2ha);
- The native trees and shrubs have been planted in 7 metre x 2 metre blocks with approximately 10 metres between blocks and protect from grazing livestock;
- The native trees and shrubs have been planted from the species lists, each tree and shrub has been protected by a new tree guard and cane;
- The claimed ‘Creation of riparian buffer – 2 metre width – Planted with native trees’ a protective fence has been erected on the field side of the riparian buffer to at least BS1722-2:2006 and BS4102 standards;
- The same area and location of ‘Creation of riparian buffer – 2 metre width – Planted with native trees’ has been retained and managed for the duration of the EFS agreement;
- The Creation of riparian buffer – 2 metre width – Planted with native trees’ protective fence has been maintained in a stockproof condition for the duration of the EFS agreement;
- The newly planted native trees and shrubs have been successfully established for the duration of the EFS agreement;
- The riparian buffer has not been cut or grazed;
- No fertilisers (organic or inorganic) have been used.

#### 8.2.6.3.15.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Essential capital works:**

Creating the 'Creation of Riparian buffers – 2 metre width – Planted with native trees' by erecting the protective fence, planting the native trees and shrubs and erecting tree guards and canes are considered as essential capital works.

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Gate and two gate posts

Drinking trough

Drinking trough base

Drinking trough pipework

Solar-powered pump to supply drinking trough

Pasture pump and associated pipework

Where an ssRMP applies, other additional capital works may be included.

**8.2.6.3.15.3. Links to other legislation**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.15.4. Beneficiaries**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.15.5. Eligible costs**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.15.6. Eligibility conditions

Undesignated watercourses which are prone to bank erosion, where poaching or runoff have occurred or where there is limited riparian vegetation. It is not suitable to implement this Option on Permanent Grassland Sensitive (PGS) fields or on breeding wader sites

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

#### 8.2.6.3.15.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.15.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£355 per hectare

#### 8.2.6.3.15.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.15.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.15.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.15.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.15.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC 1: land managers must protect water courses from pollution from chemical fertiliser and organic manure
- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Buffer will have an average area of at least 2m<sup>2</sup> per metre length.

5000m length required per hectare of buffer.

Native trees planted in clumps 7m long X 2m wide with approx 10m between clumps.

Tree density = 1600 trees/ha in planted clump areas.

Tree planting cost is based on total capital costs incurred for 'Establishment of native woodland < 5 ha'

EFS option (i.e. £2272.00+ £653.00 = £2925.00/ha).

Stock proof fence required on field side of buffer.

**Basis of calculations;**  
 Buffer will have an average area of at least 2m<sup>2</sup> per metre length.  
 5000m length required per hectare of buffer.  
 Native trees planted in clumps 7m long X 2m wide with approx 10m between clumps.  
 Tree density = 1600 trees/ha in planted clump areas.  
 Tree planting cost is based on total capital costs incurred for 'Establishment of native woodland < 5 ha' EFS option (i.e. £2272.00+ £653.00 = £2925.00/ha).  
 Stock proof fence required on field side of buffer.

	£/ha	£/hr	£/unit	Number required	total cost	£/ha/yr
<b>Costs incurred</b>						
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
Stockproof fence to ensure an average buffer area of at least 2m <sup>2</sup> per metre length of riparian buffer. Stockproof fence = £6.00/m (PED). 5000m required per hectare = £30000/ha	£30,000.00			1	£30,000.00	£6,000.00
Tree planting. 0.412ha planted per ha of margin (294 plots @ 14m <sup>2</sup> (7m x 2m) per plot/ha). Plots spaced 10m apart. Tree density = 1600 trees/ha.	£2925.00			0.412	£1,205.10	£241.02
					£31205.10	
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					or £6.24/m	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning for riparian buffer 2m planted with native trees. AVB 2015 management rate. 1hr / 1 ha + 0.2 ha/yr in years 2-5		£9.34		1.8	£16.81	£3.36
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£3.36
<b>Income forgone</b>	£/ha	% loss		Number required	total loss	£/ha/yr
All NI GM - 10 square metres per 1 metre length	£353.00	100.00%		5	£1,765.00	£353.00
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£353.00
						£/ha/yr
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						£356.36
						£355/ha or £0.07/m
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						

Creation of riparian buffers 2m native trees & protective fencing costs

#### 8.2.6.3.16. Sub-measure 10.1.16 - Creation of Riparian Buffers - 10m width - Ungrazed including Protective Fencing

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.16.1. Description of the type of operation

**Aim of commitment:** This Option will protect watercourses from sedimentation and diffuse pollution. It will also encourage the development of waterside vegetation that will stabilise the banks and enhance biodiversity

**Description of the commitment:** This Option is a combination of essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works) to establish the Option with a range of annual management requirements to ensure successful establishment, retention and maintenance of the Option. A stockproof fence is erected 10 metres on average from the top of the bank of a watercourse. The vegetation in the two metres width next to the watercourse is left uncut throughout the agreement. The vegetation in the 8 metre width next to the field is cut after 15 July each year. The cut vegetation is removed.

It is not suitable for breeding wader sites. This is because the fence posts provide observation sites for predators. Furthermore, livestock grazing right up to the edge of watercourses can provide suitable conditions for wading birds, including fledglings, to feed.

The inspector will check that:

- All capital works required (erection of protective fence and access gates and gateposts) has been completed by 01 June in the first year of the EFS agreement;
- The claimed area of 'Creation of Riparian buffers – 10 metre width – Ungrazed' has been created in the correct location in the field(s) where the option has been approved;
- An average of 10 square metres per 1 metre length of riparian buffer has been established;
- The claimed length of riparian buffer protective fence has been erected to at least BS1722-2:2006 and BS4102 standards on the field side of the riparian buffer;
- A minimum of one 4.27 metre gate and two gateposts for each 150 metre (or part 150 metre) linear length of protective fence has been installed;
- The same area and location of 'Creation of Riparian buffers – 10 metre width – Ungrazed' has been retained and managed for the duration of the EFS agreement;
- The riparian buffer protective fence and access gate(s) and gateposts have been maintained in a stockproof condition for the duration of the EFS agreement;
- The vegetation in the 2 metre width next to the watercourse has not been cut or grazed during the

EFS agreement;

- The vegetation in the 8 metre width next to the field has been cut after 15 July each year and the cuttings removed;
- The riparian buffer has not been grazed;
- No fertilisers (organic or inorganic) have been used.

#### 8.2.6.3.16.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

##### **Essential capital works:**

Creating the 'Creation of Riparian buffers – 10 metre width – Ungrazed' by erecting a protective fence and access gate(s) and gate posts is considered as essential capital works.

##### **Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Additional gates and gate posts

Drinking trough

Drinking trough base

Drinking trough pipework

Solar-powered pump to supply the drinking trough

Pasture pump and associated pipework

Where an ssRMP applies, other additional capital works may be included.

#### 8.2.6.3.16.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.



#### 8.2.6.3.16.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.16.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.16.6. Eligibility conditions

This Option is suitable for grazed grassland fields adjacent to designated and undesignated watercourses. It is particularly suitable where there is poaching of the bank and where there is little or no riparian vegetation present.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

#### 8.2.6.3.16.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.16.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£360 per hectare

#### 8.2.6.3.16.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.16.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.16.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.16.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.16.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC 1: land managers must protect water courses from pollution from chemical fertiliser and organic manure
- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training

obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Buffer will have an average area of at least 10m<sup>2</sup> per metre length.

1000m length required per hectare of buffer.

Stock proof fence required on field side of buffer.

1 x 4.27m gate + 2 posts required per **150m** length of buffer (agreement with Rivers Agency re access).

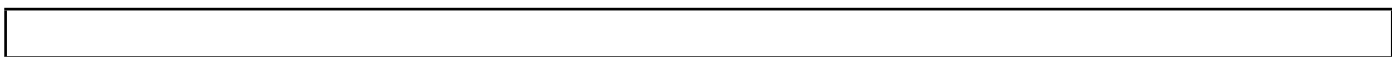
Cost of gate + 2 posts = £190.44 (from EFS Non-productive items costs)

	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	Number required	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Costs incurred</b>						
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
Stockproof fence to ensure an average buffer area of at least 10m <sup>2</sup> per metre length of riparian buffer. Stockproof fence = £6.00 (PED). 1000m required per hectare = £6000.00/ha	£6,000.00			1	£6,000.00	£1,200.00
Gate and two gateposts - stock fence = £190.44. One gate required at least every 150m long (1500m <sup>2</sup> ) = 6.67 gates+posts/ha = £1270.23/ha	£1,270.23			1	£1,270.23	£254.05
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£7,270.23 or £7.27/m	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning for riparian buffer ungrazed 10m. AWB 2015 management rate. 1hr/1 ha		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
Mowing for management. (conventional mowing average per hectare PED) £35 per hectare x 5 cuts = £175/ha	£35.00			5	£175.00	£35.00
Remove forage cuttings - £7.75 average big baled silage cost in FBD 2014 pg 99 @ 4 bales/ha = £31/ha	£31.00			5	£155.00	£31.00
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£67.87
<b>Income forgone</b>	£ / ha	% loss		No reqd	total loss	£ / ha / yr
All NI GM - 10 square metres per 1 metre length	£353.00	100.00 %		5	£1,765.00	£353.00
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£353.00

Creation of riparian buffers 10m ungrazed with fencing 1

	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	No reqd	total gain	£ / ha / yr
<b>Income gain</b>						
Forage cuttings - 4 big bales silage per cut @ £15 per bale = £60/ha	£60.00			5	£300.00	£60.00
<b>Subtotal (Income gained)</b>						£60.00
						£ / m / yr
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						£360.87
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						£360/ha or £0.36/m

Creation of riparian buffers 10m ungrazed with fencing 2



8.2.6.3.17. Sub-measure 10.1.17 - Creation of Riparian Buffers - 10m width - Planted with Native Trees including Protective Fencing

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.6.3.17.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To plant native trees and shrubs to establish a 10 metre wide buffer of dense woodland next to a watercourse which will reduce the potential for pollution from fertilisers and pesticides. Riparian buffers planted with native trees can also reduce soil erosion, river siltation, transportation of diffuse pollutants and reduce peak flood flows.

Description of the commitment: This Option is a combination of essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works) to establish the Option with a range of recurring annual management requirements to ensure successful establishment, retention and maintenance of the Option. Native trees are planted in a 10 metre wide buffer along a watercourse which will provide water quality and biodiversity benefits. Furthermore, the trees will sequester carbon.

**List of Tree and Shrub species suitable for planting**

- **Tree species**

- Alder
- Birch
- Native willow
- Crab apple
- Oak
- Scots pine
- Rowan
- Wild cherry
- Whitebeam
- Juniper
- Wych Elm
- Aspen
- Wild Pear
- Wild Plum/Damson
- Bird Cherry

- **Shrub species**

- Guelder rose
- Blackthorn
- Hawthorn
- Hazel
- Whin (gorse)
- Holly
- Dog rose

The inspector will check that:

- All non-productive works required (erection of protective fence, planting native trees and shrubs and erecting tree guards and canes) has been completed by 01 June in the first year of the EFS agreement;
- The claimed area of ‘Creation of Riparian buffer – 10 metres width – Planted with native trees’ has been completed in the correct location in the field(s) where the option has been approved;
- An average of 10 square metres per 1 metre length of ‘Creation of riparian buffer – 10 metre width – planted with native trees’ has been established;
- The trees have been planted at approximately 2.5 metre spacing (this is approximately 1600 trees/ha or 320 trees/0.2ha);
- The trees and shrubs have been planted in 7 metre x 4 metre blocks have been planted with approximately 10 metre between blocks and protected from grazing livestock;
- The native trees and shrubs have been planted from the species list and each tree and shrub is protected with a new tree guard and cane;
- The claimed ‘Creation of Riparian buffer – 10 metre width -planted with native trees’ a protective fence has been erected on the field side of the riparian buffer to at least BS1722-2:2006 and BS4102 standards;
- A minimum of one 4.27 metre gate and two gateposts in each 150 metre linear length of protective fence or part 150 metre of protective fence has been erected;
- The same area and location of ‘Creation of Riparian buffer – 10 metre width -planted with native trees’
- The same area and location of ‘Creation of Riparian buffer – 10 metre width -planted with native trees’ has been retained and managed for the duration of the EFS agreement;
- The ‘Creation of Riparian buffer – 10 metre width -planted with native trees’ protective fence, gate(s) and gateposts have been maintained in a stockproof condition for the duration of the EFS agreement;
- The newly planted native trees and shrubs have been successfully established for the duration of the EFS agreement;
- The riparian buffer has not been grazed and the 2 metre strip nearest the watercourse has not been cut;
- No fertilisers (organic or inorganic) have been used.

#### 8.2.6.3.17.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

##### **Essential capital works:**

Creating the 'Creation of Riparian buffers – 10 metre width – Planted with native trees' by erecting the protective fence, planting the native trees and shrubs and erecting tree guards and canes are considered as essential capital works.

##### **Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Gate and two gate posts

Drinking trough

Drinking trough base

Drinking trough pipework

Solar-powered pump to supply drinking trough

Pasture pump and associated pipework

Where an ssRMP applies, other additional capital works may be included.

#### 8.2.6.3.17.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.17.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.



#### 8.2.6.3.17.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.17.6. Eligibility conditions

Designated and undesignated watercourses which are prone to bank erosion, where bankside damage or runoff have occurred or where there is limited riparian vegetation. It is not suitable to implement this Option on Permanent Grassland Sensitive (PGS) fields or within breeding wader sites.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

#### 8.2.6.3.17.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.17.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£360 per hectare

#### 8.2.6.3.17.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.17.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.17.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

### 8.2.6.3.17.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

Please see overall measure description.

### 8.2.6.3.17.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC 1: land managers must protect water courses from pollution from chemical fertiliser and organic manure
- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Buffer will have an average area of at least 10m<sup>2</sup> per metre length.

1000m length required per hectare of buffer.

Native trees planted in clumps 7m long X 4m wide with approx 10m between clumps.

Tree density = 1600 trees/ha in planted clump areas.

Cost of tree planting is based on total capital costs incurred for 'Establishment of native woodland < 5 ha' EFS option (i.e. £2272.00 + £653.00 = £2925.00/ha).

Stock proof fence required on field side of buffer.

One 4.27m gate + 2 posts required per **150m** length of buffer (agreement with Rivers Agency re access).

Costs incurred	£ /ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	Number required	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
Stockproof fence to ensure an average buffer area of at least 10m <sup>2</sup> per metre length of riparian buffer. Stockproof fence = £6.00 (PED). 1000m required per hectare = £6000.00/ha	£6,000.00			1	£6,000.00	£1,200.00
Gate and two gateposts - stock fence = £190.44. One gate required at least every 150m long (1500m <sup>2</sup> ) = 6.67 gates+posts/ha = £1270.23/ha	£1,270.23			1	£1,270.23	£254.05
Tree planting. 0.17ha planted per ha of margin (59 plots @ 28m <sup>2</sup> (7m x 4m) per plot/ha). Plots spaced 10m apart. Tree density = 1600 trees/ha.	£2925.00			0.17	£497.25	£99.45
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£7,767.48	
					or £7.77/m	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning for riparian buffer 10m planted with native trees. AWB 2015 management rate. 1hr / 1 ha + 0.2 ha/yr in years 2-5		£9.34		1.8	£16.81	£3.36
Mowing for management. (conventional mowing average per hectare PED) £35 per hectare x 5 cuts = £175/ha. 60% of buffer area mowed = mowing per hectare of buffer = £35 x 60% = £21/ha	£21.00			5	£105.00	£21.00
Remove forage cuttings - £7.75 average big baled silage cost in FBD 2014 pg 99 @ 4 bales/ha = £31/ha. 60% of area mowed = 2.5 bales/ha x £7.75/bale = £19.38	£19.38			5	£96.90	£19.38
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£43.74

Creation of Riparian buffers – 10 metre width – Planted with native trees including protective fencing - cost calculation 1

<b>Income forgone</b>	<b>£ / ha</b>	<b>% loss</b>		<b>No reqd</b>	<b>total loss</b>	<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
All NTGM - 10 square metres per 1 metre length	£353.00	100.00 %		5	£1,765.00	£353.00
<i>Subtotal (Income forgone)</i>						£353.00
<b>Income gain</b>	<b>£ / ha</b>	<b>£ / hr</b>	<b>£ / unit</b>	<b>No reqd</b>	<b>total gain</b>	<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
Forage cuttings - 2.5 big bales silage per cut @ £15 per bale = £37.50/ha of buffer	£37.50			5	£187.50	£37.50
<i>Subtotal (Income gained)</i>						£37.50
						<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						£359.24
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						£360/ha or £0.36/m

Creation of Riparian buffers – 10 metre width – Planted with native trees including protective fencing - cost calculation 2

#### 8.2.6.3.18. Sub-measure 10.1.18 - Primary Rush Control (NPI)\*

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.18.1. Description of the type of operation

\* This is a one-off action, to be completed in year one of the agreement, and as such the provisions of M4.4 (non-productive investments) apply.

Aim of commitment: To decrease the cover of invasive rush on priority habitats in semi-natural sites, thereby enhancing their biodiversity.

Description of the commitment: This non-productive investment (referred to as capital works) Option will control rushes on priority habitats by cutting during the growing season. This will allow low growing plants to flourish and encourage insects and birds. Rush management is also very important for the successful management of breeding wader sites. The need for 'Primary Rush control' will be specified in the site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP). The area and location of 'Primary Rush control' will be clearly detailed on the site specific Remedial Management Plan map.

The inspector will check that:

- All 'Primary Rush control' as detailed in the site specific Remedial Management Plan has been completed in the first year of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement;
- The claimed area of 'Primary Rush control' has been completed in the field(s) where the works have been approved for cutting between 15 July and 15 March;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

##### 8.2.6.3.18.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

##### **Capital works:**

Primary Rush control is considered as capital works.

##### **Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Additional capital works may be included if specified by the ssRMP.

**8.2.6.3.18.3. Links to other legislation**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.18.4. Beneficiaries**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.18.5. Eligible costs**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.18.6. Eligibility conditions**

‘Primary Rush control’ may only be carried out in EFS(T) and EFS(G) on semi-natural habitats, where a requirement has been identified.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

**8.2.6.3.18.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.18.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

N/A

#### 8.2.6.3.18.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.18.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.18.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.18.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.18.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as



## Special Areas of Conservation

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

### **Basis of calculations:**

Rush infested land will require initial cutting in Year 1 with a heavy duty rush topper/flail machine, followed by annual rush cutting with rush topper/flail machine to control regrowth.

Contract charges = £40.00/hr (DARD Farm Business Data 2014)

Work rates (rough ground conditions): 0.5ha/hr (2.00 hrs/ha) in Year 1 and 1.0ha/hr (1.00 hrs/ha) in subsequent years

**Basic of calculations:**  
 Rush infested land will require initial cutting in Year 1 with a heavy duty rush topper/fall machine, followed by annual rush cutting with rush topper/fall machine to control regrowth.  
 Contract charges = £40.00/hr (DARD Farm Business Data 2014)  
 Work rates (rough ground conditions): 0.5ha/hr (2.00 hrs/ha) in Year 1 and 1.0ha/hr (1.00 hrs/ha) in subsequent years

	£ / m	£ / hr	£ / unit	num ber requi red	total cost ha	£ / ha / yr
<b>Costs incurred</b>						
<b>Non-productive Investment (NPI)</b>						
Planning for rush control, 1 hrs required i.e. 1 hr/cowpox, AWB 2015 management rate.		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
Rush cutting - Year1		£40.00		2	£80.00	£16.00
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£89.34	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
N/A						
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£0.00
<b>Income forgone</b>	£ / ha	% loss			total loss	£ / ha / yr
N/A						
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£0.00
						£ / ha / yr
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						£0.00
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						N/A

primary rush control

### 8.2.6.3.19. Sub-measure 10.1.19 - Follow-up Rush Control

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

#### 8.2.6.3.19.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To decrease the cover of invasive rush on priority habitats in designated sites, thereby enhancing their biodiversity and landscape value.

Description of the commitment: This is an annual management Option and does not contain essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). The Option will aim to control rushes on priority habitats in semi-natural sites by cutting during the growing season. This will allow low growing plants to flourish and encourage more insects and birds. Rush management is also a key issue in the successful management of breeding wader sites.

The need for 'Follow-up rush control' will be specified in the site specific Remedial Management Plan. The area and location of 'Follow-up rush control' will be clearly detailed on the site specific Remedial Management Plan map.

The inspector will check that:

- All 'Follow-up Rush control' as detailed in the site specific Remedial Management Plan has been completed in years 2 to 5 of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement;
- The claimed area of 'Follow-up Rush control' has been completed in the field(s) where the works have been approved for cutting between 15 July and 15 March;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

#### 8.2.6.3.19.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Essential capital works:**

None

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Additional capital works may be included if specified by the ssRMP.

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#### 8.2.6.3.19.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.
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#### 8.2.6.3.19.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.
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#### 8.2.6.3.19.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.
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#### 8.2.6.3.19.6. Eligibility conditions

<p>‘Follow-up Rush control’ may only be carried out in EFS(T) and EFS(G) schemes on land in semi-natural habitats , where a requirement has been identified.</p> <p>For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1</p>
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#### 8.2.6.3.19.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.
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#### 8.2.6.3.19.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£35 per hectare
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#### 8.2.6.3.19.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.19.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.19.9.2. Mitigating actions

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.19.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.19.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Rush infested land will require initial cutting in Year 1 with a heavy duty rush topper/flail machine (funded through Primary rush control NPI), followed by annual rush cutting with rush topper/flail machine to control regrowth.

Contract charges = £40.00/hr (DARD Farm Business Data 2014)

Work rates (rough ground conditions): 0.5ha/hr (2.00 hrs/ha) in Year 1 (Primary rush control) and 1.0ha/hr (1.00 hrs/ha) in subsequent years (Follow-up rush control)

Basis of calculations:						
Rush infested land will require initial cutting in Year 1 with a heavy duty rush topperfall machine (funded through Primary rush control NPI), followed by annual rush cutting with rush topperfall machine to control regrowth.						
Contract charges = £40.00/hr (DARD Farm Business Data 2014)						
Work rates (rough ground conditions): 0.5ha/hr (2.00 ha/ha) in Year 1 (Primary rush control) and 1.0ha/hr (1.00 ha/ha) in subsequent years (Follow-up rush control)						
	£/m	£/hr	£/unit	num ber requi red	total cost ha	£/ha/ yr
<b>Costs incurred</b>						
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
N/A						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£0.00	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning for follow-up rush control: 1 ha required i.e. 1 hrscheme ☺						
AWB 2015 management rate		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
Rush cutting - Years 2-5		£40.00		4	£160.00	£32.00
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£33.87
<b>Income forgone</b>	£/ha	% loss			total loss	£/ha/ yr
N/A						
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£0.00
						£/ha/ yr
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						£33.87
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						£35/ha

follow-up rush control

#### 8.2.6.3.20. Sub-measure 10.1.20 - Scrub Control Light - Less than 7cm - Machine Cut (NPI)\*

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.20.1. Description of the type of operation

\* This is a one-off action, to be completed in year one of the agreement, and as such the provisions of M4.4 (non-productive investments) apply.

Aim of commitment: To decrease the area of invasive scrub on priority habitats located on semi-natural sites, thereby enhancing their biodiversity.

Description of the commitment: This non-productive investment (referred to as capital works) Option will remove dense scrub on semi-natural habitats to increase the biodiversity value of the site. The need for scrub removal will be specified in the site specific Remedial Management Plan. The area and location of scrub to be removed will be clearly detailed on the site specific Remedial Management Plan map.

The inspector will check that:

- All 'Scrub control light– less than 7cm diameter – machine cut' has been completed as detailed in the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the first year of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement;
- Foliar spraying has been completed with an approved herbicide on the claimed 'Scrub control – less than 7cm diameter – machine cut' in the fields where the works have been approved to ensure that regrowth is no more than 10% cover over the area;
- Any scrub stems that have been cut are as close as possible to ground level and they have been treated with an approved herbicide;
- Any scrub cuttings have been removed from the site or burned at an agreed location as identified in the site specific Remedial Management Plan;
- Standing scrub has not been burned;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan

##### 8.2.6.3.20.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment



**Capital works:**

‘Scrub control light, less than 7cm diameter, machine cut’ is considered as essential capital works.

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Additional capital works may be included if specified by the ssRMP.

8.2.6.3.20.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.20.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.20.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.20.6. Eligibility conditions

‘Scrub control light, less than 7cm diameter, machine cut’ may only be carried out in EFS(T) and EFS(G).

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

8.2.6.3.20.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

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8.2.6.3.20.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

N/A
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8.2.6.3.20.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.6.3.20.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.
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8.2.6.3.20.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.
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8.2.6.3.20.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.
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8.2.6.3.20.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- |   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.</li><li>• GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.</li><li>• GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.</li></ul> |
|---|

- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- • SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Hedgecutter@ @ £32.50/hr (PED)

Tracked digger @ £32.50/hr (PED)

Hire tractor (4wd) - £80/day + twin axle trailer - £42.50/day = £122.50 (PED).

Basis of calculations: Hedgecutter @ £32.50/hr (PED) Tracked digger @ £32.50/hr (PED) Hire tractor (4wd) - £80/day + twin axle trailer - £42.50/day = £122.50 (PED).						
Costs incurred	£ / m	£ / hr	£ / unit	numb er requir ed	total cost ha	£ / ha / yr
<b>Non-productive Investment (NPI)</b>						
Planning for scrub control. 5hr per ha required <del>£600,400000000</del> . AWB 2015 management rate.		£9.34		5	£46.70	£9.34
Hedgecutter - saw blade/fall. From PED 2014 page 100 - £32.50/hr. 5 hrs required per ha		£32.50		5	£162.50	£32.50
Digger/trailer to pile for burning/ prep for lifting. DARD farm business data (PED), pg 100, tracked digger £32.50/hr. Assessed as 6hrs /ha required once in scheme.		£32.50		6	£195.00	£39.00
Hire tractor (4wd) - £80/day + twin axle trailer - £42.50/day = £122.50. 0.75 days or 6 hrs required. (PED 2014 pg 101)			£122.50	0.75	£91.88	£18.38
Labour for pulling out and burning/disposal (Shared between digger, tractor/trailer and burning scrub). 20 hrs required. AWB standard rate £6.91.		£6.91		20	£138.20	£27.64
Stump treatment - knapsack spraying @ £20/hr (PED costs). Assessed as 16 hrs required (2.0 days/ha on average).		£20.00		16	£320.00	£64.00
Herbicide - Glyphosate, for example 'Clinic ace' - 5 litres for £24.95 (1 x 5lt required). ( <a href="http://www.pitchcare.com/shop/professional-total-weed-killers/clinic-ace-herbicide-glyphosate-5l.html">http://www.pitchcare.com/shop/professional-total-weed-killers/clinic-ace-herbicide-glyphosate-5l.html</a> )			£24.95	1	£24.95	£4.97
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					<b>£878.13</b>	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
N/A						
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Income forgone</b>	£ / ha	% loss			total loss	£ / ha / yr
N/A						
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>					£/ha	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						<b>N/A</b>

scrub control light less than 7cm machine cut

#### 8.2.6.3.21. Sub-measure 10.1.21 - Scrub Control Heavy - Greater than 7cm - Machine Cut (NPI)\*

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.21.1. Description of the type of operation

\* This is a one-off action, to be completed in year one of the agreement, and as such the provisions of M4.4 (non-productive investments) apply.

Aim of commitment: To decrease the area of invasive scrub on priority habitats located on semi-natural sites, thereby enhancing their biodiversity.

Description of the commitment: This non-productive investment (referred to capital works) Option will remove dense scrub on semi-natural habitats to increase the biodiversity value of the site. The need for scrub removal will be specified in the site-specific Remedial Management Plan. The area and location of scrub to be removed will be clearly detailed on the site specific Remedial Management Plan map

The inspector will check that:

- All 'Scrub control heavy – greater than 7cm diameter – machine cut' has been completed as detailed in the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the first year of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement;
- Foliar spraying has been completed with an approved herbicide on the claimed 'Scrub control heavy – greater than 7cm diameter' in the fields where the works have been approved to ensure that regrowth is no more than 10% cover over the area;
- Any scrub stems that have been cut are as close as possible to ground level and they have been treated with an approved herbicide;
- Any scrub cuttings have been removed from the site or burned at an agreed location as identified in the site specific Remedial Management Plan;
- Standing scrub has not been burned;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan

##### 8.2.6.3.21.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Capital works:**

‘Scrub control heavy, greater than 7cm diameter, machine cut’ control is considered as capital works.

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Additional capital works may be included if specified by the ssRMP.

8.2.6.3.21.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.21.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.21.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.21.6. Eligibility conditions

‘Scrub control heavy, greater than 7cm diameter, machine cut’ may only be carried out in EFS(T) and EFS(G).

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

8.2.6.3.21.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.21.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

N/A

8.2.6.3.21.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

*8.2.6.3.21.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

*8.2.6.3.21.9.2. Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

*8.2.6.3.21.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure*

- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
  
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

8.2.6.3.21.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the

relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

Please see overall measure description.

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Hedgecutter @ £32.50/hr (PED)

Tracked digger @ £32.50/hr (PED)

Hire tractor (4wd) - £80/day + twin axle trailer - £42.50/day = £122.50 (PED)

Knapsack spraying @ £20/hr (PED)



Basis of calculations:						
Hedgecutter Ⓢ £32.50/hr (PED) Tracked digger Ⓢ £32.50/hr (PED) Hire tractor (4wd) - £80/day + twin axle trailer - £42.50/day = £122.50 (PED) Knapsack spraying Ⓢ £20/hr (PED)						
	£ / m	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required	total cost / ha	£ / ha / yr
<b>Costs Incurred</b>						
<b>Non-productive Investment (NPI)</b>						
Planning for scrub control, 5hr per ha required <del>££££,££££££</del> AWB 2015 management rate		£3.34		5	£16.70	£3.34
Hedgecutting - saw blade/fell. From PED 2014 page 100 - £32.50/hr. 10 ha required per ha.		£32.50		10	£325.00	£65.00
Digger (to pile for burning/ prep for lifting - DARD farm business data (PED), pg 100, tracked digger £32.50/hr, Assessed as 18hrs /ha required once in scheme.		£32.50		16	£520.00	£104.00
Hire tractor (4wd) - £80/day + twin axle trailer - £42.50/day = £122.50/day. 2.0 days or 16 hrs required. (PED 2014 pg 101)			£122.50	2	£245.00	£49.00
Labour for pulling out and burning/disposal (Shared between digger and tractor/trailer). 40 hrs required. AWB standard rate £6.91.		£6.91		40	£276.40	£55.28
Stump treatment - knapsack spraying Ⓢ £20/hr (PED). Assessed as 24 hrs required (3 days/ha on average).		£20.00		24	£480.00	£96.00
Herbicide - Glyphosate, for example 'Clinic ace' - 5 litres for £24.85 (2 x 5lt required) ( <a href="http://www.pitchcare.com/shop/professional-total-weed-killers/clinic-ace-herbicide-glyphosate-5l.html">http://www.pitchcare.com/shop/professional-total-weed-killers/clinic-ace-herbicide-glyphosate-5l.html</a> )			£24.85	2	£49.70	£9.94
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					<b>£1,942.80</b>	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
N/A						
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Income forgone</b>						
N/A	£ / ha	% loss			total loss	£ / ha / yr
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						<b>£0.00</b>
					£/ha	£ / ha / yr
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + Income forgone</b>						<b>£33.56</b>
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						<b>N/A</b>

scrub control heavy greater than 7cm machine cut

#### 8.2.6.3.22. Sub-measure 10.1.22 - Scrub Control Light - Less than 7cm - Manual Cut (NPI)\*

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.22.1. Description of the type of operation

\* This is a one-off action, to be completed in year one of the agreement, and as such the provisions of M4.4 (non-productive investments) apply.

Aim of commitment: To decrease the area of invasive scrub on priority habitats located on semi-natural sites, thereby enhancing their biodiversity.

Description of the commitment: This non-productive investment (referred to as capital works) Option will remove dense scrub on semi-natural habitats to increase the biodiversity value of the site. The need for scrub removal will be specified in the site specific Remedial Management Plan. The area and location of scrub to be removed will be clearly detailed on the site specific Remedial Management Plan map.

The inspector will check that:

- All 'Scrub control light – less than 7cm diameter – Manual cut' has been completed as detailed in the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the first year of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement;
- Foliar spraying has been completed with an approved herbicide the claimed 'Scrub control light – less than 7cm diameter – Manual cut' in the fields where the works have been approved to ensure that regrowth is no more than 10% cover over the area;
- Any scrub stems that have been cut are as close as possible to ground level and they have been treated with an approved herbicide;
- Any scrub cuttings have been removed from the site or burned at an agreed location as identified in the site specific Remedial Management Plan;
- Standing scrub has not been burned;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan

##### 8.2.6.3.22.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Capital works:**

‘Scrub control light, less than 7cm diameter, manual cut’ is considered as capital works.

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Additional capital works may be included if specified by the ssRMP.

8.2.6.3.22.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.22.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.22.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.22.6. Eligibility conditions

‘Scrub control light, less than 7cm diameter, manual cut’ may only be carried out in EFS(T) and EFS(G).

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

8.2.6.3.22.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.22.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

N/A

#### 8.2.6.3.22.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.22.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.22.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.22.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.22.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation

- • SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Chainsaw @ £35/day or £4.47/hr (PED)

Tracked digger @ £32.50/hr (PED)

Hire tractor (4wd) - £80/day + twin axle trailer - £42.50/day = £122.50 (PED)

Knapsack spraying @ £20/hr (PED)

Basis of calculations:						
Chainsaw @ £35/day or £4.47/hr (P&O)						
Tracked digger @ £32.50/hr (P&O)						
Hire tractor (4wd) - £20/day + twin axle trailer - £42.50/day = £122.50 (P&O)						
Knapsack spraying @ £20/hr (P&O)						
Costs incurred	£ / m	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required	total cost /ha	£ / ha / yr
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
Planning for scrub control, 5hr per ha required. <del>AWG 2015</del> AWG 2015 management rate		£5.34		5	£26.70	£5.34
Chainsaw: From P&O 2014 page 101 - £35/day or £4.47/hr. 40 ha required per ha.		£4.47		40	£178.80	£35.76
Labour for scrub cutting. Assessed as 40 hrs required (5 days/ha on average). AWG standard rate £5.91.		£5.91		40	£236.40	£47.28
Digger/axe to pile for burning/ prep for lifting. DARD farm business data (P&O), pg 100, tracked digger £32.50/hr. Assessed as 6hrs /ha required, once in scheme.		£32.50		6	£195.00	£39.00
Hire tractor (4wd) - £20/day + twin axle trailer - £42.50/day = £122.50/day. 0.75 days or 6 hrs required. (P&O 2014 pg 101)			£122.50	0.75	£91.88	£18.38
Labour for pulling out and burning/disposal (Shared between digger and tractor/trailer). 20 hrs required (2.0 days/ha on average). AWG standard rate £5.91.		£5.91		20	£118.20	£23.64
Slump treatment - knapsack spraying @ £20/hr (P&O costs). Assessed as 16 hrs required (2.0 days/ha on average).		£20.00		16	£320.00	£64.00
Herbicide. Glyphosate, for example. Clinic ace - 5 litres for £24.55 (1 x 5l required) ( <a href="http://www.pfichcare.com/shop/professional-total-need-killers/clinic-ace-herbicide-glyphosate-5.htm">http://www.pfichcare.com/shop/professional-total-need-killers/clinic-ace-herbicide-glyphosate-5.htm</a> )			£24.55	1	£24.55	£4.91
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					<b>£1,271.93</b>	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
N/A						
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Income forgone</b>						
N/A			0.00%			
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						<b>£0.00</b>
					£/ha	£ / ha / yr
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						<b>£0.00</b>
Proposed payment rate						N/A

scrub control light less than 7cm manual cut

#### 8.2.6.3.23. Sub-measure 10.1.23 - Scrub Control Heavy - Greater than 7cm - Manual Cut (NPI)\*

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.23.1. Description of the type of operation

\* This is a one-off action, to be completed in year one of the agreement, and as such the provisions of M4.4 (non-productive investments) apply.

Aim of commitment: To decrease the area of invasive scrub on priority habitats located on semi-natural sites, thereby enhancing their biodiversity.

Description of the commitment: This non-productive investment (referred to as capital works) Option will remove dense scrub on semi-natural habitats to increase the biodiversity value of the site. The need for scrub removal will be specified in the site specific Remedial Management Plan. The area and location of scrub to be removed will be clearly detailed on the site specific Remedial Management Plan map.

The inspector will check that:

- All 'Scrub control heavy – greater than 7cm diameter – Manual cut' has been completed as detailed in the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the first year of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement;
- Foliar spraying has been completed with an approved herbicide on the claimed 'Scrub control heavy – greater than 7cm diameter – Manual cut' in the fields where the works have been approved to ensure that regrowth is no more than 10% cover over the area;
- Any scrub stems that have been cut are as close as possible to ground level and they have been treated with with an approved herbicide;
- Any scrub cuttings have been removed from the site or burned at an agreed location as identified in the site specific Remedial Management Plan;
- Standing scrub has not been burned;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan

##### 8.2.6.3.23.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Capital works:**

‘Scrub control heavy, greater than 7cm diameter, manual cut’ is considered as essential capital works.

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Additional capital works may be included if specified by the ssRMP.

8.2.6.3.23.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.23.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.23.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.23.6. Eligibility conditions

‘Scrub control heavy, greater than 7cm diameter, manual cut’ may only be carried out in EFS(T) and EFS(G).

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

8.2.6.3.23.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.



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8.2.6.3.23.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

N/A
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8.2.6.3.23.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.6.3.23.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.
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8.2.6.3.23.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.
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8.2.6.3.23.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.
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8.2.6.3.23.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- |   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.</li><li>• GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.</li><li>• GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.</li></ul> |
|---|

- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Chainsaw @ £35/day or £4.47/hr (PED)

Tracked digger @ £32.50/hr (PED)

Hire tractor (4wd) - £80/day + twin axle trailer - £42.50/day = £122.50 (PED)

Knapsack spraying @ £20/hr (PED)

Basis of calculations:						
Chainsaw @ £35/day or £4.47/hr (PED)						
Tracked digger @ £32.50/hr (PED)						
Hire tractor (4wd) - £80/day + twin axle trailer - £42.50/day = £122.50 (PED)						
Knapsack spraying @ £20/hr (PED)						
Costs incurred	£ / m	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required	total cost ha	£ / ha / yr
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
Planning for scrub control. 5hr per ha required each year. AWS 2015 management rate.		£9.34		5	£46.70	£9.34
Chainsaw. From PED 2014 page 101 - £35/day or £4.47/hr. 80 hrs required per ha.		£4.47		80	£357.60	£71.52
Labour for Scrub cutting. Assessed as 80 hrs required (10 days/ha on average). AWS standard rate £6.91.		£6.91		80	£552.80	£110.56
Digger hire to pile for burning/ prep for lifting. DARD farm business data (PED), pg 100, tracked digger £32.50/hr. Assessed as 16hrs /ha required.		£32.50		16	£520.00	£104.00
Hire tractor (4wd) - £80/day + twin axle trailer - £42.50/day = £122.50/day. 2 days or 16 hrs required. (PED 2014 pg 101)			£122.50	2	£245.00	£49.00
Labour for pulling out and burning/disposal (Shared between digger and tractor/trailer). 40 hrs required (2.0 days/ha on average). AWS standard rate £6.91.		£6.91		40	£276.40	£55.28
Stump treatment - knapsack spraying @ £20/hr (PED costs). Assessed as 24 hrs required (3 days/ha on average).		£20.00		24	£480.00	£96.00
Herbicide. Glyphosate for example 'Clinic ace' - 5 litres for £24.85 (2 x 5lt required) ( <a href="http://www.pitchcare.com/shop/professional-total-weed-killers/clinic-ace-herbicide-glyphosate-5l.html">http://www.pitchcare.com/shop/professional-total-weed-killers/clinic-ace-herbicide-glyphosate-5l.html</a> )			£24.85	2	£49.70	£9.94
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					<b>£2,528.20</b>	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
N/A						
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£0.00
<b>Income forgone</b>						
N/A	£ / ha	% loss			total loss	£ / ha / yr
N/A		0.00%				
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£0.00
					£/ha	£ / ha / yr
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						<b>N/A</b>

Scrub control heavy, greater than 7cm diameter, manual cut - Calculations

#### 8.2.6.3.24. Sub-measure 10.1.24 - Scrub Control Follow-up Treatment - Sites with less than 7cm diameter

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.24.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To decrease the area of invasive scrub on priority habitats located on semi-natural sites, thereby enhancing their biodiversity

Description of the commitment: This non-productive investment (referred to as capital works) Option will remove dense scrub on semi-natural habitats to increase the biodiversity value of the site. The need for scrub removal will be specified in the site specific Remedial Management Plan. The area and location of scrub to be removed will be clearly detailed on the site specific Remedial Management Plan map.

The inspector will check that:

- All ‘Scrub control – Follow-up treatment – sites with less than 7cm diameter’ has been completed in the specified year as detailed in the site specific Remedial Management Plan;
- Foliar spraying has been completed with an approved herbicide on the claimed ‘Scrub control – Follow-up treatment – sites with less than 7cm diameter’ in the fields where the works have been approved to ensure that regrowth is no more than 5% cover over the area;
- Any scrub stems that have been cut are as close as possible to ground level and they have been treated with an approved herbicide;
- Any scrub cuttings have been removed from the site or burned at an agreed location as identified in the site specific Remedial Management Plan;
- Standing scrub has not been burned;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan

##### 8.2.6.3.24.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

#### **Capital works:**

‘Scrub control - Follow-up treatment - sites with less than 7cm diameter’ control is considered as capital works

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Additional capital works may be included if specified by the ssRMP.

#### 8.2.6.3.24.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.24.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.24.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.24.6. Eligibility conditions

‘Scrub control - Follow-up treatment - sites with less than 7cm diameter’ may only be carried out in EFS(T) and EFS(G).

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

#### 8.2.6.3.24.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.24.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

N/A

8.2.6.3.24.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

*8.2.6.3.24.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

*8.2.6.3.24.9.2. Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

*8.2.6.3.24.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.24.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
  - GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
  - GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
  
  - SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
  - SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
  
  - SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Knapsack spraying @ £20/hr (PED) for foliar spray treatment

Basis of calculations: Knapsack spraying @ £20/hr (PED) for foliar spray treatment						
Costs Incurred	£ / m	£ / hr	£ / unit	num ber requi red	total cost ha	£ / ha / yr
<b>Non-productive Investment (NPI)</b>						
Follow up treatments total cost (foliar spraying with knapsack @£20/hr)		£20.00		4.00	£80.00	£16.00
Herbicide ( <del>glyphosate</del> for example 'Clinic ace' - 5 litres for £24.85 ( <a href="http://www.pitchcare.com/shop/professional-total-weed-killers/clinic-ace-herbicide-glyphosate-5l.html">http://www.pitchcare.com/shop/professional-total-weed-killers/clinic-ace-herbicide-glyphosate-5l.html</a> )			£24.85	1.00	£24.85	£4.97
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					<b>£104.85</b>	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
N/A						
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Income forgone</b>						
N/A	£ / ha	% loss			total loss	£ / ha / yr
		0.00%				
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						<b>£0.00</b>
					£/ha	£ / ha / yr
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						<b>N/A</b>

scrub control follow-up less than 7cm



#### 8.2.6.3.25. Sub-measure 10.1.25 - Scrub Control Follow-up Treatment - Sites with greater than 7cm diameter

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.25.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To decrease the area of invasive scrub on priority habitats located on semi-natural sites, thereby enhancing their biodiversity.

Description of the commitment: This non-productive investment (referred to as capital works) Option will remove dense scrub on semi-natural habitats to increase the biodiversity value of the site. The need for scrub removal will be specified in the site specific Remedial Management Plan. The area and location of scrub to be removed will be clearly detailed on the site specific Remedial Management Plan map.

The inspector will check that:

- All ‘Scrub control – Follow-up treatment – sites with greater than 7cm diameter’ has been completed in the specified year as detailed in the site specific Remedial Management Plan;
- Foliar spraying has been completed with an approved herbicide on the claimed ‘Scrub control – Follow-up treatment – sites with greater than 7cm diameter’ in the fields where the works have been approved to ensure the regrowth is no more than 5% cover over the area;
- Any scrub stems that have been cut are as close as possible to ground level and they have been treated with an approved herbicide;
- Any scrub cutting have been removed from the site or burned at an agreed location as identified in the site specific Remedial Management Plan;
- Standing scrub has not been burned;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

##### 8.2.6.3.25.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

#### **Capital works:**

‘Scrub control - Follow-up treatment - sites with greater than 7cm diameter’ control is considered as capital works.

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Additional capital works may be included if specified by the ssRMP.

8.2.6.3.25.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.25.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.25.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.25.6. Eligibility conditions

‘Scrub control - Follow-up treatment - sites with greater than 7cm diameter’ may only be carried out in EFS(T) and EFS(G).

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

8.2.6.3.25.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.25.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

N/A

#### 8.2.6.3.25.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.25.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.25.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.25.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.25.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation

- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Knapsack spraying @ £20/hr (PED) for foliar spray treatment

Basis of calculations: Knapsack spraying @ £20/hr (PED) for foliar spray treatment						
Costs incurred	£ / m	£ / hr	£ / unit	num ber requi red	total cost ha	£ / ha / yr
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
Follow up treatments total cost (foliar spraying with knapsack @£20/hr)		£20.00		7.00	£140.00	£28.00
Herbicide (Glyphosate for example 'Clinic ace' - 8.75 litres @ £24.85/5lts (8.75lts = 1.75 x 5lt container) ( <a href="http://www.pitchcare.com/ehop/pro&lt;br/&gt;fessional-total-weed-killers/clinic-&lt;br/&gt;ace-herbicide-glyphosate-5l.html">http://www.pitchcare.com/ehop/pro fessional-total-weed-killers/clinic- ace-herbicide-glyphosate-5l.html</a> )			£24.8 5	1.75	£43.49	£8.70
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£183.49	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
N/A						
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£0.00
<b>Income forgone</b>						
N/A	£ / ha	% loss			total loss	£ / ha / yr
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£0.00
					£/ha	£ / ha / yr
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						£0.00
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						N/A

scrub control follow-up greater than 7cm

#### 8.2.6.3.26. Sub-measure 10.1.26 - Primary Treatment of Bracken - Mechanised or Chemical (NPI)\*

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.26.1. Description of the type of operation

\* This is a one-off action, to be completed in year one of the agreement, and as such the provisions of M4.4 (non-productive investments) apply.

Aim of commitment: To decrease the area of bracken cover on priority habitats in semi-natural sites, therefore enhancing their biodiversity.

Description of the commitment: This non-productive investment (referred to as capital works) Option will reduce the cover of bracken on semi-natural habitats to increase the biodiversity value of the site. Dense bracken frequently results in the loss of priority habitats. Control is by mechanical or chemical means. . IPM principles will be applied to the management of bracken to ensure that, where possible, alternatives to the use of pesticides are utilised.

The location and area of bracken control, type of herbicide and method of application (knapsack or quad sprayer or trailed weedwiper) will be detailed in the site specific Remedial Management Plan and Remedial Management Plan map.

The inspector will check that:

- All ‘Primary treatment of Bracken – mechanised or chemical’ has been completed as detailed in the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the first year of the EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement;
- The claimed area of ‘Primary treatment of Bracken – mechanised or chemical’ has been completed in the fields where the works have been approved;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

##### 8.2.6.3.26.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

#### **Capital works:**

Bracken control is considered as capital works.

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Additional capital works may be included if specified by the ssRMP.

#### 8.2.6.3.26.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.26.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.26.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.26.6. Eligibility conditions

‘Primary treatment of Bracken – mechanised or chemical’ may only be carried out in EFS(H) and EFS(G).

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

#### 8.2.6.3.26.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.26.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

N/A

#### 8.2.6.3.26.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.26.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.26.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.26.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.26.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants
- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks
  
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
  
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use



The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

Basis of calculations:

Bracken normally present on rough terrain -90% of area accessible by ATV and 10% inaccessible for ATV, therefore knapsack treatment required.

Contract charges: ATV spraying @ £40.00/hr (DARD Farm Business Data 2014), knapsack spraying @ £20.00/hr (DARD Farm Business Data 2014).

Work rates (rough terrain): 0.25ha/hr (4.00 hrs/ha) for ATV and 0.05ha/hr (20 hrs/ha) for knapsack

Herbicide application rate: 2.5l/ha of weather resistant glyphosate; knapsack 5l/ha,

Herbicide cost: £24.85/5l, for example 'Clinic ace' - <http://www.pitchcare.com/shop/professional-total-weed-killers/clinic-ace-herbicide-glyphosate-5l.html>

### 8.2.6.3.27. Sub-measure 10.1.27 - Follow-up treatment of Bracken - Mechanised or Chemical

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

#### 8.2.6.3.27.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To decrease bracken cover on priority habitats located on semi-natural sites, thereby enhancing their biodiversity.

Description of the commitment: This non-productive investment (referred to as capital works) Option will reduce the cover of dense bracken on semi-natural habitats to increase the biodiversity of the site. Dense bracken frequently results in the loss of priority habitats. IPM principles will be applied to the management of bracken to ensure that, where possible, alternatives to the use of pesticides are utilised.

The location and area of 'Follow-up treatment of Bracken – mechanised or chemical', type of control and method of application (knapsack or quad sprayer or trailed weedwiper) will be detailed in the site specific Remedial Management Plan and Remedial Management Plan map.

The inspector will check that:

- All 'Follow-up treatment of Bracken – mechanised or chemical' has been completed in the specified year in the site specific Remedial Management Plan;
- The claimed area of 'Follow-up treatment of Bracken – mechanised or chemical' has been completed in the fields where the works have been approved;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plans.

#### 8.2.6.3.27.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

#### **Capital works:**

Bracken control is considered as capital works.

#### **Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Additional capital works may be included if specified by the ssRMP.

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8.2.6.3.27.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.
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8.2.6.3.27.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.
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8.2.6.3.27.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.
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8.2.6.3.27.6. Eligibility conditions

‘Follow-up treatment of Bracken – mechanised or chemical’ may only be carried out in EFS(H) and EFS(G).  For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1
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8.2.6.3.27.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.
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8.2.6.3.27.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

N/A
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#### 8.2.6.3.27.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.27.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.27.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.27.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.27.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants
- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
  
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
  
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Bracken present on rough terrain -90% of area accessible by ATV and 10% inaccessible for ATV, therefore knapsack treatment required.

50% of primary treatment area will require follow-up treatment.

Contract charges: ATV spraying @ £40.00/hr (DARD Farm Business Data 2014), knapsack spraying @ £20.00/hr (DARD Farm Business Data 2014).

Work rates (rough terrain): 0.25ha/hr (4.00 hrs/ha) for ATV and 0.05ha/hr (20 hrs/ha) for knapsack

Herbicide application rate: 2.5l/ha of weather resistant glyphosate; knapsack 5l/ha.

Herbicide cost: £24.85/5l, for example 'Clinic ace' - <http://www.pitchcare.com/shop/professional-total-weed-killers/clinic-ace-herbicide-glyphosate-5l.html>

**Basic of calculations:**  
 Bracken present on rough terrain -90% of area accessible by ATV and 10% inaccessible for ATV, therefore Knapsack treatment required.  
 50% of primary treatment area will require follow-up treatment.  
 Contract charges: ATV spraying @ £40.00/hr (DARD Farm Business Data 2014), knapsack spraying @ £20.00/hr (DARD Farm Business Data 2014).  
 Work rates (rough terrain): 0.25ha/hr (4.00 hrs/ha) for ATV and 0.05ha/hr (20 hrs/ha) for knapsack  
 Herbicide application rate: 2.5l/ha of weather resistant **glyphosate**; knapsack 5l/ha.  
 Herbicide cost: £24.85/5l, for example 'Clinic ace' - <http://www.pltchcare.com/shop/professional-total-weed-killers/clinic-ace-herbicide-glyphosate-5l.html>

	£/m	£/hr	£/unit	num ber requi red	total cost ha	£/ha / yr
<b>Costs incurred</b>						
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
Planning for bracken control. A/WB 2015 management rate. 1 hrs planning per spraying.		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
Spraying/weedwiping - ATV: 0.25ha/hr =1.8 hrs to cover 0.45ha		£40.00		1.8	£72.00	£14.40
Spraying - Knapsack: 0.05ha/hr =1 hrs to cover 0.05ha		£20.00		1	£20.00	£4.00
Herbicide.			£24.85	0.28	£6.96	£1.39
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					<b>£108.30</b>	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
N/A						
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£0.00
<b>Income forgone</b>	£/ha	% loss			total loss	£/ha / yr
N/A						
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£0.00
						£/ha / yr
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						£0.00
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						N/A

follow-up treatment of bracken mechanised or chemical

#### 8.2.6.3.28. Sub-measure 10.1.28 - Invasive Species Control of Rhododendron and Laurel - Primary Control (NPI)\*

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.28.1. Description of the type of operation

\* This is a one-off action, to be completed in year one of the agreement, and as such the provisions of M4.4 (non-productive investments) apply.

Aim of commitment: To decrease the area of invasive Rhododendron and Laurel on priority habitats located on semi-natural sites, thereby enhancing their biodiversity.

Description of the commitment: This non-productive investment (referred to as capital works) Option will remove dense rhododendron and laurel on semi-natural habitats to increase the biodiversity value of the site. IPM principles will be applied to the management of all IAS to ensure that, where possible, alternatives to the use of pesticides are utilised.

The need for 'Invasive species control of Rhododendron and Laurel – Primary control' will be specified in the site specific Remedial Management Plan. The area and location of Rhododendron and Laurel to be removed will be clearly detailed on the site specific Remedial Management Plan map.

The inspector will check that:

- All 'Invasive species control of Rhododendron and Laurel – Primary control' has been completed as detailed in the site specific Remedial Management Plan in the first year of the EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement;
- Foliar spraying has been completed on the claimed area of 'Invasive species control of Rhododendron and Laurel – Primary control' in the fields where the works have been approved to ensure that regrowth is no more than 10% cover;
- Rhododendron and Laurel stems that required cutting have been cut to leave approximately 30cm (12inch) stumps and that the stems have been treated with glyphosate;
- Rhododendron and Laurel cutting have been removed from site or burned at an agreed location as identified in the site specific Remedial Management Plan;
- Standing Rhododendron and Laurel has not been burned;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

#### 8.2.6.3.28.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

##### **Capital Works (Non-productive investment items):**

‘Invasive species control of Rhododendron and Laurel – Primary control’ is considered as capital works.

##### **Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Additional capital works may be included if specified by the ssRMP.

#### 8.2.6.3.28.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.28.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.28.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.28.6. Eligibility conditions

‘Invasive species control of Rhododendron and Laurel – Primary control’ may only be carried out in EFS(T) and EFS(G). The need for ‘Invasive species control of Rhododendron and Laurel – Primary control’ will be specified in the site specific Remedial Management Plan. The area and location of Rhododendron and Laurel to be removed will be clearly detailed on the site specific Remedial Management Plan map.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1



8.2.6.3.28.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.28.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

N/A

8.2.6.3.28.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

*8.2.6.3.28.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

*8.2.6.3.28.9.2. Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

*8.2.6.3.28.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.28.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants
- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent

soil erosion.

- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
- GAEC 7: Land managers must prevent encroachment by invasive species. (Invasive species are Rhododendron, Giant hogweed, Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam, wild oat, dock, thistle and ragwort)”.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Chainsaw hire @ £35/day or £4.47/hr.

Hire tractor (4wd) - £80/day + twin axle trailer - £42.50/day = £122.50/day or £15.31/hr.

# Tracked digger @ £32.50/hr

Basis of calculations:						
Chainsaw hire @ £35/day or £4.47/hr.						
Hire tractor (4wd) - £30/day - Win axle trailer - £42.50/day = £122.50/day or £15.31/hr.						
Tracked digger @ £32.50/hr						
	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required	total cost / ha	£ / ha / yr
<b>Costs incurred (initial)</b>						
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
Planning for rhododendron control, 3 hr/ha required. A/NB management rate £9.34.		£9.34		3.00	£28.02	£5.60
Chainsaw hire @ £35/day or £4.47/hr.			£4.47	70.00	£312.90	£62.58
Labour - chainsaw operator (A/NB 2015 standard rate)		£6.91		70.00	£483.70	£96.74
Labour - pulling out and burning/disposal (Shared between digger and tractor/trailer)		£6.91		70.00	£483.70	£96.74
Hire tractor (4wd) - £30/day - Win axle trailer - £42.50/day = £122.50/day or £15.31/hr.		£15.31		70.00	£1,071.70	£214.34
Digger/tractor to pile for burning/ prep for lifting. CARD farm business data (PED), pg 100, tracked digger £32.50/hr.		£32.50		70.00	£2,275.00	£455.00
Herbicide: Glyphosate for example (Clinic ace) - 5 litres for £24.85. 3 x 5l required/ha. ( <a href="http://www.pfizer.com/npd/professionals-total-weed-killers/clinic-ace-herbicide-glyphosate-5l.html">http://www.pfizer.com/npd/professionals-total-weed-killers/clinic-ace-herbicide-glyphosate-5l.html</a> ) (Herbicide (per ha))			£24.85	3.00	£74.55	£14.91
Stump and foliar treatment - knapsack spraying @ £20/hr (PED costs)		£20.00		16.00	£320.00	£64.00
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					<b>£5,049.57</b>	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
N/A						
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Income forgone</b>						
N/A			0.00%			
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						<b>N/A</b>

control of rhododendron & laurel primary control

### 8.2.6.3.29. Sub-measure 10.1.29 - Invasive Species Control of Rhododendron and Laurel - Follow-up Spraying Regrowth Control

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

#### 8.2.6.3.29.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To decrease the area of invasive Rhododendron and Laurel on priority habitats located on semi-natural sites, thereby enhancing their biodiversity.

Description of the commitment: This Option is an annual management Option and does not contain essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). The Option will remove regrowth following initial primary control of dense Rhododendron and Laurel, on semi-natural habitats to increase the biodiversity value of the site. IPM principles will be applied to the management of all IAS to ensure that, where possible, alternatives to the use of pesticides are utilised.

The need for 'Invasive species control of Rhododendron and Laurel – Follow-up spraying regrowth control' will be specified in the site specific Remedial Management Plan. The area and location of Rhododendron and Laurel to be controlled will be clearly detailed on the site specific Remedial Management Plan map.

The inspector will check that:

- All 'Invasive species control of Rhododendron and Laurel – Follow-up spraying regrowth control' has been completed as detailed in the site specific Remedial Management Plan;
- Foliar spraying has been completed with an approved herbicide on the claimed area of 'Invasive species control of Rhododendron and Laurel – Follow-up spraying regrowth control' in the fields where the works have been approved to ensure that regrowth is no more than 5% cover of the area;
- Rhododendron and Laurel stem that required cutting have been cut to leave approximately 30cm (12 inch) stumps and that cut stems have been treated with an approved herbicide;
- Rhododendron and Laurel cutting have been removed from site or burned at an agreed location as identified in the site specific Remedial Management Plan;
- Standing Rhododendron and Laurel has been burned;

Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

#### 8.2.6.3.29.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Essential capital works:**

This Option does not contain an essential capital works element.

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Additional capital works may be included if specified by the ssRMP.

8.2.6.3.29.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.29.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.29.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.29.6. Eligibility conditions

‘Invasive species control of Rhododendron and Laurel – Follow-up spraying regrowth control’ may only be carried out in EFS(H) and EFS(G).

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

8.2.6.3.29.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.29.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£90 per hectare

8.2.6.3.29.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.6.3.29.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.29.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.29.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.29.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the

relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants
- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
- GAEC 7: Land managers must prevent encroachment by invasive species. (Invasive species are Rhododendron, Giant hogweed, Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam, wild oat, dock, thistle and ragwort)”.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to

exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

Please see table below

	£/ha	£/hr	£/unit	number required	total cost/ha	£/ha/yr
<b>Costs incurred (Follow-up)</b>						
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
N/A						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£0.00	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planting for follow-up rhododendron control. 1 hrs required i.e. 1 hrs/scheme @ AWB 2015 management rate.		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
Follow up treatments total cost (roller spraying with knapsack @£20/hr) - 5hrs/ha/yr (Apyril Fisheries Trust) for 4 yrs Total 20 hrs.		£20.00		20.00	£400.00	£80.00
Herbicide (Glyphosate, for example 'Clinic ace' - 5 litres for £24.85 ( <a href="http://www.pitchcare.com/shop/professional-total-weed-killers/clinic-ace-herbicide-glyphosate-5l.html">http://www.pitchcare.com/shop/professional-total-weed-killers/clinic-ace-herbicide-glyphosate-5l.html</a> ) 2 x 5lt required			£24.85	2.00	£49.70	£9.94
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£91.81
<b>Income forgone</b>	£/ha	% loss			total loss	£/ha/yr
N/A		0.00%				
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£0.00
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						£91.81
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						£90/ha

control of rhododendron & laurel follow-up



#### 8.2.6.3.30. Sub-measure 10.1.30 - Heather - Controlled Burning (NPI)\*

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.30.1. Description of the type of operation

\* This is a one-off action, to be completed in year one of the agreement, and as such the provisions of M4.4 (non-productive investments) apply.

Aim of commitment: To create firebreaks or a patchwork with a range of heather ages.

Description of the commitment: This non-productive investment (referred to as capital works) Option will remove old, dead material by controlled burning and can therefore be used to create firebreaks. It can also regenerate heather and encourages new growth from the plant base and the underlying seed bank. The Option can create a moorland patchwork with a range of heather ages which encourages utilisation by livestock on the whole area, benefits wildlife including red grouse and contributes to mitigation of climate change.

This option can only be used in very limited circumstances and with the agreement of the NI Environment Agency.

The need for 'Heather – controlled burning' will be specified in the site specific Remedial Management Plan. The area and location of the heather controlled burning will be detailed on a site specific Remedial Management Plan map.

The inspector will check that:

- All 'Heather – controlled burning' is completed in the first year of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement;
- The claimed area of 'Heather – controlled burning' has been completed in the fields where the works have been approved;
- Field records are kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

##### 8.2.6.3.30.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Capital works:**

This Option does not contain an essential capital works element.

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Additional capital works may be included if specified by the ssRMP.

8.2.6.3.30.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.30.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.30.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.30.6. Eligibility conditions

‘Heather - controlled burning’ may only be carried out in EFS(T) and EFS(G).

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

8.2.6.3.30.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

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8.2.6.3.30.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

N/A
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8.2.6.3.30.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.6.3.30.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.
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8.2.6.3.30.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.
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8.2.6.3.30.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.
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8.2.6.3.30.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- |  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants</li><li>• GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.</li><li>• GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.</li><li>• GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.</li></ul> |
|--|

- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Heather flailing @ £40/hr

Workrate = 2hrs/ha or 0.5ha/hr.

10m firebreak required around burned area for fire control.

Realistic burn area target is  $5 \times (0.4-0.8\text{ha}) = 3\text{ha}$  average burn area per day & recheck that fire is out.

Therefore 2.66 hr to burn 1ha. Labour requirement cost =  $2.66\text{hrs} \times 6\text{staff} = 15.96\text{ hrs} \times £6.91/\text{hr} =$

Basis of calculations:						
Heather felling @ £40/hr						
Work rate = 2hrs/ha or 0.5ha/hr.						
10m firebreak required around burned area for fire control.						
Realistic burn area target is 64(0.4-0.5ha)= 3ha average burn area per day & recheck that fire is out. Therefore 2.66 hr to burn 1ha. Labour requirement cost = 2.66hrs x 6staff =15.96 hrs x £6.91/hr =						
Costs incurred	£/ha	£/hr	£/unit	number required	total cost ha	£/ha/yr
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
Burn Planning and preparation - permissions, notifying adjacent landowners, Forest Service, NIEA, Fire Service, organising labour, emergency planning, 60000 staff AWB 2015 management rate: 1.0 hrs planning/ha		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
Firebreak felling (10m wide around 0.5 ha block = 4x 71m long x 10 m wide = 0.28 ha @ £40/ha @ 2hr/ha = 0.56hrs), Rate is PED @ 100% (4000) for heather felling		£40.00		0.56	£22.40	£4.48
Use 6 or more (ref NICMB p54) trained staff with specialist knowledge and experience including 1 first aider, experienced fire supervisor & beaters (source Natural England. Realistic target is 64(0.4-0.5ha)= 3ha average burn area per day & recheck that fire is out.		£6.91		16	£110.56	£22.11
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					<b>£142.30</b>	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs:</b>						
N/A						
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Income forgone</b>	<b>£/ha</b>	<b>% loss</b>			<b>total loss</b>	<b>£/ha/yr</b>
		0.00%				
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						<b>£0.00</b>
						<b>£/ha/yr</b>
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						<b>N/A</b>

heather regeneration controlled burning

#### 8.2.6.3.31. Sub-measure 10.1.31 - Heather Regeneration - Flailing (NPI)\*

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.31.1. Description of the type of operation

\* This is a one-off action, to be completed in year one of the agreement, and as such the provisions of M4.4 (non-productive investments) apply.

Aim of commitment: To produce a patchwork with a range of heather ages.

Description of the commitment: This non-productive investment (referred to as capital works) Option will produce a patchwork with a range of heather ages which increases grazing quality, encourages livestock to graze the whole area and benefits wildlife. Heather flailing should be carried out in a planned sequence to encourage regeneration. The need for 'Heather regeneration – flailing' will be specified in the site specific Remedial Management Plan. The area and location of the heather regeneration by flailing will be clearly detailed on the site specific Remedial Management Plan map.

The inspector will check that:

- All 'Heather regeneration – Flailing' is completed in the first year of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement;
- The claimed area of 'Heather regeneration – Flailing' has been completed in the fields where the works have been approved;
- All 'Heather regeneration – flailing' has been completed using mechanical means;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

##### 8.2.6.3.31.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

#### **Capital works:**

'Heather regeneration – Flailing' is considered as capital works

#### **Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Additional capital works may be included if specified by the ssRMP.

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8.2.6.3.31.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.
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8.2.6.3.31.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.
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8.2.6.3.31.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.
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8.2.6.3.31.6. Eligibility conditions

‘Heather regeneration – Flailing’ may only be carried out in EFS(T) and EFS(G). For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1
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8.2.6.3.31.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.
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8.2.6.3.31.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

N/A
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#### 8.2.6.3.31.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.31.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.31.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.31.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.31.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants
- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
  
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation



The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Heather flailing @ £40/hr

Workrate = 2hrs/ha or 0.5ha/hr.

Basic of calculations: Heather flailing @ £40/hr (Work rate = 2hrs/ha or 0.5ha/hr.						
	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	num ber requi red	total cost ha	£ / ha / yr
<b>Costs Incurred</b>						
<b>Non-productive Investment (NPI)</b>						
Creating a regeneration plan and sourcing materials - estimate 1 hr. Rate PED Grade 4 Craft Grade		£9.34		2	£18.68	£3.74
Flailing 0.5 ha block = 0.50 @ £40/ha @ 2hr/ha = 1.0 hrs. Source: PED 2014 p100 flailing midpoint.		£40.00		1	£40.00	£8.00
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					<b>£58.68</b>	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
N/A						
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£0.00
<b>Income forgone</b>	£ / ha		% loss		total loss	£ / ha / yr
			0.00%			
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£0.00
						£ / ha / yr
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						<b>N/A</b>

heather regeneration flailing

#### 8.2.6.3.32. Sub-measure 10.1.32 - Remedial Management Plan Moorlands (Upland Heath)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.32.1. Description of the type of operation

**Aim of the commitment:** To maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of upland heath habitats through appropriate management regimes

**Description of the commitment:** This Option is an Annual management Option and has no essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). Heath and bog habitats dominate upland areas in Northern Ireland. Upland heath is defined as lying below the alpine or montane zone (at about 600 m), and usually above the upper limit of agricultural enclosure, generally at around 300 m, although in the west this may be as low as 120m. Upland heath is subject of a NI Habitat Action Plan. Remedial management will address undergrazing, overgrazing, damage associated with supplementary feeding sites and lack of active management on upland heath sites.

Local site conditions need to be taken into account through the creation of a site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP) and associated Management Map. The area and location of 'Moorland (upland heath) remedial management' will be detailed on the ssRMP map.

The inspector will check that:

- The same area and location of option 'Moorland (upland heath) remedial management' option is maintained and managed, to enhance the habitat for the duration of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement;
- The site specific Remedial Management Plan in the field(s) is implemented where it has been approved; and,
- All field records are kept, as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan

##### 8.2.6.3.32.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Payment per hectare

**Essential capital works:**

None

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Stock-proof fencing

Gate and posts

Bat box

Bird box

Solitary bee box

Additional capital works may be included if specified by the ssRMP.

#### 8.2.6.3.32.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.32.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.32.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.32.6. Eligibility conditions

Upland heath areas, generally of elevation between 300m and 600m. Only EFS(T) and EFS(G) are eligible.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

#### 8.2.6.3.32.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.32.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£40.00 per hectare for the first 50 hectares, £20 per hectare after 50 hectares and £10 per hectare after 100 hectares.

8.2.6.3.32.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.6.3.32.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.32.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.32.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.32.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants
  - GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent

soil erosion.

- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Stocking density reduction from 0.3 LU/ha to 0.25 LU/ha (0.05LU/ha reduction).

Bracken control for sward management required on 5% of area in Years 2-5

Control of spreading scrub required on 5% of area in Years 2-5

Off-farm winter keep required for 13 weeks/yr @ 0.25/0.15\* £0.55 = £0.92/week/yr

Haulage to/from winter keep - 20 ewes per load , 0.50 hr journey each way (2hr in total) = 2hrs/yr/20 ewes. 20 ewes = 3.00 LU = 12ha @ 0.25LU/ha. Time to transport ewes for 1ha = 2hr/12 = 0.17hrs/yr or 0.85hrs for 5 years Haulage cost = £32.50 (PED cost/hr for tractor + trailer haulage) x 0.17 = £2.69/yr

Average breeding ewe gross margin = £35.74 (See table 1 in tab: Report tables PED 31 01 15).

Therefore, as the option involves a reduction of 0.05 LU per hectare and a breeding ewe is 0.15 livestock units, the GM reduction should be £11.91 (i.e 35.74/3).

**Basis of calculations:**  
 Stocking density reduction from 0.3 LU/ha to 0.25 LU/ha (0.05LU/ha reduction).  
 Brecken control for sward management required on 5% of area in Years 2-5  
 Control of spreading scrub required on 5% of area in Years 2-5  
 Off-farm winter keep required for 13 weeks/yr @ 0.25/0.15\* £0.55 = £0.92/week/yr  
 Haulage to/from winter keep - 20 ewes per load , 0.50 hr journey each way (2hr in total) = 2hrs/yr/20 ewes. 20 ewes = 3.00 LU = 12ha @ 0.25LU/ha. Time to transport ewes for 1ha = 2hr/12 = 0.17hrs/yr or 0.85hrs for 5 years Haulage cost = £32.50 (PED cost/hr for tractor + trailer haulage) x 0.17 = £2.69/yr  
 Average breeding ewe gross margin = £35.74 (See table 1 in tab: Report tables PED 31 01 15).  
 Therefore, as the option involves a reduction of 0.05 LU per hectare and a breeding ewe is 0.15 livestock units, the GM reduction should be £11.91 (i.e 35.74/3).

	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	num ber requi red	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Costs incurred</b>						
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
N/A						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£0.00	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping for implementation of Remedial Management Plan for moorland sites. AWB 2015 management rate. 0.2 hrs planning/ha/year		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
Control of spreading brecken	£21.15			20%	£4.23	£0.85
Control of spreading scrub	£254.37			20%	£50.87	£10.17
Replacement grazing			£0.92	65	£59.80	£11.96
Haulage to/from winter grazing site (PED 2014 pg. 100)		£32.50		0.85	£27.63	£5.53
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£30.37
<b>Income forgone</b>	£ / ha	% loss			total loss	£ / ha / yr
Northern Ireland breeding ewe average GM	£11.91			5	£59.55	£11.91
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£11.91
						£ / ha / yr
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						£42.28
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						£40/ha

remedial grazing plan moorlands upland heath

### 8.2.6.3.33. Sub-measure 10.1.33 - Remedial Management Plan - Moorlands (Lowland Heath)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

#### 8.2.6.3.33.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of lowland heath habitats through appropriate management regimes.

Description of the commitment: This Option is an Annual management Option and has no essential non-productive investments (capital works). Heathland and bog habitats dominate upland areas in Northern Ireland. Lowland heath is characterised by the presence of dwarf shrubs such as heather, bell heather and western gorse which can form a beautiful carpet of purple and yellow. Lowland heath is found below the upper limit of agricultural enclosure, generally below 300m and supports a range of flora and fauna not found on upland heath. A NI Habitat Action Plan for lowland heathland is currently in operation. Remedial management will address undergrazing, overgrazing, damage associated with supplementary feeding sites and lack of active management on upland heath sites.

Local site conditions need to be taken into account through the creation of a site-specific management plan and associated management map. The area and location of 'Moorland (lowland heath) remedial management' will be detailed on the ssRMP map.

The inspector will check;

- That the claimed area of 'Moorland (lowland heath) remedial management' has been maintained and managed for the duration of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement
- That the site specific Remedial Management Plan has been implemented in the field(s) has where it has been approved
- That field records have been kept as required by the site specific Remedial Management Plan

#### 8.2.6.3.33.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Essential capital works:**

None

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**



Stock-proof fencing

Gate and posts

Bat box

Bird box

Solitary bee box

Additional capital works may be included if specified by the ssRMP.

#### 8.2.6.3.33.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.33.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.33.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.33.6. Eligibility conditions

Only EFS(T) and EFS(G) are eligible.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

#### 8.2.6.3.33.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.33.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£40.00 per hectare for the first 50 hectares, £20 per hectare after 50 hectares and £10 per hectare after 100 hectares.

#### 8.2.6.3.33.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.33.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.33.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.33.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.33.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants

- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Stocking density reduction from 0.3 LU/ha to 0.25 LU/ha (0.05LU/ha reduction).

Control of spreading bracken required on 5% of area in Years 2-5

Control of spreading scrub required on 5% of area in Years 2-5

Off-farm winter keep required for 13 weeks @ 0.25/0.15\* £0.55 = £0.92/week

Haulage to/from winter keep - 20 ewes per load , 0.50 hr journey each way (2hr in total) = 2hrs/yr/20 ewes. 20 ewes = 3.00 LU = 12ha @ 0.25LU/ha. Time to transport ewes for 1ha = 2hr/12 =0.17hrs/yr or 0.85hrs for 5 years Haulage cost = £32.50 (PED cost/hr for tractor + trailer haulage) x 0.17 = £2.69/yr

Average breeding ewe gross margin = £35.74 (See table 1 in tab: Report tables PED 31 01 15).

Therefore, as the option involves a reduction of 0.05 LU per hectare and a breeding ewe is 0.15 livestock units, the GM reduction should be £11.91 (i.e 35.74/3).

**Base of calculations:**  
 Stocking density reduction from 0.3 LU/ha to 0.25 LU/ha (0.05LU/ha reduction).  
 Control of spreading bracken required on 5% of area in Years 2-5  
 Control of spreading scrub required on 5% of area in Years 2-5  
 Off-farm winter keep required for 13 weeks @ 0.25/0.15\* £0.55 = £0.92/week  
 Haulage to/from winter keep - 20 ewes per load , 0.50 hr journey each way (2hr in total) = 2hrs/yr/20 ewes. 20 ewes = 3.00 LU = 12ha @ 0.25LU/ha. Time to transport ewes for 1ha = 2hr/12 =0.17hrs/yr or 0.85hrs for 5 years Haulage cost = £32.50 (PED cost/hr for tractor + trailer haulage) x 0.17 = £2.69/yr  
 Average breeding ewe gross margin = £35.74 (See table 1 in tab: Report tables PED 31 01 15).  
 Therefore, as the option involves a reduction of 0.05 LU per hectare and a breeding ewe is 0.15 livestock units, the GM reduction should be £11.91 (i.e 35.74/3).

	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	num ber requi red	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Costs incurred</b>						
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
N/A						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£0.00	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping for implementation of Remedial Management Plan for moorland sites. ANWB 2015 management rate. 0.2 hrs planning/ha/year		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
Control of spreading bracken	£21.15			20%	£4.23	£0.85
Control of spreading scrub	£254.37			20%	£50.87	£10.17
Replacement grazing			£0.92	65	£59.80	£11.96
Haulage to/from winter grazing site (PED 2014 pg. 100)		£32.50		0.85	£27.63	£5.53
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£30.37
<b>Income forgone</b>	£ / ha	% loss			total loss	£ / ha / yr
Northern Ireland breeding ewe average GM	£11.91			5	£59.55	£11.91
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£11.91
						£ / ha / yr
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						£42.28
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						£40/ha

moorlands lowland heath

#### 8.2.6.3.34. Sub-measure 10.1.34 - Remedial Management Plan - Moorlands (Montane Heath)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.34.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of montane heath habitats through appropriate management regimes.

Description of the commitment: This Option is an Annual management Option and has no essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). Heathland and bog habitats dominate upland areas in Northern Ireland. Montane heath is found in areas that lie above the natural level of tree development, generally above 600m. Montane heaths are subject of a NI Habitat Action Plan.

Remedial management will address undergrazing, overgrazing, damage associated with supplementary feeding sites and lack of active management on montane heath sites.

Local site conditions need to be taken into account through the creation of a site-specific management plan (ssRMP) and associated management map. The area and location of 'Moorland (montane heath) remedial management' will be detailed on the ssRMP map.

The inspector will check that:

- The claimed area of 'Moorland (montane heath) remedial management' is maintained and managed to enhance the same area and location for the duration of the EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement;
- Site specific Remedial Management Plan has been implemented in the field(s) where it has been approved;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

##### 8.2.6.3.34.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Essential capital works:**

None

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Stock-proof fencing

Gate and posts

Bat box

Bird box

Solitary bee box

Additional capital works may be included if specified by the ssRMP.

#### 8.2.6.3.34.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.34.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.34.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.34.6. Eligibility conditions

Only EFS(T) and EFS(G) are eligible.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

#### 8.2.6.3.34.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.34.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£40.00 per hectare for the first 50 hectares, £20 per hectare after 50 hectares and £10 per hectare after 100 hectares.

8.2.6.3.34.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.6.3.34.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.34.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.34.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.34.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants
  - GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent

soil erosion.

- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

Basis of calculations:

Current stocking density at LFACA minimum stocking density of 0.2 LU/ha.

Stocking density reduction from 0.20 LU/ha to 0.075 LU/ha (0.125LU/ha reduction).

Control of spreading scrub required on 1% of area in Years 2-5

Replacement grazing required for 13 weeks @ 0.075/0.15\* £0.55 = £0.28/week

Haulage to/from winter keep - 20 ewes per load , 0.50 hr journey each way (2hr in total) = 2hrs/yr/20

ewes. 20 ewes = 3.00 LU = 40ha @ 0.075LU/ha. Time to transport ewes for 1ha = 2hr/40 =0.05hrs/yr or



0.25hrs for 5 years Haulage cost = £32.50 (PED cost/hr for tractor + trailer haulage)  
 Average breeding ewe gross margin = £35.74 (See table 1 in tab: Report tables PED 31 01 15).  
 Therefore, as the option involves a reduction of 0.125 LU per hectare and a breeding ewe is 0.15 livestock units, the GM reduction should be £29.78 (i.e 35.74\*83%)

Basis of calculations:						
Current stocking density at LFACA minimum stocking density of 0.2 LU/ha.						
Stocking density reduction from 0.20 LU/ha to 0.075 LU/ha (0.125LU/ha reduction).						
Control of spreading scrub required on 1% of area in Years 2-5						
Replacement grazing required for 13 weeks @ 0.075*0.15* £0.55 = £0.28/week						
Haulage to/from winter keep - 20 ewes per load , 0.50 hr journey each way (2hr in total) = 2hrs/yr/20 ewes. 20 ewes = 3.00 LU = 40ha @ 0.075LU/ha. Time to transport ewes for 1ha = 2hr/40 =0.05hrs/yr or 0.25hrs for 5 years Haulage cost = £32.50 (PED cost/hr for tractor + trailer haulage)						
Average breeding ewe gross margin = £35.74 (See table 1 in tab: Report tables PED 31 01 15).						
Therefore, as the option involves a reduction of 0.125 LU per hectare and a breeding ewe is 0.15 livestock units, the GM reduction should be £29.78 (i.e 35.74*83%)						
Costs Incurred	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
N/A						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					<b>£0.00</b>	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping for Implementation of Remedial Management Plan for moorland sites. AWS 2015 management rate. 0.2 hrs planning/ha/year		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
Control of spreading scrub	£254.37			4%	£10.17	£2.03
Replacement grazing			£0.28	65	£18.20	£3.64
Haulage to/from winter grazing site (PED 2014 pg. 100)		£32.50		0.25	£8.13	£1.63
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						<b>£9.17</b>
<b>Income forgone</b>						
Northern Ireland breeding ewe average GM	£29.78		% loss	5	£148.90	£29.78
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						<b>£29.78</b>
						£ / ha / yr
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						<b>£38.95</b>
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						<b>£40/ha</b>

moorlands montane heath

### 8.2.6.3.35. Sub-measure 10.1.35 - Remedial Management Plan - Moorlands (Blanket Bog)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

#### 8.2.6.3.35.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of blanket bog habitats through appropriate management regimes.

Description of the commitment: This Option is an Annual management Option that has no essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). Heathland and bog habitats dominate upland areas in Northern Ireland. The most extensive tracts of blanket bog tend to occur at altitudes in excess of 200m but in areas where annual rainfall is much higher, a number of blanket bogs occur in the altitude range 150m to 200m. In the extreme west, extensive blanket bogs have developed as low as 90m. Peat depth is also very variable, with an average of 0.5-3m being fairly typical. However, where peat has accumulated in depressions, depths in excess of 5m are not unusual. Blanket bogs are subject of a NI Habitat Action Plan.

Remedial management will address undergrazing, overgrazing, damage associated with supplementary feeding sites and lack of active management on blanket bog sites.

Local site conditions need to be taken into account through the creation of a site-specific management plan (ssRMP) and associated management map. The area and location of 'Moorland (blanket bog) remedial management' will be detailed on the ssRMP map.

The inspector will check that:

- The claimed area of 'Moorland (blanket bog) remedial management' is maintained and managed to enhance the same area and location for the duration of the EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement;
- Site specific Remedial Management Plan has been implemented in the field(s) where it has been approved;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

#### 8.2.6.3.35.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Essential capital works:**

None

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Stock-proof fencing

Gate and posts

Bat box

Bird box

Solitary bee box

Additional capital works may be included if specified by the ssRMP.

**8.2.6.3.35.3. Links to other legislation**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.35.4. Beneficiaries**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.35.5. Eligible costs**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.35.6. Eligibility conditions**

Only EFS(T) and EFS(G) are eligible.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

#### 8.2.6.3.35.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.35.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£40.00 per hectare for the first 50 hectares, £20 per hectare after 50 hectares and £10 per hectare after 100 hectares.

#### 8.2.6.3.35.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.35.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.35.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.35.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.35.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants
- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Current stocking density at LFACA minimum stocking density of 0.2 LU/ha.

Stocking density reduction from 0.20 LU/ha to 0.075 LU/ha (0.125LU/ha reduction).

Control of spreading scrub required on 1% of area in Years 2-5

Replacement grazing required for 13 weeks @ 0.075/0.15\* £0.55 = £0.28/week

Haulage to/from winter keep - 20 ewes per load , 0.50 hr journey each way (2hr in total) = 2hrs/yr/20 ewes. 20 ewes = 3.00 LU = 40ha @ 0.075LU/ha. Time to transport ewes for 1ha = 2hr/40 =0.05hrs/yr or 0.25hrs for 5 years Haulage cost = £32.50 (PED cost/hr for tractor + trailer haulage)

Average breeding ewe gross margin = £35.74 (See table 1 in tab: Report tables PED 31 01 15).

Therefore, as the option involves a reduction of 0.125 LU per hectare and a breeding ewe is 0.15 livestock units, the GM reduction should be £29.78 (i.e 35.74\*83%)

Basis of calculations:						
Current stocking density at LFACA minimum stocking density of 0.2 LU/ha.						
Stocking density reduction from 0.20 LU/ha to 0.075 LU/ha (0.125LU/ha reduction).						
Control of spreading scrub required on 1% of area in Years 2-5						
Replacement grazing required for 13 weeks @ 0.075/0.15* £0.55 = £0.28/week						
Haulage to/from winter keep - 20 ewes per load , 0.50 hr journey each way (2hr in total) = 2hrs/yr/20 ewes. 20 ewes = 3.00 LU = 40ha @ 0.075LU/ha. Time to transport ewes for 1ha = 2hr/40 =0.05hrs/yr or 0.25hrs for 5 years Haulage cost = £32.50 (PED cost/hr for tractor + trailer haulage)						
Average breeding ewe gross margin = £35.74 (See table 1 in tab: Report tables PED 31 01 15).						
Therefore, as the option involves a reduction of 0.125 LU per hectare and a breeding ewe is 0.15 livestock units, the GM reduction should be £29.78 (i.e 35.74*83%)						
Costs incurred	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required	total cost	£ / ha / yr
Non-productive investment (NPI)						
N/A						
Total Year 1 NPI cost					£0.00	
Annual recurring maintenance costs						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping for implementation of Remedial Management Plan for moorland sites. AWB 2015 management rate. 0.2 hrs planning/ha/year		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
Control of spreading scrub	£254.37			4%	£10.17	£2.03
Replacement grazing			£0.28	65	£18.20	£3.64
Haulage to/from winter grazing site (PED 2014 pg. 100)		£32.50		0.25	£8.13	£1.63
Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)						£9.17
Income forgone	£ / ha		% loss		total loss	£ / ha / yr
Northern Ireland breeding ewe average GM	£29.78			5	£148.90	£29.78
Subtotal (Income forgone)						£29.78
						£ / ha / yr
Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone						£38.95
Proposed payment rate						£40/ha

moorlands blanket bog

#### 8.2.6.3.36. Sub-measure 10.1.36 - Remedial Management Plan - Moorlands (Lowland Raised Bog)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.36.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of lowland raised bog through appropriate management regimes.

Description of the commitment: This Option is an Annual management Option and has no essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). Lowland raised bogs being comparatively scarce in NI. Lowland raised bogs are peatland ecosystems, which develop primarily in lowland areas below 150m and are generally surrounded by mineral soils. Lowland raised bogs are subject of a NI Habitat Action Plan.

Remedial management will address undergrazing, overgrazing, damage associated with supplementary feeding sites and lack of active management on lowland raised bog sites.

Local site conditions need to be taken into account through the creation of a site-specific remedial management plan (ssRMP) and associated management map. The area and location of 'Lowland raised bog remedial management' will be detailed on the ssRMP.

The inspector will check that:

- The claimed area of 'Lowland raised bog remedial management' is maintained and managed to enhance the same area and location for the duration of the EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement;
- Site specific Remedial Management Plan has been implemented in the field(s) where it has been approved;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

##### 8.2.6.3.36.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Essential capital works:**

None

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Stock-proof fencing

Gate and posts

Bat box

Bird box

Solitary bee box

Additional capital works may be included if specified by the ssRMP.

#### 8.2.6.3.36.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.36.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.36.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.36.6. Eligibility conditions

Only EFS(T) and EFS(G) are eligible.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

#### 8.2.6.3.36.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.



8.2.6.3.36.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£40.00 per hectare for the first 50 hectares, £20 per hectare after 50 hectares and £10 per hectare after 100 hectares.

8.2.6.3.36.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.6.3.36.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.36.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.36.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.36.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants
  - GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
  - GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points

and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.

- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Stocking density reduction from 0.40 LU/ha to 0.33 LU/ha (0.07 LU/ha reduction). Please refer to "Typical habitat types within Lowland Raised Bog" table in this worksheet for basis of 0.33LU/ha stocking density.

Sward management rush control required on 75% of grassland site/yr. Grassland area = 10% of Lowland

raised bog area, therefore rush control required on 7.5% of total area/yr in Years 2-5 - £40/hr @ 1.00 ha/hr @ 7.5% area cut = £3.00/ha in Years 2-5

Control of spreading scrub required on 1% of area in Years 2-5

Replacement grazing required for 13 weeks @ 0.33/0.15\* £0.55 = £1.21/week

Haulage to/from winter keep - 20 ewes per load , 0.25 hr journey each way (1hr in total) = 1hrs/yr/20 ewes. 20 ewes = 3.00 LU = 9.09ha @ 0.33LU/ha. Time to transport ewes for 1ha = 1hr/9.09 =0.11hrs/yr or 0.55hrs for 5 years Haulage cost = £32.50 (PED cost/hr for tractor + trailer haulage)

Average breeding ewe gross margin = £35.74 (See table 1 in tab: Report tables PED 31 01 15).

Therefore, as the option involves a reduction of 0.07 LU per hectare and a breeding ewe is 0.15 livestock units, the GM reduction should be £33.24 (i.e 35.74\*47%)

**Basis of calculations:**  
 Stocking density reduction from 0.40 LU/ha to 0.33 LU/ha (0.07 LU/ha reduction). Please refer to "Typical habitat types within Lowland Raised Bog" table in this worksheet for basis of 0.33LU/ha stocking density.  
 Sward management rush control required on 75% of grassland site/yr. Grassland area = 10% of Lowland raised bog area, therefore rush control required on 7.5% of total area/yr in Years 2-5 - £40/hr @ 1.00 ha/hr @ 7.5% area cut = £3.00/ha in Years 2-5  
 Control of spreading scrub required on 1% of area in Years 2-5  
 Replacement grazing required for 13 weeks @ 0.33/0.15\* £0.55 = £1.21/week  
 Haulage to/from winter keep - 20 ewes per load , 0.25 hr journey each way (1hr in total) = 1hrs/yr/20 ewes. 20 ewes = 3.00 LU = 9.09ha @ 0.33LU/ha. Time to transport ewes for 1ha = 1hr/9.09 =0.11hrs/yr or 0.55hrs for 5 years Haulage cost = £32.50 (PED cost/hr for tractor + trailer haulage)  
 Average breeding ewe gross margin = £35.74 (See table 1 in tab: Report tables PED 31 01 15).  
 Therefore, as the option involves a reduction of 0.07 LU per hectare and a breeding ewe is 0.15 livestock units, the GM reduction should be £33.24 (i.e 35.74\*47%)

	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	num ber requi red	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Costs Incurred</b>						
<b>Non-productive Investment (NPI)</b>						
N/A						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£0.00	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning , resource sourcing , organisation & record keeping for Implementation of Remedial Management Plan for moorland sites. AWB 2015 management rate. 0.2 hrs planning/ha/year		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
Control of spreading scrub	£254.37			4%	£10.17	£2.03
Control of spreading rush	£3.00			4.00	£12.00	£2.40
Replacement grazing			£1.21	65	£78.65	£15.73
Haulage to/from winter grazing site (PED 2014 pg. 100)		£32.50		0.55	£17.88	£3.58
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£25.61
<b>Income forgone</b>	£ / ha	% loss			total loss	£ / ha / yr
Northern Ireland breeding ewe average GM	£16.80			5	£84.00	£16.80
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£16.80
						£ / ha / yr
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						£42.41
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						£40/ha

moorlands lowland raised bog

### 8.2.6.3.37. Sub-measure 10.1.37 - Remedial Management Plan - Grasslands (Purple Moorgrass and Rush Pasture)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

#### 8.2.6.3.37.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of grazed purple moorgrass and rush pasture through appropriate management regimes.

Description of the commitment: This Option is an Annual management Option and has no essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). Grazing suppresses coarse grasses and woody plants, preventing the transition from grassland to scrub and woodland. Rare and delicate species benefit from variations in the vegetation created by grazing. Remedial management will address undergrazing, overgrazing, damage associated with supplementary feeding sites and lack of active management on purple moorgrass and rush pasture sites. In particular, appropriate grazing will benefit ground nesting birds and the marsh fritillary butterfly.

Local site conditions need to be taken into account through the creation of a site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP) and associated Management map. The area and location of the 'Purple moorgrass and rush pasture sites remedial management' will be detailed on the ssRMP map.

The inspector will check that:

- The claimed area of 'Purple moorgrass and rush pasture remedial management' is maintained and managed to enhance the same area and location for the duration of the EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement;
- Site specific Remedial Management Plan has been implemented in the field(s) where it has been approved;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

#### 8.2.6.3.37.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Essential capital works:**

None

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Stock-proof fencing

Gate and posts

Bat box

Bird box

Solitary bee box

Additional capital works may be included if specified by the ssRMP.

#### 8.2.6.3.37.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.37.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.37.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.37.6. Eligibility conditions

Only EFS(T) and EFS(G) are eligible.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

#### 8.2.6.3.37.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.37.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£180 per hectare

#### 8.2.6.3.37.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.37.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.37.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.37.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.37.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge

or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants

- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
  
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Rush control for sward management required on 75% of grassland site/yr - £40/hr (PED) @ 1.00 ha/hr @ 75% area cut = £30/ha  
 Encroaching scrub control required on 5% of area/year  
 Stocking density reduction from 1.31 LU/ha to 1.00 LU/ha = 23% reduction.  
 Alternative grazing required for 1.0 LU for 4 months = £216/12\*4/1.31\*1.00 =£54.96

Basis of calculations:						
Rush control for sward management required on 75% of grassland site/yr - £40/hr (PED) @ 1.00 ha/hr @ 75% area cut = £30/ha						
Encroaching scrub control required on 5% of area/year						
Stocking density reduction from 1.31 LU/ha to 1.00 LU/ha = 23% reduction.						
Alternative grazing required for 1.0 LU for 4 months = £216/12*4/1.31*1.00 =£54.96						
Costs Incurred	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	num ber requi red	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
N/A						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					<b>£0.00</b>	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping for implementation of Remedial Management Plan for purple moorgrass and rush pasture sites. AWWB 2015 management rate. 0.2 hrs planning/ha/year		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
Rush control for sward management. Based on 75% of area requiring rush control in Years 1-5.	£30.00			5	£150.00	£30.00
Control of encroaching scrub - 5% of area/year	£254.37			25%	£63.59	£12.72
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						<b>£44.59</b>
<b>Income forgone</b>	<b>£ / ha</b>	<b>% loss</b>			<b>total loss</b>	<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
Average NI GM	£353.00	23.00%		5	£405.95	£81.19
Alternative grazing			£54.96	5	£274.80	£54.96
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						<b>£136.15</b>
						<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						<b>£180.74</b>
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						<b>£180/ha</b>

grasslands moorgrass & rush pasture



#### 8.2.6.3.38. Sub-measure 10.1.38 - Remedial Management Plan - Calcareous Grassland - All Year Grazing

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.38.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of grazed calcareous grassland habitats through appropriate management regimes.

Description of the commitment: This Option is an annual management Option and has no essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). Grazing suppresses coarse grasses and woody plants, preventing the transition from grassland to scrub and woodland. Rare and delicate species benefit from variations in the vegetation created by grazing.

Remedial management will address undergrazing, overgrazing, damage associated with supplementary feeding sites and lack of active management on calcareous grassland sites.

Local site conditions need to be taken into account through the creation of a site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP) and associated Management map. The area and location of 'Calcareous grassland remedial management – all year grazing' will be detailed on the ssRMP map.

The inspector will check that:

- The claimed area of 'Calcareous grassland remedial management – all year grazing' is maintained and managed to enhance the same area and location for the duration of the EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement;
- Site specific Remedial Management Plan has been implemented in the field(s) where it has been approved;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

##### 8.2.6.3.38.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Essential capital works:**

None

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Stock-proof fencing

Gate and posts

Bat box

Bird box

Solitary bee box

Additional capital works may be included if specified by the ssRMP.

#### 8.2.6.3.38.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.38.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.38.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.38.6. Eligibility conditions

Only EFS(T) and EFS(G) are eligible.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

#### 8.2.6.3.38.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.38.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£230 per hectare

8.2.6.3.38.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.6.3.38.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.38.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.38.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.38.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants
  - GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.

- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Rush control for sward management required on 5% of grassland site/yr - £40/hr @ 1.00 ha/hr @ 5% area cut = £2/ha

Encroaching scrub control required on 2% of area/year or 10% in Years 1-5

Bracken control for sward management 5% of area/year @ £42.30/ha = £2.12  
 Stocking density reduction from 1.31 LU/ha to 0.5 LU/ha = 62% reduction.

Basis of calculations:						
Rush control for sward management required on 5% of grassland site/yr - £40/hr @ 1.00 ha/hr @						
5% area cut = £2/ha						
Encroaching scrub control required on 2% of area/year or 10% in Years 1-5						
Bracken control for sward management 5% of area/year @ £42.30/ha = £2.12						
Stocking density reduction from 1.31 LU/ha to 0.5 LU/ha = 62% reduction.						
Costs incurred	£/ha	£/hr	£/unit	number required	total cost	£/ha/yr
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
N/A						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£0.00	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping for implementation of Remedial Management Plan for calcareous grassland sites. AWB 2015 management rate. 0.2 hrs planning/ha/year		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
Rush control for sward management. Based on 5% of area requiring rush control in Years 1-5.	£2.00			5	£10.00	£2.00
Bracken control for sward management	£2.12			5	£10.60	£2.12
Control of encroaching scrub - 10% of area in Years 1-5	£254.37			10%	£25.44	£5.09
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£11.08
<b>Income forgone</b>	£/ha	% loss			total loss	£/ha/yr
Average NI/GM	£353.00	62.00%		5	£1,094.30	£218.86
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£218.86
						£/ha/yr
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						£229.94
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						£230/ha

calcareous grassland all year grazing

### 8.2.6.3.39. Sub-measure 10.1.39 - Remedial Management Plan - Calcareous Grassland - Restricted Grazing

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

#### 8.2.6.3.39.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of grazed calcareous grassland habitats through appropriate management regimes.

Description of the commitment: This Option is an annual management Option and has no essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). Grazing suppresses coarse grasses and woody plants, preventing the transition from grassland to scrub and woodland. Rare and delicate species benefit from variations in the vegetation created by grazing.

Remedial management will address undergrazing, overgrazing, damage associated with supplementary feeding sites and lack of active management calcareous grassland sites.

Local site conditions need to be taken into account through the creation of a site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP) and associated Management map. The area and location of 'Calcareous grassland remedial management – restricted grazing' will be detailed on the ssRMP map.

The inspector will check that:

- The claimed area of 'Calcareous grassland remedial management – restricted grazing' is maintained and managed to enhance the same area and location for the duration of the EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement;
- Site specific Remedial Management Plan has been implemented in the field(s) where it has been approved;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

#### 8.2.6.3.39.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Essential capital works:**

None

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Stock-proof fencing

Gate and posts

Bat box

Bird box

Solitary bee box

Additional capital works may be included if specified by the ssRMP.

#### 8.2.6.3.39.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.39.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.39.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.39.6. Eligibility conditions

Only EFS(H) and EFS(G) are eligible.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

#### 8.2.6.3.39.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.39.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£195 per hectare

#### 8.2.6.3.39.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.39.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.39.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.39.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.39.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants
- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use



The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Rush control for sward management required on 5% of grassland site/yr - £40/hr @ 1.00 ha/hr @ 5% area cut = £2/ha

Encroaching scrub control required on 2% of area/year or 10% in Years 1-5

Bracken control for sward management 5% of area/year @ £42.30/ha = £2.12

Stocking density reduction from 1.31 LU/ha to 0.75 LU/ha = 43% reduction.

Alternate grazing required for 1.0 LU for 3 months =  $\frac{£216}{12} \times 3 \times 1.31 \times 0.75 = £30.92$ . £30.92 is 14.4% of £216.

Costs Incurred	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	num ber requi red	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
N/A						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£0.00	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping for Implementation of Remedial Management Plan for calcareous grassland sites. AWB 2015 management rate. 0.2 hrs planning/ha/year		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
Rush control for sward management. Based on 5% of area requiring rush control in Years 1-5.	£2.00			5	£10.00	£2.00
Bracken control for sward management	£2.12			5	£10.60	£2.12
Control of encroaching scrub - 10% of area in Years 1-5	£254.37			10%	£25.44	£5.09
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£11.08
<b>Income forgone</b>	£ / ha	% loss			total loss	£ / ha / yr
Average NI GM	£353.00	43.00 %		5	£758.95	£151.79
Alternative grazing	£216.00	14.40 %		5	£155.52	£31.10
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£182.89
						£ / ha / yr
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						£193.97
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						£195/ha

remedial graz

#### 8.2.6.3.40. Sub-measure 10.1.40 - Remedial Management Plan - Limestone Pavement - All Year Grazing

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.40.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of grazed limestone pavement habitats through appropriate management regimes.

Description of the commitment: This Option is an annual management Option and has no essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). Grazing suppresses coarse grasses and woody plants, preventing the transition from grassland to scrub and woodland. Rare and delicate species benefit from variations in the vegetation created by grazing.

Remedial management will address undergrazing, overgrazing, damage associated with supplementary feeding sites and lack of active management on limestone pavement sites.

Local site conditions need to be taken into account through the creation of a site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP) and associated Management map. The area and location of the 'Limestone pavement remedial management – all year grazing' will be detailed on the ssRMP map.

The inspector will check that:

- The claimed area of 'Limestone pavement remedial management – all year grazing' is maintained and managed to enhance the same area and location for the duration of the EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement;
- Site specific Remedial Management Plan has been implemented in the field(s) where it has been approved;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

##### 8.2.6.3.40.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Essential capital works:**

None

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Stock-proof fencing

Gate and posts

Bat box

Bird box

Solitary bee box

Where an ssRMP applies, other additional capital works may be included.

#### 8.2.6.3.40.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.40.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.40.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.40.6. Eligibility conditions

Only EFS(H) and EFS(G) are eligible.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

#### 8.2.6.3.40.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.40.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£230 per hectare

8.2.6.3.40.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.6.3.40.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.40.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.40.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.40.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants
  - GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
  - GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.

- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Rush control for sward management required on 5% of grassland site/yr - £40/hr @ 1.00 ha/hr @ 5% area cut = £2/ha

Encroaching scrub control required on 2% of area/year or 10% in Years 1-5

Bracken control for sward management 5% of area/year @ £42.30/ha = £2.12

Stocking density reduction from 1.31 LU/ha to 0.5 LU/ha = 62% reduction.

Costs Incurred	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required	total cost	£ / ha / yr
Non-productive investment (NPI)						
N/A						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£0.00	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping for Implementation of Remedial Management Plan for limestone pavement sites. AWB 2015 management rate. 0.2 hrs planning/ha/year		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
Rush control for sward management. Based on 5% of area requiring rush control in Years 1-5.	£2.00			5	£10.00	£2.00
Bracken control for sward management - 5% of area/yr	£2.12			5	£10.60	£2.12
Control of encroaching scrub - 10% of area in Years 1-5	£254.37			10%	£25.44	£5.09
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£11.08
<b>Income forgone</b>	£ / ha	% loss			total loss	£ / ha / yr
Average NI GM	£353.00	62.00%		5	£1,094.30	£218.86
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£218.86
						£ / ha / yr
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						£229.94
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						£230/ha

remedial

#### 8.2.6.3.41. Sub-measure 10.1.41 - Remedial Management Plan - Limestone Pavements - Restricted Grazing

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.41.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of grazed limestone pavement habitats through appropriate management regimes.

Description of the commitment: This Option is an annual management Option and has no essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). Grazing suppresses coarse grasses and woody plants, preventing the transition from grassland to scrub and woodland. Rare and delicate species benefit from variations in the vegetation created by grazing.

Remedial management will address undergrazing, overgrazing, damage associated with supplementary feeding sites and lack of active management on Limestone pavement sites.

Local site conditions need to be taken into account through the creation of a site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP) and associated Management map. The location of 'Limestone pavement remedial management – restricted grazing' will be detailed on the ssRMP map.

The inspector will check that:

- The claimed area of 'Limestone pavement remedial management – restricted grazing' is maintained and managed to enhance the same area and location for the duration of the EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement;
- Site specific Remedial Management Plan has been implemented in the field(s) where it has been approved;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

##### 8.2.6.3.41.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Essential capital works:**

None

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**



Stock-proof fencing

Gate and posts

Bat box

Bird box

Solitary bee box

Where an ssRMP applies, other additional capital works may be included.

#### 8.2.6.3.41.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.41.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.41.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.41.6. Eligibility conditions

Only EFS(H) and EFS(G) are eligible.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

#### 8.2.6.3.41.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.41.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£195 per hectare

#### 8.2.6.3.41.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.41.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.41.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.41.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.41.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge

or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants

- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Rush control for sward management required on 5% of grassland site/yr - £40/hr @ 1.00 ha/hr @ 5%

area cut = £2/ha

Bracken control 5% of area/year @ £42.30/ha = £2.12

Encroaching scrub control required on 2% of area/year or 10% in Years 1-5

Stocking density reduction from 1.31 LU/ha to 0.75 LU/ha = 43% reduction.

Alternate grazing required for 0.75 LU for 3 months =  $\frac{£216}{12} \times 3 \times \frac{1}{1.31} \times 0.75 = £30.92$ . £30.92 is 14% of £216

Costs Incurred	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
N/A						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£0.00	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping for implementation of Remedial Management Plan for limestone pavement sites. AWS 2015 management rate. 0.2 hrs planning/ha/year		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
Rush control for sward management. Based on 5% of area requiring rush control in Years 1-5	£2.00			5	£10.00	£2.00
Bracken control for sward management	£2.12			5	£10.60	£2.12
Control of encroaching scrub - 10% of area in Years 1-5	£254.37			10%	£25.44	£5.09
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£11.08
<b>Income forgone</b>	£ / ha	% loss			total loss	£ / ha / yr
Average NI GM	£353.00	43.00%		5	£758.95	£151.79
Alternative grazing	£216.00	14.00%		5	£151.20	£30.24
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£182.03
						£ / ha / yr
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						£193.11
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						£195/ha

remedial

#### 8.2.6.3.42. Sub-measure 10.1.42 - Remedial Management Plan - Lowland Meadow - All Year Grazing

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.42.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of grazed lowland meadow habitats through appropriate management regimes.

Description of the commitment: This Option is an annual management Option and has no essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). Grazing suppresses coarse grasses and woody plants, preventing the transition from grassland to scrub and woodland. Rare and delicate species benefit from variations in the vegetation created by grazing. Furthermore, the ‘gaps’ created in the sward by animal hooves encourage seed germination.

Remedial management will address undergrazing, overgrazing, damage associated with supplementary feeding sites and lack of active management on lowland meadow habitats. In particular, appropriate grazing will benefit ground nesting birds and the marsh fritillary butterfly.

Local site conditions need to be taken into account through the creation of a site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP) and associated Management map. The area and location of ‘Lowland meadow remedial management – all year grazing’ will be detailed on the ssRMP map.

The inspector will check that:

- The claimed area of ‘Lowland meadow remedial management – all year grazing’ is maintained and managed to enhance the same area and location for the duration of the EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement;
- Site specific Remedial Management Plan has been implemented in the field(s) where it has been approved;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

##### 8.2.6.3.42.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Essential capital works:**

None

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Stock-proof fencing

Gate and posts

Bat box

Bird box

Solitary bee box

Where an ssRMP applies, other additional capital works may be included.

#### 8.2.6.3.42.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.42.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.42.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.42.6. Eligibility conditions

Only EFS(H) and EFS(G) are eligible.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

8.2.6.3.42.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.42.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£230 per hectare

8.2.6.3.42.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.6.3.42.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.42.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.42.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.42.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge

or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants

- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Rush control for sward management required on 5% of grassland site/yr - £40/hr @ 1.00 ha/hr @ 5%



area cut = £2/ha

Encroaching scrub control required on 2% of area/year or 10% in Years 1-5

Bracken control for sward management 5% of area/year @ £42.30/ha = £2.12

Stocking density reduction from 1.31 LU/ha to 0.5 LU/ha = 62% reduction.

	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Costs incurred</b>						
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
N/A						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£0.00	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping for implementation of Remedial Management Plan for moorland sites. AWB 2015 management rate. 0.2 hrs planning/ha/year		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
Rush control for sward management. Based on 5% of area requiring rush control in Years 1-5.	£2.00			5	£10.00	£2.00
Bracken control for sward management	£2.12			5	£10.60	£2.12
Control of encroaching scrub - 10% of area in Years 1-5	£254.37			10%	£25.44	£5.09
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£11.08
<b>Income forgone</b>	£ / ha	% loss			total loss	£ / ha / yr
Average NI GM	£353.00	62.00%		5	£1,094.30	£218.86
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£218.86
						£ / ha / yr
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						£229.94
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						£230/ha

rmedial

#### 8.2.6.3.43. Sub-measure 10.1.43 - Remedial Management Plan - Lowland Meadow - Restricted Grazing

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.43.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of grazed lowland meadow habitats through appropriate management regimes.

Description of the commitment: This Option is an annual management Option and has no essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). Grazing suppresses coarse grasses and woody plants, preventing the transition from grassland to scrub and woodland. Rare and delicate species benefit from variations in the vegetation created by grazing. Furthermore, the ‘gaps’ created in the sward by animal hooves encourage seed germination.

Remedial management will address undergrazing, overgrazing, damage associated with supplementary feeding sites and lack of active management on lowland meadow habitats. In particular, appropriate grazing will benefit ground nesting birds and the marsh fritillary butterfly.

Local site conditions need to be taken into account through the creation of a site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP) and associated Management map. The area and location of Lowland meadow remedial management – restricted grazing’ will be detailed on the ssRMP map.

The inspector will check that:

- The claimed area of ‘Lowland meadow remedial management – restricted grazing’ is maintained and managed to enhance the same area and location for the duration of the EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement;
- Site specific Remedial Management Plan has been implemented in the field(s) where it has been approved;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

##### 8.2.6.3.43.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Essential capital works:**

None

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Stock-proof fencing

Gate and posts

Bat box

Bird box

Solitary bee box

Where an ssRMP applies, other additional capital works may be included.

**8.2.6.3.43.3. Links to other legislation**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.43.4. Beneficiaries**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.43.5. Eligible costs**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.43.6. Eligibility conditions**

Only EFS(H) and EFS(G) are eligible.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

#### 8.2.6.3.43.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.43.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£195 per hectare

#### 8.2.6.3.43.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.43.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.43.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.43.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.43.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge

or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants

- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

Rush control for sward management required on 5% of grassland site/yr - £40/hr @ 1.00 ha/hr @ 5% area cut = £2/ha

Encroaching scrub control required on 2% of area/year or 10% in Years 1-5  
 Bracken control for sward management 5% of area/year @ £42.30/ha = £2.12  
 Stocking density reduction from 1.31 LU/ha to 0.75 LU/ha = 43% reduction.  
 Alternate grazing required for 0.75 LU for 3 months = £216/12\*3/1.31\*0.75 =£30.92. £30.92 is 14.4% of £216.

Costs Incurred	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	num ber requi red	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Non-productive Investment (NPI)</b>						
N/A						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£0.00	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping for Implementation of Remedial Management Plan for calcareous grassland sites. AWB 2015 management rate. 0.2 hrs planning/ha/year		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
Rush control for sward management. Based on 5% of area requiring rush control in Years 1-5.	£2.00			5	£10.00	£2.00
Bracken control for sward management	£2.12			5	£10.60	£2.12
Control of encroaching scrub - 10% of area in Years 1-5	£254.37			10%	£25.44	£5.09
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£11.08
<b>Income forgone</b>	<b>£ / ha</b>	<b>% loss</b>			<b>total loss</b>	<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
Average NI GM	£353.00	43.00%		5	£758.95	£151.79
Alternative grazing	£216.00	14.40%		5	£155.52	£31.10
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£182.89
						£ / ha / yr
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						£193.97
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						£195/ha

remedali

#### 8.2.6.3.44. Sub-measure 10.1.44 - Remedial Management Plan - Lowland Meadow & Purple Moorgrass & Rush Pasture - Cut for Hay

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.44.1. Description of the type of operation

**Aim of commitment:** To maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of lowland meadows and purple moorgrass and rush pasture habitats which are cut for hay through appropriate management regimes

**Description of the commitment:** This Option is an annual management Option and has no essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). Traditional species-rich hay meadows may have declined in Northern Ireland by as much as 97% over the last 50 years. The loss of hay meadows is mainly the result of conversion to grasslands with more agriculturally preferred grasses. Application of fertilisers and herbicides, drainage, ploughing and reseeding, and a shift from hay to silage production with more frequent and earlier cutting have all been identified as causes of reduced meadow biodiversity and loss. The outcome of implementing appropriate management, such as timing of cutting, method of hay making, aftermath grazing of hay meadows will maintain and enhance the wildlife value of lowland meadows which are cut for hay.

Local site conditions need to be taken into account through the creation of a site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP) and associated Management map. The area and location of 'Lowland meadow and purple moorgrass rush pasture remedial management – cut for hay' will be detailed on the ssRMP map.

The inspector will check that:

- The claimed area of 'Lowland meadow, purple moorgrass and rush pasture remedial management' is maintained and managed to enhance the same area and location for the duration of the EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement;
- Site specific Remedial Management Plan has been implemented in the field(s) where it has been approved;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

##### 8.2.6.3.44.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Essential capital works:**

None

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Stock-proof fencing

Gate and posts

Bat box

Bird box

Solitary bee box

Where an ssRMP applies, other additional capital works may be included.

**8.2.6.3.44.3. Links to other legislation**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.44.4. Beneficiaries**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.44.5. Eligible costs**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.44.6. Eligibility conditions**

Only EFS(H) and EFS(G) where a hay meadow habitat has been identified are eligible.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1



#### 8.2.6.3.44.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.44.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£230 per hectare

#### 8.2.6.3.44.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.44.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.44.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.44.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.44.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC 1: land managers must protect water courses from pollution from chemicalfertiliser and

organic manure

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants
- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Bracken control for sward management required on 5% of area/year @ £42.30/ha = £2.12

Costs Incurred	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	num ber requi red	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Non-productive Investment (NPI)</b>						
N/A						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£0.00	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping for Implementation Plan for lowland meadow - cut for hay sites. AWB 2015 management rate. 0.2 hrs planning/ha/year		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
Crop failure (2 in 5 years: 20% of £500 GM for hay)	£100.00			2	£200.00	£40.00
Mowing (DARD farm business data 2014, pg. 20)	£35.00			5	£175.00	£35.00
bedding / turning / rowing (£17X3) (DARD farm business data 2014, pg. 20)	£51.00			5	£255.00	£51.00
baling (inc twine) (DARD farm business data 2014, pg. 20)	£40.00			5	£200.00	£40.00
transport bales from field (DARD farm business data 2014, pg. 00, additional tractor/trailer for haulage)	£30.00			5	£150.00	£30.00
Control of encroaching scrub - 5% of area each year in Years 1-5	£254.37			25%	£63.59	£12.72
Bracken control for sward management	£2.12			5	£10.60	£2.12
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£212.71
<b>Income forgone</b>	£ / ha	% loss			total loss	£ / ha / yr
average GM	£353.00	5.00%		5	£88.25	£17.65
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£17.65
						£ / ha / yr
<b>Total cost incurred</b>					£1,151.78	£230.36
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						£230/ha

remedial

#### 8.2.6.3.45. Sub-measure 10.1.45 - Remedial Management Plan - Lowland Dry Acid Grassland - All Year Grazing

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.45.1. Description of the type of operation

**Aim of commitment:** To maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of grazed lowland dry acid grassland habitats through appropriate management regimes

**Description of the commitment:** This Option is an annual management Option and has no essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). Grazing suppresses coarse grasses and woody plants, preventing the transition from grassland to scrub and woodland. Rare and delicate species benefit from variations in the vegetation created by grazing. Furthermore, the 'gaps' created in the sward by animal hooves encourage seed germination. Remedial management will address undergrazing, overgrazing, damage associated with supplementary feeding sites and lack of active management on grassland, upland moorland sites and other grazed farm habitats.

Remedial management will address undergrazing, overgrazing, damage associated with supplementary feeding sites and lack of active management on lowland dry acid grassland sites.

Local site conditions need to be taken into account through the creation of a site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP) and associated Management map. The area and location of 'Lowland dry acid grassland remedial management – all year grazing' will be detailed on the ssRMP map.

The inspector will check that:

- The claimed area of 'Lowland dry acid grassland remedial management – all year grazing' is maintained and managed to enhance the same area and location for the duration of the EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement;
- Site specific Remedial Management Plan has been implemented in the field(s) where it has been approved;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

##### 8.2.6.3.45.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Essential capital works:**

None

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Stock-proof fencing

Gate and posts

Bat box

Bird box

Solitary bee box

Where an ssRMP applies, other additional capital works may be included

**8.2.6.3.45.3. Links to other legislation**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.45.4. Beneficiaries**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.45.5. Eligible costs**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.45.6. Eligibility conditions**

Only EFS(H) and EFS(G) are eligible.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

#### 8.2.6.3.45.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.45.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£260 per hectare

#### 8.2.6.3.45.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.45.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.45.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.45.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.45.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge

or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants

- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Rush control for sward management required on 10% of grassland site/yr - £40/hr @ 1.00 ha/hr @ 10%

area cut = £4/ha

Encroaching scrub control required on 2% of area/year or 10% in Years 1-5.

Bracken control for sward management 5% of area/year @ £42.30/ha = £2.12

Stocking density reduction from 1.31 LU/ha to 0.4 LU/ha = 69.5% reduction.

	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	num ber requi red	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Costs incurred</b>						
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
N/A						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£0.00	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping for implementation of Remedial Management Plan for lowland dry acid grassland sites. AWB 2015 management rate. 0.2 hrs planning/ha/year		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
Rush control for sward management. Based on 10% of area requiring rush control in Years 1-5.	£4.00			5	£20.00	£4.00
Bracken control for sward management	£2.12			5	£10.60	£2.12
Control of encroaching scrub - 10% of area in Years 1-5	£254.37			10%	£25.44	£5.09
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£13.08
<b>Income forgone</b>	<b>£ / ha</b>	<b>% loss</b>			<b>total loss</b>	<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
Average NI GM	£353.00	69.50 %		5	£1,226.68	£245.34
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£245.34
						<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						£258.41
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						£260/ha

remedial



#### 8.2.6.3.46. Sub-measure 10.1.46 - Remedial Management Plan - Lowland Dry Acid Grassland - Restricted Grazing

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.46.1. Description of the type of operation

**Aim of commitment:** To maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of grazed lowland dry acid grassland habitats through appropriate management regimes

**Description of the commitment:** This Option is an annual management Option and has no essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). Grazing suppresses coarse grasses and woody plants, preventing the transition from grassland to scrub and woodland. Rare and delicate species benefit from variations in the vegetation created by grazing. Furthermore, the ‘gaps’ created in the sward by animal hooves encourage seed germination.

Remedial management will address undergrazing, overgrazing, damage associated with supplementary feeding sites and lack of active management on lowland dry acid grassland sites.

Local site conditions need to be taken into account through the creation of a site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP) and associated Management map. The area and location of the ‘Lowland dry acid grassland remedial management – restricted grazing’ will be detailed on the ssRMP map.

The inspector will check that:

- The claimed area of ‘Lowland dry acid grassland remedial management – restricted grazing’ is maintained and managed to enhance the same area and location for the duration of the EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement;
- Site specific Remedial Management Plan has been implemented in the field(s) where it has been approved;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

##### 8.2.6.3.46.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Essential capital works:**

None

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Stock-proof fencing

Gate and posts

Bat box

Bird box

Solitary bee box

Where an ssRMP applies, other additional capital works may be included

#### 8.2.6.3.46.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.46.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.46.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.46.6. Eligibility conditions

Only EFS(H) and EFS(G) are eligible.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

#### 8.2.6.3.46.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.46.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£230 per hectare

8.2.6.3.46.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.6.3.46.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.46.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.46.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.46.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants
  - GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.

- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Rush control for sward management required on 10% of grassland site/yr - £40/hr @ 1.00 ha/hr @ 10% area cut = £4/ha

Encroaching scrub control required on 2% of area/year or 10% in Years 1-5.

Bracken control for sward management 5% of area/year @ £42.30/ha = £2.12

Stocking density reduction from 1.31 LU/ha to 0.6 LU/ha = 54.2% reduction.  
 Alternate grazing required for 0.6 LU for 3 months = £216/12\*3/1.31\*0.60 =£24.73. £24.73 is 11.45% of £216.

Costs Incurred	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	num ber requi red	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
N/A						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					<b>£0.00</b>	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping for Implementation of Remedial Management Plan for lowland dry acid grassland sites. AWB 2015 management rate. 0.2 hrs planning/ha/year		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
Rush control for sward management. Based on 10% of area requiring rush control in Years 1-5.	£4.00			5	£20.00	£4.00
Bracken control for sward management	£2.12			5	£10.60	£2.12
Control of encroaching scrub - 10% of area in Years 1-5	£254.37			10%	£25.44	£5.09
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						<b>£13.08</b>
<b>Income forgone</b>	<b>£ / ha</b>	<b>% loss</b>			<b>total loss</b>	<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
Average NI GM	£353.00	54.20 %		5	£966.63	£191.33
Alternative grazing	£216.00	11.45 %		5	£123.66	£24.73
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						<b>£216.06</b>
						<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						<b>£229.13</b>
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						<b>£230/ha</b>

remedail

#### 8.2.6.3.47. Sub-measure 10.1.47 - Remedial Management Plan - Coastal Sand Dunes - Restricted Grazing

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.47.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of coastal sand dune habitats through appropriate management regimes

Description of the commitment: This Option is an annual management Option and has no essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works).

Remedial management will address undergrazing, overgrazing, damage associated with supplementary feeding sites and lack of active management on coastal sand dune sites. In particular, appropriate grazing will benefit ground nesting birds and the marsh fritillary butterfly.

Local site conditions need to be taken into account through the creation of a site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP) and associated Management map. The area and location of 'Coastal sand dune remedial management' will be detailed on the ssRMP map.

The inspector will check that:

- The claimed area of 'Coastal sand dunes remedial management' is maintained and managed to enhance the same area and location for the duration of the EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement;
- Site specific Remedial Management Plan has been implemented in the field(s) where it has been approved;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

##### 8.2.6.3.47.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Essential capital works:**

None

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Stock-proof fencing

Gate and posts

Bat box

Bird box

Solitary bee box

Where an ssRMP applies, other additional capital works may be included.

#### 8.2.6.3.47.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.47.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.47.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.47.6. Eligibility conditions

Only EFS(H) and EFS(G) are eligible.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

#### 8.2.6.3.47.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.47.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£235 per hectare

8.2.6.3.47.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.6.3.47.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.47.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.47.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.47.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants
- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and



their nests in Special Protection Areas

- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Rush control for sward management required on 2% of grassland site/yr - £40/hr @ 1.00 ha/hr @ 2% area cut = £0.80

Encroaching scrub control required on 10% of area/year

Bracken control for sward management 10% of area/year @ £42.30/ha = £4.23

Stocking density reduction from 1.31 LU/ha to 0.5 LU/ha = 62% reduction.

Alternate grazing required for 0.5 LU for 20 weeks =  $\frac{£216}{52} * 20 / 1.31 * 0.50 = £31.71$ . £31.71 is 14.68% of £216.

Costs incurred	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	num ber requi red	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Non-productive Investment (NPI)</b>						
N/A						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					<b>£0.00</b>	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping for Implementation of Remedial Management Plan for coastal sand dune sites. AWB 2015 management rate. 0.2 hrs planning/ha/year		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
Rush control for sward management. Based on 10% of area requiring rush control in Years 1-5.	£4.00			5	£20.00	£4.00
Bracken control for sward management	£2.12			5	£10.60	£2.12
Control of encroaching scrub - 10% of area in Years 1-5	£254.37			10%	£25.44	£5.09
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						<b>£13.08</b>
<b>Income forgone</b>	<b>£ / ha</b>	<b>% loss</b>			<b>total loss</b>	<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
Average NI GM	£353.00	54.20%		5	£966.63	£191.33
Alternative grazing	£216.00	14.88%		5	£158.54	£31.71
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						<b>£223.03</b>
						<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						<b>£236.11</b>
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						<b>£235/ha</b>

remedial

#### 8.2.6.3.48. Sub-measure 10.1.48 - Remedial Management Plan - Coastal Salt Marsh - Restricted Grazing

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.48.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of coastal salt marsh habitats through appropriate management regimes

Description of the commitment: This Option is an annual management Option and has no essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works).

Remedial management will address undergrazing, overgrazing, damage associated with supplementary feeding sites and lack of active management on coastal sand dune sites. In particular, appropriate grazing will benefit ground nesting birds and the marsh fritillary butterfly.

Local site conditions need to be taken into account through the creation of a site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP) and associated Management map. The area and location of 'Coastal salt marsh remedial management' will be detailed on the ssRMP map.

The inspector will check that:

- The claimed area of 'Coastal salt marsh remedial management' is maintained and managed to enhance the same area and location for the duration of the EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement;
- Site specific Remedial Management Plan has been implemented in the field(s) where it has been approved;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

##### 8.2.6.3.48.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Essential capital works:**

None

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Stock-proof fencing

Gate and posts

Bat box

Bird box

Solitary bee box

Where an ssRMP applies, other additional capital works may be included.

#### 8.2.6.3.48.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.48.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.48.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.48.6. Eligibility conditions

Only EFS(H) and EFS(G) are eligible.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

#### 8.2.6.3.48.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.48.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£45 per hectare

#### 8.2.6.3.48.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.48.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.48.9.2. Mitigating actions

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.48.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.48.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants
- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and

their nests in Special Protection Areas

- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Alternate grazing required for 0.3 LU for 26 weeks =  $\text{£}216/52 * 26 / 1.31 * 0.30 = \text{£}24.73$ . £24.73 is 11.45% of £216.

Income forgone - LFA payment is fixed, therefore only the breeding ewe component of the gross margin is reduced. In this case the reduction would be £17.87 (i.e.  $35.74 * 50\%$ )

	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	num ber requi red	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Costs incurred</b>						
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
N/A						
<i>Total Year 1 NPI cost</i>					£0.00	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping for implementation of Remedial Management Plan for coastal salt marsh sites. AWB 2015 management rate. 0.2 hrs planning/ha/year		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
<i>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</i>						£1.87
<b>Income forgone</b>	£ / ha	% loss			total loss	£ / ha / yr
Northern Ireland breeding ewe average GM	£35.74	50.00 %		5	£89.35	£17.87
Alternative grazing	£216.00	11.45 %		5	£123.66	£24.73
<i>Subtotal (Income forgone)</i>						£42.60
						£ / ha / yr
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						£44.47
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						£45/ha

remedial

#### 8.2.6.3.49. Sub-measure 10.1.49 - Remedial Management Plan - Coastal & Flood Plain Grazing Marsh - Restricted Grazing

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.49.1. Description of the type of operation

**Aim of commitment:** To maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of coastal and flood plain grazing marsh habitats through appropriate management regimes

**Description of the commitment:** This Option is an Annual management Option and has no essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works).

Remedial management will address undergrazing, overgrazing, damage associated with supplementary feeding sites and lack of active management on coastal and flood plain grazing marsh sites. In particular, appropriate grazing will benefit ground nesting birds and the marsh fritillary butterfly.

Local site conditions need to be taken into account through the creation of a site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP) and associated Management map. The area and location of 'Coastal and flood plain grazing marsh remedial management' will be detailed on the ssRMP map.

The inspector will check that:

- The claimed area of 'Coastal and flood plain grazing marsh remedial management' is maintained and managed to enhance the same area and location for the duration of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement;
- Site specific Remedial Management Plan has been implemented in the field(s) where it has been approved;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

##### 8.2.6.3.49.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Essential capital works:**

None

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Stock-proof fencing



Gate and posts

Bat box

Bird box

Solitary bee box

Where an ssRMP applies, other additional capital works may be included.

#### 8.2.6.3.49.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.49.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.49.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.49.6. Eligibility conditions

Only EFS(H) and EFS(G) are eligible.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

#### 8.2.6.3.49.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.49.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£180 per hectare

8.2.6.3.49.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

*8.2.6.3.49.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

*8.2.6.3.49.9.2. Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

*8.2.6.3.49.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.49.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants
  - GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
  - GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.

- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Rush control for sward management required on 75% of grassland site/yr - £40/hr (PED) @ 1.00 ha/hr @ 75% area cut = £30/ha

Encroaching scrub control required on 5% of area/year

Stocking density reduction from 1.31 LU/ha to 1.00 LU/ha = 23% reduction.

Alternative grazing required for 1.0 LU for 4 months =  $\frac{£216}{12} \times \frac{4}{1.31} \times 1.00 = £54.96$  £54.96 is 25.44%

of £216

Costs Incurred	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	num ber requi red	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
N/A						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					<b>£0.00</b>	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping for Implementation of Remedial Management Plan for coastal and flood plain grazing marsh sites. AWB 2015 management rate. 0.2 hrs planning/ha/year		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
Rush control for sward management. Based on 75% of area requiring rush control in Years 1-5.	£30.00			5	£150.00	£30.00
Control of encroaching scrub - 5% of area/year	£254.37			25%	£63.59	£12.72
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						<b>£44.59</b>
<b>Income forgone</b>	<b>£ / ha</b>	<b>% loss</b>			<b>total loss</b>	<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
Average NI GM	£353.00	23.00 %		5	£405.95	£81.19
Alternative grazing	£216.00	25.44 %		5	£274.75	£54.95
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						<b>£136.14</b>
						<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						<b>£180.73</b>
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						<b>£180/ha</b>

remedial

#### 8.2.6.3.50. Sub-measure 10.1.50 - Remedial Management Plan - Maritime Cliff & Slope - All Year Grazing

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.50.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of grazed maritime cliff and slope habitats through appropriate management regimes.

Description of the commitment: This Option is an annual management Option and has no essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). Grazing suppresses coarse grasses and woody plants. Rare and delicate species benefit from variations in the vegetation created by grazing.

Remedial management will address undergrazing, overgrazing, damage associated with supplementary feeding sites and lack of active management on maritime cliff and slope habitats. In particular, appropriate grazing will benefit ground nesting birds and the marsh fritillary butterfly.

Local site conditions need to be taken into account through the creation of a site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP) and associated Management map. The area and location of 'Maritime cliff and slope remedial management – all year grazing' will be detailed on the ssRMP map.

The inspector will check that:

- The claimed area of 'Maritime cliff and slope remedial management – all year grazing' is maintained and managed to enhance the same area and location for the duration of the EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement;
- Site specific Remedial Management Plan has been implemented in the field(s) where it has been approved;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

##### 8.2.6.3.50.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Essential capital works:**

None

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Stock-proof fencing

Gate and posts

Bat box

Bird box

Solitary bee box

Where an ssRMP applies, other additional capital works may be included.

#### 8.2.6.3.50.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.50.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.50.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.50.6. Eligibility conditions

Only EFS(H) and EFS(G) are eligible.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

#### 8.2.6.3.50.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

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8.2.6.3.50.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£55 per hectare
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8.2.6.3.50.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.6.3.50.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.
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8.2.6.3.50.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.
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8.2.6.3.50.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.
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8.2.6.3.50.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- |  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants</li><li>• GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.</li><li>• GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.</li></ul> |
|--|

- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Encroaching scrub control required on 3% of area/year or 15% in Years 1-5

Bracken control for sward management 5% of area/year @ £42.30/ha = £2.12

Stocking density reduction from 0.55 LU/ha to 0.45 LU/ha = 0.10 LU or 0.67 ewes/ha reduction.

Income forgone - LFA payment is fixed, therefore only the breeding ewe component of the gross margin is reduced. In this case the reduction would be £23.83 (i.e.  $35.74 * 66.67\%$ ).

Ewe mortality on cliff face - 1 ewe death/ha/scheme lifetime. Ewe value =£100 (Average blackface ewe,



hogget and ewe lamb price from PED quarterly market report, Jan - Sept 2014). Therefore annual cost incurred = £100/5 = £20.00.

Costs Incurred	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	num ber requi red	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Non-productive Investment (NPI)</b>						
N/A						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£0.00	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping for implementation of Remedial Management Plan for maritime cliff and slope sites. AWB 2015 management rate. 0.2 hrs planning/ha/year		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
Bracken control for sward management	£2.12			5	£10.60	£2.12
Control of encroaching scrub - 15% of area in Years 1-5	£254.37			15%	£38.16	£7.63
Ewe mortality	£100.00			1	£100.00	£20.00
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£31.62
<b>Income forgone</b>	£ / ha	% loss			total loss	£ / ha / yr
Northern Ireland breeding ewe average GM	£35.74	66.67 %		5	£119.14	£23.83
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£23.83
						£ / ha / yr
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						£55.45
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						£55/ha

remedial

### 8.2.6.3.51. Sub-measure 10.1.51 - Remedial Management Plan - Maritime Cliff & Slope - Restricted Grazing

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

#### 8.2.6.3.51.1. Description of the type of operation

**Aim of commitment:** To maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of grazed maritime cliff and slope habitats through appropriate management regimes

**Description of the commitment:** This Option is an annual management Option and has no essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). Grazing suppresses coarse grasses and woody plants. Rare and delicate species benefit from variations in the vegetation created by grazing.

Remedial management will address undergrazing, overgrazing, damage associated with supplementary feeding sites and lack of active management on maritime cliff and slope habitats. In particular, appropriate grazing will benefit ground nesting birds and the marsh fritillary butterfly.

Local site conditions need to be taken into account through the creation of a site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP) and associated Management map. The area and location of 'Maritime cliff and slope remedial management – restricted grazing' will be detailed on the ssRMP map.

The inspector will check that:

- The claimed area of 'Maritime cliff and slope remedial management – restricted grazing' is maintained and managed to enhance the same area and location for the duration of the EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement;
- Site specific Remedial Management Plan has been implemented in the field(s) where it has been approved;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

#### 8.2.6.3.51.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Essential capital works:**

None

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Stock-proof fencing

Gate and posts

Bat box

Bird box

Solitary bee box

Where an ssRMP applies, other additional capital works may be included

**8.2.6.3.51.3. Links to other legislation**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.51.4. Beneficiaries**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.51.5. Eligible costs**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.51.6. Eligibility conditions**

Only EFS(H) and EFS(G) are eligible.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

#### 8.2.6.3.51.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.51.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£80 per hectare

#### 8.2.6.3.51.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.51.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.51.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.51.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.51.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge

or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants

- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

#### **Basis of calculations**

Encroaching scrub control required on 3% of area/year or 15% in Years 1-5

Bracken control for sward management 5% of area/year @ £42.30/ha = £2.12

Alternate grazing required for 0.6 LU for 3 months = £216/12\*3/1.31\*0.60 =£24.73. £24.73 is 11.45% of £216.

Stocking density reduction from 0.55 LU/ha to 0.45 LU/ha = 0.10 LU or 0.67 ewes/ha reduction.

Income forgone - LFA payment is fixed, therefore only the breeding ewe component of the gross margin is reduced. In this case the reduction would be £23.83 (i.e. 35.74 \* 66.67%).

Ewe mortality on cliff face - 1 ewe death/ha/scheme lifetime. Ewe value =£100 (Average blackface ewe, hogget and ewe lamb price from PED quarterly market report, Jan - Sept 2014). Therefore annual cost incurred = £100/5 = £20.00.

Costs Incurred	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	num ber requi red	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
N/A						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£0.00	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping for Implementation of Remedial Management Plan for maritime cliff and slope sites. AWB 2015 management rate. 0.2 hrs planning/ha/year		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
Bracken control for sward management	£2.12			5	£10.60	£2.12
Control of encroaching scrub - 10% of area in Years 1-5	£254.37			15%	£38.16	£7.63
Ewe mortality	£100.00			1	£100.00	£20.00
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£31.62
<b>Income forgone</b>	£ / ha	% loss			total loss	£ / ha / yr
Northern Ireland breeding ewe average GM	£35.74	66.67 %		5	£119.14	£23.83
Alternative grazing	£216.00	11.45 %		5	£123.66	£24.73
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£48.56
						£ / ha / yr
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						£80.18
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						£80/ha

remedial

#### 8.2.6.3.52. Sub-measure 10.1.52 - Remedial Management Plan - Parkland

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.52.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of parkland habitats through appropriate management regimes.

Description of the commitment: This Option is an Annual management Option and has no essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). Parkland and lowland wood pasture are areas of open grassland with mature trees spaced at various densities within a historic designed landscape.

Parkland and lowland wood pasture are often associated with other habitats such as woodlands, lakes, ponds, rivers and streams. The trees, which will have been planted to enhance the landscape, are present as specimens, clumps, avenues, lines and copses and the open parkland and wood pasture will have a history of being grazed. Remedial management will address undergrazing, overgrazing, damage associated with supplementary feeding sites and lack of active management on parkland.

Local site conditions will be taken into account through the creation of a site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP) and associated Management map. The area and location of 'Parkland remedial management' will be detailed on the ssRMP map.

The inspector will check that:

- The claimed area of 'Parkland remedial management' is maintained and managed to enhance the same area and location for the duration of the EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement;
- Site specific Remedial Management Plan has been implemented in the field(s) where it has been approved;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

##### 8.2.6.3.52.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Essential capital works:**

None

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Stock-proof fencing

Standard parkland tree

Parkland tree stake

Parkland tree guard

Gate and posts

Bat box

Bird box

Solitary bee box

Where an ssRMP applies, other additional capital works may be included.

#### 8.2.6.3.52.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.52.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.52.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.52.6. Eligibility conditions

Only EFS(H) and EFS(G) where a parkland has been identified are eligible.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1



8.2.6.3.52.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.52.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£45 per hectare

8.2.6.3.52.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.6.3.52.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.52.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.52.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.52.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge

or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants

- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Encroaching scrub control required on 1% of area/year or 5% in Years 1-5.

Bracken control for sward management 5% of area/year @ £42.30/ha = £2.12

Rush control for sward management required on 5% of grassland site/yr - £40/hr (PED) @ 1.00 ha/hr @ 5% area cut = £2/ha

10% GM reduction due to nutrient and pesticide restrictions

Costs incurred	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	num ber requi red	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
N/A						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£0.00	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping for implementation of Remedial Management Plan for parkland sites. AWB 2015 management rate. 0.2 hrs planning/ha/year		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
Bracken control for sward management	£2.12			5	£10.60	£2.12
Rush control for sward management. Based on 5% of area requiring rush control in Years 1-5.	£2.00			5	£10.00	£2.00
Control of encroaching scrub - 5% of area in Years 1-5	£254.37			5%	£12.72	£2.54
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£8.53
<b>Income forgone</b>	<b>£ / ha</b>	<b>% loss</b>			<b>total loss</b>	<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
Average NI GM	£353.00	10.00 %		5	£176.50	£35.30
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£35.30
						<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						£43.83
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						<b>£45/ha</b>

remedial

### 8.2.6.3.53. Sub-measure 10.1.53 - Remedial Management Plan - Ungrazed Mixed Ash Woodland

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

#### 8.2.6.3.53.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of ungrazed mixed ash woodland through appropriate management regimes.

Description of the commitment: This Option is an Annual management Option and has no essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). Woodlands are areas where the tree canopy covers at least 50% of the ground area. The canopy must contain at least 50% native broadleaf tree species. There are three types of woodland: mixed ash, oak and wet woodland. Mixed ash woodland is usually dominated by ash, although oak, birch and hazel may be abundant. Other species present can include rowan, holly, sycamore and beech. Typical ash woodland plants include bluebell, wood anemone, primrose and wild garlic.

Remedial management will address damage associated with past management such as the use of supplementary feeding sites and lack of appropriate management on an area of ungrazed mixed ash woodland.

Local site conditions will be taken into account through the creation of a site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP) and associated Management map. The area and location of 'Ungrazed mixed ash woodland remedial management' will be detailed on the ssRMP map.

The inspector will check that:

- The claimed area of 'Ungrazed mixed ash woodland remedial management' is maintained and managed to enhance the same area and location for the duration of the EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement;
- Site specific Remedial Management Plan has been implemented in the field(s) where it has been approved;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

#### 8.2.6.3.53.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Essential capital Works:**

None

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Stock-proof fencing

Gate and posts

Bat box

Bird box

Solitary bee box

Native tree whip

Spiral tree guard / rabbit guard

Tree shelter cane

Where an ssRMP applies, other additional capital works may be included.

**8.2.6.3.53.3. Links to other legislation**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.53.4. Beneficiaries**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.53.5. Eligible costs**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.53.6. Eligibility conditions

Only EFS(H) and EFS(G) where an ungrazed mixed ash woodland has been identified are eligible.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

#### 8.2.6.3.53.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.53.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£65 per hectare for the first 10 hectares, £40 per hectare after 10 hectares and £20 per hectare after 20 hectares.

#### 8.2.6.3.53.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.53.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.53.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.53.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.53.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants
- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are

relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Encroaching scrub control required on 1% of area/year or 5% in Years 1-5

Non native canopy species management required on 2% of area/year = £1010 x 2% = £20.20

Routine bracken control for woodland management 5% of area/year @ £42.30/ha = £2.1

Tree felling for conservation purposes on 2% of woodland area @ £600/ha (eWGS costings, August 2011)

Removal and disposal of 1t/ha fly-tipped material. Hire of tractor and trailer for 1 hr/ha/year @ £15.31/hr + waste disposal cost of £18.00/t (Fermanagh Council charges) = £33.31/ha

Follow-up rhododendron and laurel control required on 5% of area each year - £35.00/ha as EFS costing for Follow-up Rhododendron control



Costs incurred	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
N/A						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£0.00	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping for implementation of Remedial Management Plan for ungrazed mixed ash woodland sites. AWB 2015 management rate. 0.2 hrs planning/ha/year		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
Bracken control for sward management	£2.12			5	£10.60	£2.12
Non native canopy species management required on 2% of area/year	£20.20			5	£101.00	£20.20
Control of encroaching scrub - 5% of area in Years 1-5	£254.37			5%	£12.72	£2.54
Tree felling and non-native species management for conservation purposes	£600.00			2%	£12.00	£2.40
Removal and disposal of fly-tipped material	£33.31			0	£0.00	£0.00
Follow-up rhododendron and laurel control	£1.75			5	£8.75	£1.75
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£30.88
<b>Income forgone</b>	<b>£ / ha</b>	<b>% loss</b>			<b>total loss</b>	<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
Average NI GM	£353.00	10.00%		5	£176.50	£35.30
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£35.30
						£ / ha / yr
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						£66.18
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						£65/ha

Remedial management Plan - Ungrazed mixed ash woodland

#### 8.2.6.3.54. Sub-measure 10.1.54 - Remedial Management Plan - Ungrazed Oakwood

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.54.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of ungrazed oak woodland through appropriate management regimes.

Description of the commitment: This Option is an Annual management Option and has no essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). Woodlands are areas where the tree canopy covers at least 50% of the ground area. The canopy must contain at least 50% native broadleaf tree species. There are three types of woodland: mixed ash, oak and wet woodland. Oak woodland is dominated by oak, but other tree species such as birch, rowan, holly, ash and hazel may be present. Typical oak woodland plants include bluebell, wood anemone, bramble, wood-rush, ferns and bracken, with a large number of mosses and lichens likely to be present.

Remedial management will address damage associated with past management such as the use of supplementary feeding sites and lack of appropriate management on an area of ungrazed oak woodland.

Local site conditions will be taken into account through the creation of a site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP) and associated Management map. The area and location of 'Ungrazed oak woodland remedial management' will be detailed on the ssRMP map.

The inspector will check that:

- The claimed area of 'Ungrazed oak woodland remedial management' is maintained and managed to enhance the same area and location for the duration of the EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement;
- Site specific Remedial Management Plan has been implemented in the field(s) where it has been approved;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

##### 8.2.6.3.54.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Essential capital Works:**

None

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Stock-proof fencing

Gate and posts

Bat box

Bird box

Solitary bee box

Native tree whip

Spiral tree guard / rabbit guard

Tree shelter cane

Where an ssRMP applies, other additional capital works may be included.

#### 8.2.6.3.54.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.54.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.54.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.54.6. Eligibility conditions

Only EFS(H) and EFS(G) where an ungrazed oak woodland has been identified are eligible.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

#### 8.2.6.3.54.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.54.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£65 per hectare for the first 10 hectares, £40 per hectare after 10 hectares and £20 per hectare after 20 hectares.

#### 8.2.6.3.54.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.54.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.54.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.54.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.54.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article

4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants
- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to

exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Encroaching scrub control required on 1% of area/year or 5% in Years 1-5

Non native canopy species management required on 2% of area/year = £1010 x 2% = £20.20

Routine bracken control for woodland management 5% of area/year @ £42.30/ha = £2.1

Tree felling for conservation purposes on 2% of woodland area @ £600/ha (eWGS costings, August 2011)

Removal and disposal of 1t/ha fly-tipped material. Hire of tractor and trailer for 1 hr/ha/year @ £15.31 + waste disposal cost of £18.00/t (Fermanagh Council charges) = £33.31/ha

Follow-up rhododendron and laurel control required on 5% of area each year - £35.00/ha as EFS costing for Follow-up Rhododendron control

Costs incurred	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
N/A						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£0.00	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping for implementation of Remedial Management Plan for ungrazed mixed ash woodland sites. AWB 2015 management rate. 0.2 hrs planning/ha/year		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
Bracken control for sward management	£2.12			5	£10.60	£2.12
Non native canopy species management required on 2% of area/year	£20.20			5	£101.00	£20.20
Control of encroaching scrub - 5% of area in Years 1-5	£254.37			5%	£12.72	£2.54
Tree felling and non-native species management for conservation purposes	£600.00			2%	£12.00	£2.40
Removal and disposal of fly-tipped material	£33.31			0	£0.00	£0.00
Follow-up rhododendron and laurel control	£1.75			5	£8.75	£1.75
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£30.88
<b>Income forgone</b>	<b>£ / ha</b>	<b>% loss</b>			<b>total loss</b>	<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
Average NI GM	£353.00	10.00 %		5	£176.50	£35.30
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£35.30
						£ / ha / yr
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						£66.18
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						£65/ha

Remedial Management Plan - ungrazed oakwood

### 8.2.6.3.55. Sub-measure 10.1.55 - Remedial Management Plan - Ungrazed Wet Woodland

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

#### 8.2.6.3.55.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of ungrazed wet woodland through appropriate management regimes.

Description of the commitment: This Option is an Annual management Option and has no essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). Woodlands are areas where the tree canopy covers at least 50% of the ground area. The canopy must contain at least 50% native broadleaf tree species.

There are three types of woodland: mixed ash, oak and wet woodland. Tree species commonly found in wet woodland include alder, birch and willow. Ash, oak and other tree species can be found on drier areas within wet woodlands. Typical plants of wet woodland include lesser celandine, marsh marigold, marsh bedstraw, opposite-leaved golden saxifrage, heather, sedges, mosses and lichens. Plants, indicative of nutrient rich conditions, such as nettle, docks and grasses, may also be present. Remedial management will address damage associated with past management such as the use of supplementary feeding sites and lack of inappropriate management on an area of ungrazed wet woodland.

Local site conditions will be taken into account through the creation of a site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP) and associated Management map. The area and location of 'Ungrazed wet woodland remedial management' will be detailed on the ssRMP map.

The inspector will check that:

- The claimed area of 'Ungrazed wet woodland remedial management' is maintained and managed to enhance the same area and location for the duration of the EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement;
- Site specific Remedial Management Plan has been implemented in the field(s) where it has been approved;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

#### 8.2.6.3.55.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Essential capital Works:**

None

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**



Stock-proof fencing

Gate and posts

Bat box

Bird box

Solitary bee box

Native tree whip

Spiral tree guard / rabbit guard

Tree shelter cane

Where an ssRMP applies, other additional capital works may be included.

#### 8.2.6.3.55.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.55.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.55.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.55.6. Eligibility conditions

Only EFS(H) and EFS(G) where an ungrazed wet woodland has been identified are eligible.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

8.2.6.3.55.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.55.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£65 per hectare for the first 10 hectares, £40 per hectare after 10 hectares and £20 per hectare after 20 hectares.

8.2.6.3.55.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.6.3.55.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.55.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.55.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.55.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the

relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants
- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to

exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Encroaching scrub control required on 1% of area/year or 5% in Years 1-5

Non native canopy species management required on 2% of area/year = £1010 x 2% = £20.20

Routine bracken control for woodland management 5% of area/year @ £42.30/ha = £2.1

Tree felling for conservation purposes on 2% of woodland area @ £600/ha (eWGS costings, August 2011)

Removal and disposal of 1t/ha fly-tipped material. Hire of tractor and trailer for 1 hr/ha/year @ £15.31 + waste disposal cost of £18.00/t (Fermanagh Council charges) = £33.31/ha

Follow-up rhododendron and laurel control required on 5% of area each year - £35.00/ha as EFS costing for Follow-up Rhododendron control

Costs incurred	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
N/A						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£0.00	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping for implementation of Remedial Management Plan for ungrazed mixed ash woodland sites. AWB 2015 management rate. 0.2 hrs planning/ha/year		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
Bracken control for sward management	£2.12			5	£10.60	£2.12
Non native canopy species management required on 2% of area/year	£20.20			5	£101.00	£20.20
Control of encroaching scrub - 5% of area in Years 1-5	£254.37			5%	£12.72	£2.54
Tree felling and non-native species management for conservation purposes	£600.00			2%	£12.00	£2.40
Removal and disposal of fly-tipped material	£33.31			0	£0.00	£0.00
Follow-up rhododendron and laurel control	£1.75			5	£8.75	£1.75
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£30.88
<b>Income forgone</b>	<b>£ / ha</b>	<b>% loss</b>			<b>total loss</b>	<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
Average NI GM	£353.00	10.00 %		5	£176.50	£35.30
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£35.30
						<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						<b>£66.18</b>
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						<b>£65/ha</b>

Remedial management Plan - Ungrazed wet woodland

#### 8.2.6.3.56. Sub-measure 10.1.56 - Remedial Management Plan - Grazed Mixed Ash Woodland

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.56.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of grazed mixed ash woodland through appropriate management regimes.

Description of the commitment: This Option is an Annual management Option and has no essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). Woodlands are areas where the tree canopy covers at least 50% of the ground area. The canopy must contain at least 50% native broadleaf tree species.

There are three types of woodland: mixed ash, oak and wet woodland. Mixed ash woodland is usually dominated by ash, although oak, birch and hazel may be abundant. Other species present can include rowan, holly, sycamore and beech. Typical ash woodland plants include bluebell, wood anemone, primrose and wild garlic.

Remedial management will address grazing requirements, encroachment of scrub, non-native canopy species and bracken, damage associated with supplementary feeding sites, rhododendron and laurel control and lack of active management on areas of grazed mixed ash woodland.

The 'light grazing' option will only apply to mixed ash woodlands which have been closed off to livestock for a considerable length of time, where saplings are present, indicating successful natural regeneration and where there is a well developed shrub layer such as bramble, ivy, honeysuckle and other climbers. Local site conditions will to be taken into account through the creation of a site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP) and associated Management map. The area and location of 'Grazed mixed ash woodland remedial management' will be detailed on the ssRMP map.

The inspector will check that:

- The claimed area of 'Grazed mixed ash woodland remedial management' is maintained and managed to enhance the same area and location for the duration of the EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement;
- Site specific Remedial Management Plan has been implemented in the field(s) where it has been approved;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

##### 8.2.6.3.56.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Essential capital Works:**

None

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Stock-proof fencing

Gate and posts

Bat box

Bird box

Solitary bee box

Where an ssRMP applies, other additional capital works may be included.

8.2.6.3.56.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.56.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.56.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.56.6. Eligibility conditions

Only EFS(H) and EFS(G) where a mixed ash woodland which is suitable for grazing has been identified are eligible.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

#### 8.2.6.3.56.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.56.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£65 per hectare for the first 10 hectares, £40 per hectare after 10 hectares and £20 per hectare after 20 hectares.

#### 8.2.6.3.56.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.56.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.56.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.56.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.



#### 8.2.6.3.56.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants
- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- • SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are

relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Encroaching scrub control required on 1% of area/year or 5% in Years 1-5

Management input to control woodland grazing - 1hr/ha/yr @ 2015 AWB management grade (£9.34) and 1.5 hr/ha/yr @2015 standard rate (£6.91/hr)

Non native canopy species management required on 2% of area/year = £1010 x 2% = £20.20

Routine bracken control for woodland management 5% of area/year @ £42.30/ha = £2.12

Tree felling for conservation purposes on 2% of woodland area @ £600/ha (eWGS costings, August 2011)

Removal and disposal of 1t/ha fly-tipped material. Hire of tractor and trailer for 1 hr/ha/year @ £15.31 + waste disposal cost of £18.00/t (Fermanagh Council charges) = £33.31/ha

Follow-up rhododendron and laurel control required on 5% of area each year - £35.00/ha as EFS costing for Follow-up Rhododendron control

Costs incurred	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	num ber requi red	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
N/A						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£0.00	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping for implementation of Remedial Management Plan for grazed mixed ash woodland sites. AWB 2015 management rate. 1 hr planning/ha/year		£9.34		5	£46.70	£9.34
Additional grazing management. 1.5hrs/ha/yr @ AWB 2015 standard rate		£6.91		7.5	£51.83	£10.37
Bracken control for sward management	£2.12			5	£10.60	£2.12
Non native canopy species management required on 2% of area/year	£20.20			5	£101.00	£20.20
Control of encroaching scrub - 5% of area in Years 1-5	£254.37			5%	£12.72	£2.54
Tree felling for conservation purposes	£600.00			2%	£12.00	£2.40
Removal and disposal of fly-tipped material	£33.31			0	£0.00	£0.00
Follow-up rhododendron and laurel control	£1.75			5	£8.75	£1.75
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£48.72
<b>Income forgone</b>	<b>£ / ha</b>	<b>% loss</b>			<b>total loss</b>	<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
Average NI GM	£353.00	5.00%		5	£88.25	£17.65
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£17.65
						<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						£66.37
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						£65/ha

Remedial management Plan - grazed mixed ash woodland

### 8.2.6.3.57. Sub-measure 10.1.57 - Remedial Management Plan - Grazed Oakwood

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

#### 8.2.6.3.57.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of grazed oak woodland through appropriate management regimes.

Description of the commitment: This Option is an Annual management Option and has no essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). Woodlands are areas where the tree canopy covers at least 50% of the ground area. The canopy must contain at least 50% native broadleaf tree species.

There are three types of woodland: mixed ash, oak and wet woodland. Oak woodland is dominated by oak, but other tree species such as birch, rowan, holly, ash and hazel may be present. Typical oak woodland plants include bluebell, wood anemone, bramble, wood-rush, ferns and bracken, with a large number of mosses and lichens likely to be present.

Remedial management will address grazing requirements, encroachment of scrub, non-native canopy species and bracken, damage associated with supplementary feeding sites, rhododendron and laurel control and lack of active management on areas of grazed oak woodland.

The 'light grazing' option will only apply to oak woodlands which have been closed off to livestock for a considerable length of time, where saplings are present, indicating successful natural regeneration and where there is a well developed shrub layer such as bramble, ivy, honeysuckle and other climbers. Local site conditions will be taken into account through the creation of a site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP) and associated Management map. The area and location of the 'Grazed oak woodland remedial management' will be detailed on the ssRMP map.

The inspector will check that:

- The claimed area of 'Grazed oak woodland remedial management' is maintained and managed to enhance the same area and location for the duration of the EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement;
- Site specific Remedial Management Plan has been implemented in the field(s) where it has been approved;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

#### 8.2.6.3.57.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Essential capital Works:**

None

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Stock-Proof fencing

Gate and posts

Bat box

Bird box

Solitary bee box

Where an ssRMP applies, other additional capital works may be included.

**8.2.6.3.57.3. Links to other legislation**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.57.4. Beneficiaries**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.57.5. Eligible costs**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.57.6. Eligibility conditions**

Only EFS(H) and EFS(G) where an oak woodland which is suitable for grazing has been identified are eligible.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

#### 8.2.6.3.57.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.57.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£65 per hectare for the first 10 hectares, £40 per hectare after 10 hectares and £20 per hectare after 20 hectares.

#### 8.2.6.3.57.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.57.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.57.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.57.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.57.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article

4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants
- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to

exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Encroaching scrub control required on 1% of area/year or 5% in Years 1-5

Management input to control woodland grazing - 1hr/ha/yr @ 2015 AWB management grade (£9.34) and 1.5hr/ha/yr @2015 standard rate (£6.91/hr)

Non native canopy species management required on 2% of area/year = £1010 x 2% = £20.20

Routine bracken control for woodland management 5% of area/year @ £42.30/ha = £2.12

Tree felling for conservation purposes on 2% of woodland area @ £600/ha (eWGS costings, August 2011)

Removal and disposal of 1t/ha fly-tipped material. Hire of tractor and trailer for 1 hr/ha/year @ £15.31 + waste disposal cost of £18.00/t (Fermanagh Council charges) = £33.31/ha

Follow-up rhododendron and laurel control required on 5% of area each year - £35.00/ha as EFS costing for Follow-up Rhododendron control



	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	num ber requi red	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Costs incurred</b>						
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
N/A						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£0.00	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping for implementation of Remedial Management Plan for grazed mixed ash woodland sites. AWB 2015 management rate. 1 hr planning/ha/year		£9.34		5	£46.70	£9.34
Additional grazing management. 1.5hrs/ha/yr @ AWB 2015 standard rate		£6.91		7.5	£51.83	£10.37
Bracken control for sward management	£2.12			5	£10.60	£2.12
Non native canopy species management required on 2% of area/year	£20.20			5	£101.00	£20.20
Control of encroaching scrub - 5% of area in Years 1-5	£254.37			5%	£12.72	£2.54
Tree felling for conservation purposes	£600.00			2%	£12.00	£2.40
Removal and disposal of fly-tipped material	£33.31			0	£0.00	£0.00
Follow-up rhododendron and laurel control	£1.75			5	£8.75	£1.75
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£48.72
<b>Income forgone</b>	<b>£ / ha</b>	<b>% loss</b>			<b>total loss</b>	<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
Average NI GM	£353.00	5.00%		5	£88.25	£17.65
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£17.65
						£ / ha / yr
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						£66.37
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						£65/ha

Remedial management Plan - grazed oakwood

### 8.2.6.3.58. Sub-measure 10.1.58 - Remedial Management Plan - Grazed Wet Woodland

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

#### 8.2.6.3.58.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of grazed wet woodland through appropriate management regimes.

Description of the commitment: This Option is an Annual management Option and has no essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). Woodlands are areas where the tree canopy covers at least 50% of the ground area. The canopy must contain at least 50% native broadleaf tree species.

There are three types of woodland: mixed ash, oak and wet woodland. Tree species commonly found in wet woodland include alder, birch and willow. Ash, oak and other tree species can be found on drier areas within wet woodlands. Typical plants of wet woodland include lesser celandine, marsh marigold, marsh bedstraw, opposite-leaved golden saxifrage, heather, sedges, mosses and lichens. Plants, indicative of nutrient rich conditions, such as nettle, docks and grasses, may also be present.

Remedial management will address grazing requirements, encroachment of scrub, non-native canopy species and bracken, damage associated with supplementary feeding sites, rhododendron and laurel control and lack of active management on areas of grazed wet woodland.

The 'light grazing' option will only apply to wet woodlands which have been closed off to livestock for a considerable length of time, where saplings are present, indicating successful natural regeneration and where there is a well developed shrub layer such as bramble, ivy, honeysuckle and other climbers. Local site conditions will be taken into account through the creation of a site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP) and associated Management map. The area and location of 'Grazed wet woodland remedial management' will be detailed on the ssRMP map.

The inspector will check that:

- The claimed area of 'Grazed wet woodland remedial management' is maintained and managed to enhance the same area and location for the duration of the EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement;
- Site specific Remedial Management Plan has been implemented in the field(s) where it has been approved;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

#### 8.2.6.3.58.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Essential capital Works:**

None

**Additional Optional capital works available for this Option:**

Stock-proof fencing

Gate and posts

Bat box

Bird box

Solitary bee box

Where an ssRMP applies, other additional capital works may be included.

**8.2.6.3.58.3. Links to other legislation**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.58.4. Beneficiaries**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.58.5. Eligible costs**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.58.6. Eligibility conditions**

Only EFS(H) and EFS(G) where a wet woodland which is suitable for grazing has been identified are eligible.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

#### 8.2.6.3.58.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.58.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£65 per hectare for the first 10 hectares, £40 per hectare after 10 hectares and £20 per hectare after 20 hectares.

#### 8.2.6.3.58.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.58.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.58.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.58.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.58.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article

4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants
- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to

exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Encroaching scrub control required on 1% of area/year or 5% in Years 1-5

Management input to control woodland grazing - 1hr/ha/yr @ 2015 AWB management grade (£9.34) and 1.5hr/ha/yr @2015 standard rate (£6.91/hr)

Non native canopy species management required on 2% of area/year = £1010 x 2% = £20.20

Routine bracken control for woodland management 5% of area/year @ £42.30/ha = £2.12

Tree felling for conservation purposes on 2% of woodland area @ £600/ha (eWGS costings, August 2011)

Removal and disposal of 1t/ha fly-tipped material. Hire of tractor and trailer for 1 hr/ha/year @ £15.31 + waste disposal cost of £18.00/t (Fermanagh Council charges) = £33.31/ha

Follow-up rhododendron and laurel control required on 5% of area each year - £35.00/ha as EFS costing for Follow-up Rhododendron control

Costs incurred	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	num ber requi red	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
N/A						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£0.00	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping for implementation of Remedial Management Plan for grazed mixed ash woodland sites. AWB 2015 management rate. 1 hr planning/ha/year		£9.34		5	£46.70	£9.34
Additional grazing management. 1.5hrs/ha/yr @ AWB 2015 standard rate		£6.91		7.5	£51.83	£10.37
Bracken control for sward management	£2.12			5	£10.60	£2.12
Non native canopy species management required on 2% of area/year	£20.20			5	£101.00	£20.20
Control of encroaching scrub - 5% of area in Years 1-5	£254.37			5%	£12.72	£2.54
Tree felling for conservation purposes	£600.00			2%	£12.00	£2.40
Removal and disposal of fly-tipped material	£33.31			0	£0.00	£0.00
Follow-up rhododendron and laurel control	£1.75			5	£8.75	£1.75
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£48.72
<b>Income forgone</b>	<b>£ / ha</b>	<b>% loss</b>			<b>total loss</b>	<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
Average NI GM	£353.00	5.00%		5	£88.25	£17.65
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£17.65
						<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						<b>£66.37</b>
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						<b>£65/ha</b>

Remedial management Plan - grazed wet woodland

### 8.2.6.3.59. Sub-measure 10.1.59 - Remedial Management Plan - Breeding Wader

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

#### 8.2.6.3.59.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of grazed breeding wader habitats through appropriate management regimes.

Description of the commitment: This Option is an Annual management Option and has no essential non-productive investments (referred as capital works). Grazing suppresses coarse grasses and woody plants, preventing the transition from grassland to scrub and woodland. Rare and delicate species benefit from variations in the vegetation created by grazing. Furthermore, the 'gaps' created in the sward by animal hooves encourage seed germination.

A Remedial Management Plan will address undergrazing, overgrazing, damage associated with supplementary feeding sites and lack of active management on breeding wader sites. In particular, appropriate grazing will benefit ground nesting birds and the marsh fritillary butterfly.

The Remedial Management Plan will identify areas where 'Primary Rush control' is required and a timescale for completion. The 'Primary Rush control' will be funded as a non-productive investment. Since the only permissible method of 'Primary Rush control' is through cutting/mowing to protect Natura 2000 sites it will be necessary to have a programme of recurring annual maintenance 'Follow-up Rush control' each year for the duration of the EFS. The 'Follow-up Rush control' will also be clearly defined in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

The area and location of 'Breeding wader remedial management' will be detailed on the ssRMP map.

The inspector will check that:

- The claimed area of 'Breeding wader site remedial management' is maintained and managed to enhance the same area and location for the duration of the EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement;
- Site specific Remedial Management Plan has been implemented in the field(s) where it has been approved;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

#### 8.2.6.3.59.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Essential capital works:**



None

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Stock-proof fencing

Gate and posts

Bat box

Bird box

Solitary bee box

Where an ssRMP applies, other additional capital works may be included.

**8.2.6.3.59.3. Links to other legislation**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.59.4. Beneficiaries**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.59.5. Eligible costs**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.59.6. Eligibility conditions**

Only EFS(H) and EFS(G) are eligible.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

8.2.6.3.59.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.59.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£195 per hectare

8.2.6.3.59.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.6.3.59.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.59.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.59.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.59.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

35% reduction in GM due to management requirement of no organic or inorganic manure application from 01 February to 15 July.

Sward management rush control required on 100% of grassland site/yr - £40/hr @ 1.00 ha/hr

Encroaching scrub control required on 5% of area/year

Alternative grazing required for  $1.31 - 0.75 = 0.56$  LU for 10 weeks =  $\pounds 216/52 * 10/1.31 * 0.56 = \pounds 17.76$ .  
 $\pounds 17.76$  is 8.22% of  $\pounds 216$

	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Costs incurred</b>						
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
N/A						
<i>Total Year 1 NPI cost</i>					£0.00	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping for implementation of Remedial Management Plan for moorland sites. AWB 2015 management rate. 0.2 hrs planning/ha/year		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
Rush control for sward management. Based on 100% of area requiring rush control in Years 1-5.	£40.00			5	£200.00	£40.00
Control of encroaching scrub - 5% of area/year	£254.37			25%	£63.59	£12.72
<i>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</i>						£54.59
<b>Income forgone</b>	£ / ha	% loss			total loss	£ / ha / yr
Average NI GM	£353.00	35.00 %		5	£617.75	£123.55
Alternative grazing	£216.00	8.20%		5	£88.56	£17.71
<i>Subtotal (Income forgone)</i>						£141.26
						£ / ha / yr
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						£195.85
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						£195/ha

remedial

#### 8.2.6.3.60. Sub-measure 10.1.60 - Remedial Management Plan - Reedbeds

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.60.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of grazed reedbed habitats through appropriate management regimes

Description of the commitment: This Option is an Annual management Option and has no essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital items). Grazing suppresses coarse grasses and woody plants, preventing the transition from grassland to scrub and woodland. Rare and delicate species benefit from variations in the vegetation created by grazing. Remedial management will address undergrazing, overgrazing, damage associated with supplementary feeding sites and lack of active management on grassland, upland moorland sites and other grazed farm habitats. In particular, appropriate grazing will benefit ground nesting birds and the marsh fritillary butterfly.

The inspector will check that:

- The claimed area of 'Reedbed remedial management' is maintained and managed to enhance the same area and location for the duration of the EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement;
- Site specific Remedial Management Plan has been implemented in the field(s) where it has been approved;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

##### 8.2.6.3.60.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

#### **Essential capital works:**

None

#### **Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Stock-proof fencing

Gate and posts

Bat box

Bird box

Solitary bee box

Where an ssRMP applies, other additional capital works may be included.

#### 8.2.6.3.60.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.60.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.60.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.60.6. Eligibility conditions

Only EFS(H) and EFS(G) are eligible. Local site conditions need to be taken into account through the creation of a site specific Remedial Management Plan and associated Management map.

#### 8.2.6.3.60.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.60.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£50 per hectare

#### 8.2.6.3.60.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.60.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.60.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.60.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.60.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants
- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.

- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Sward management rush/reed control required on 5% of reedbed site/yr - £40/hr @ 1.00 ha/hr @ 5% area cut = £2/ha

Encroaching scrub control required on 5% of area/year

Alternative grazing required for 0.075 LU for 5 months =  $\frac{£216}{12} * 5 / 1.31 * 0.075 = £5.15$ . £5.15 is 2.4% of £216

Stocking density reduction from 0.20 LU/ha to 0.075 LU/ha = 0.125 LU or 0.83 ewes/ha reduction.

Income forgone - LFA payment is fixed, therefore only the breeding ewe component of the gross margin is reduced. In this case the reduction would be £29.66 (i.e.  $35.74 * 0.83$ ).



Costs incurred	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	num ber requi red	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
N/A						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£0.00	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping for implementation of Remedial Management Plan for reedbed sites. AWB 2015 management rate. 0.2 hrs planning/ha/year		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
Rush/reed control for sward management. Based on 5% of area requiring rush control in Years 1-5.	£2.00			5	£10.00	£2.00
Control of encroaching scrub - 5% of area/year	£254.37			25%	£63.59	£12.72
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£16.59
<b>Income forgone</b>	<b>£ / ha</b>	<b>% loss</b>			<b>total loss</b>	<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
Northern Ireland breeding ewe average GM	£35.74	83.00 %		5	£148.32	£29.66
Alternative grazing	£216.00	2.40%		5	£25.92	£5.18
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£34.85
						<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						<b>£51.43</b>

remedial

### 8.2.6.3.61. Sub-measure 10.1.61 - Remedial Management Plan - Fen

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

#### 8.2.6.3.61.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of grazed fen habitats through appropriate management regimes.

Description of the commitment: This Option is an Annual management Option and has no essential non-productive investments (capital items). Grazing suppresses coarse grasses and woody plants, preventing the transition from grassland to scrub and woodland. Rare and delicate species benefit from variations in the vegetation created by grazing.

Remedial management will address undergrazing, overgrazing, damage associated with supplementary feeding sites and lack of active management fen sites. In particular, appropriate grazing will benefit ground nesting birds and the marsh fritillary butterfly.

Local site conditions need to be taken into account through the creation of a site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP) and associated Management map. The area and location of the 'Fen remedial management' will be detailed on the ssRMP map.

The inspector will check that:

- The claimed area of 'Fen remedial management' is maintained and managed to enhance the same area and location for the duration of the EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement;
- Site specific Remedial Management Plan has been implemented in the field(s) where it has been approved;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

#### 8.2.6.3.61.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Essential capital works:**

None

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Stock-proof fencing

Gate and posts

Bat box

Bird box

Solitary bee box

Where an ssRMP applies, other additional capital works may be included.

#### 8.2.6.3.61.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.61.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.61.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.61.6. Eligibility conditions

Only EFS(H) and EFS(G) are eligible.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

#### 8.2.6.3.61.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.61.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£50 per hectare

8.2.6.3.61.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.6.3.61.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.61.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.61.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.61.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants
  - GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.

- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Sward management rush/reed control required on 5% of reedbed site/yr - £40/hr @ 1.00 ha/hr @ 5% area cut = £2/ha

Encroaching scrub control required on 5% of area/year

Alternative grazing required for 0.075 LU for 5 months =  $£216/12 * 5 / 1.31 * 0.075 = £5.15$ . £5.15 is 2.4%

of £216

Stocking density reduction from 0.20 LU/ha to 0.075 LU/ha = 0.125 LU or 0.83 ewes/ha reduction.

Income forgone - LFA payment is fixed, therefore only the breeding ewe component of the gross margin is reduced. In this case the reduction would be £29.66 (i.e. 35.74 \* 0.83).

Costs Incurred	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	num ber requi red	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
N/A						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					<b>£0.00</b>	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping for Implementation of Remedial Management Plan for remedial sites. AIVS 2015 management rate. 0.2 hrs planning/ha/year		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
Rush/reed control for sward management. Based on 5% of area requiring rush control in Years 1-5.	£2.00			5	£10.00	£2.00
Control of encroaching scrub - 5% of area/year	£254.37			25%	£63.59	£12.72
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						<b>£16.59</b>
<b>Income forgone</b>	<b>£ / ha</b>	<b>% loss</b>			<b>total loss</b>	<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
Northern Ireland breeding ewe average GM	£35.74	83.00 %		5	£148.32	£29.66
Alternative grazing	£216.00	2.40%		5	£25.92	£5.18
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						<b>£34.85</b>
						<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						<b>£51.43</b>
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						<b>£50/ha</b>

remedial

#### 8.2.6.3.62. Sub-measure 10.1.62 - Remedial Management Plan - Marsh Fritillary

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.62.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of marsh fritillary habitats through appropriate management regimes.

Description of the commitment: This Option is an Annual management Option and has no essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). Grazing suppresses coarse grasses and woody plants, preventing the transition from grassland to scrub and woodland.

Remedial management will address undergrazing, overgrazing, damage associated with supplementary feeding sites and lack of active management on marsh fritillary sites. In particular, appropriate grazing will benefit marsh fritillary butterfly.

Local site conditions need to be taken into account through the creation of a site specific Remedial Management Plan and associated Management map. Marsh fritillary is typically found in areas where there is low input of organic and inorganic fertilisers. Therefore, the grazing density should be extensive in character and must not go beyond the equivalent of 170 kg N/ha.

The site-specific management plan will specify an inputs and grazing plan for the specific Marsh Fritillary site. Controls will include the requirement to keep detailed records of inputs, grazing dates and animals used to graze the site. On-the-spot checks will include a botanical assessment of the sward to check for Devils Bit Scabious and other low-input indicator plants to verify implementation of the Site-specific Remedial Management Plan.

The area and location of 'Marsh Fritillary remedial management' will be detailed on the ssRMP map.

The inspector will check that:

- The claimed area of 'Marsh fritillary remedial management' is maintained and managed to enhance the same area and location for the duration of the EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement;
- Site specific Remedial Management Plan has been implemented in the field(s) where it has been approved;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

##### 8.2.6.3.62.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Essential capital works:**

None

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Stock-proof fencing

Gate and posts

Bat box

Bird box

Solitary bee box

Where an ssRMP applies, other additional capital works may be included.

**8.2.6.3.62.3. Links to other legislation**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.62.4. Beneficiaries**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.62.5. Eligible costs**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.62.6. Eligibility conditions**

Only EFS(H) and EFS(G) are eligible.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1



8.2.6.3.62.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.62.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£60 per hectare

8.2.6.3.62.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.6.3.62.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.62.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.62.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.62.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants
- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- • SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Marsh Fritillary sites will have significant quantity of Devil's bit scabious present, and will have a small amount of nutrient application. This will suggest that current GM/ha would be approx 50% of the average (50% of £353 = £176.50/ha). In addition the inability to apply any chemical/organic fertiliser applications will result in a further loss of approx 30% of existing gross margin/ha.

	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	num ber requi red	total cost ha	£ / ha / yr
<b>Costs incurred</b>						
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
N/A						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£0.00	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning for grazing marsh fritillary sites. AWB 2015 management rate. 1 hrs planning/ha/year		£9.34		5	£46.70	£9.34
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£9.34
<b>Income forgone</b>	<b>£ / ha</b>	<b>% loss</b>			<b>total loss</b>	<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
50% reduction in existing GM (existing GM is assumed to be 50% of average GM/ha, ie 50% of £353/ha = £176.50/ha)	£176.50	30.00 %		5	£264.75	£52.95
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£52.95
						<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						£62.29
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						<b>£60/ha</b>

marsh fritillary

### 8.2.6.3.63. Sub-measure 10.1.63 - Remedial Management Plan - Moorlands (Intact Lowland Raised Bog)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

#### 8.2.6.3.63.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of intact lowland raised bog through appropriate management regimes.

Description of the commitment: This Option is an Annual management Option and has no essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). Intact lowland raised bogs being comparatively scarce in NI. Intact lowland raised bogs are peatland ecosystems, which develop primarily in lowland areas below 150m and are generally surrounded by mineral soils. Lowland raised bogs are subject of a NI Habitat Action Plan.

Remedial management will address undergrazing, overgrazing, damage associated with supplementary feeding sites and lack of active management on intact lowland raised bog sites.

Local site conditions need to be taken into account through the creation of a site-specific management plan (ssRMP) and associated management map. The area and location of 'Intact lowland raised bog remedial management' will be detailed on the ssRMP map.

The inspector will check that:

- The claimed area of 'Intact lowland raised bog remedial management' is maintained and managed to enhance the same area and location for the duration of the EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement;
- Site specific Remedial Management Plan has been implemented in the field(s) where it has been approved;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

#### 8.2.6.3.63.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

**Essential capital works:**

None

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Stock-proof fencing

Gate and posts

Bat box

Bird box

Solitary bee box

Where an ssRMP applies, other additional capital works may be included.

#### 8.2.6.3.63.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.63.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.63.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.63.6. Eligibility conditions

Only EFS(H) and EFS(G) are eligible.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

#### 8.2.6.3.63.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.63.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£40.00 per hectare for the first 50 hectares, £20 per hectare after 50 hectares and £10 per hectare after 100 hectares.

8.2.6.3.63.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.6.3.63.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.63.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.63.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.63.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC3: Land managers must protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants
  - GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
  - GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points

and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.

- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
- SMR1: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements relation to the protection of water from nitrate pollution.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

**Basis of calculations:**

Control of spreading scrub required on 1% of area in Years 2-5

Stocking density reduction from 0.15 LU/ha to 0 LU/ha (0.15 LU/ha reduction).

Average breeding ewe gross margin = £35.74 (See table 1 in tab: Report tables PED 31 01 15).

Therefore, as the option involves a reduction of 0.15 LU per hectare and a breeding ewe is 0.15 livestock

units, the GM reduction will be equivalent to 1 ewes/ha = £35.74

	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Costs incurred</b>						
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
N/A						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£0.00	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping for implementation of Remedial Management Plan for moorland sites. AWB 2015 management rate. 0.2 hrs planning/ha/year		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
Control of spreading scrub	£254.37			4%	£10.17	£2.03
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£3.90
<b>Income forgone</b>	<b>£ / ha</b>	<b>% loss</b>			<b>total loss</b>	<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
Northern Ireland breeding ewe average GM	£35.74	100.00 %		5	£178.70	£35.74
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£35.74
						<b>£ / ha / yr</b>
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						£39.64
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						<b>£40/ha</b>

remedial



#### 8.2.6.3.64. Sub-measure 10.1.64 - Lapwing Fallow Plot

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.64.1. Description of the type of operation

**Aim of commitment:** To maintain and increase the breeding success of lapwing nesting on arable farmland by providing suitable breeding and feeding conditions.

**Description of the commitment:** This Option is an annual management Option and does not contain essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). The Option will successfully establish a fallow plot which is an area left fallow (unplanted) from spring or in the previous autumn until 31 July. These areas will allow lapwing to nest without disturbance.

Local site conditions need to be taken into account through the creation of a site-specific Remedial Management Plan and associated Management map. Large, open arable fields are most suitable. Ideally, there should be damp, grazing land nearby for chick feeding. Lapwing fallow plots can be rotated each year of the agreement.

The inspector will check that:

- The claimed area of 'Lapwing fallow plot' has been completed for each year of EFS(H) and EFS(G) agreement;
- The claimed area of 'Lapwing fallow plot' has been established, retained and managed as detailed in the site specific Remedial Management Plan each year;
- The minimum plot size is 1.00ha and no more than 2.00 ha
- The 'Lapwing fallow plot' is in place by 20 March and retained until 31 July each year;
- Field records have been kept as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.

##### 8.2.6.3.64.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

#### **Essential capital works:**

This Option does not contain an essential capital works element.

#### **Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Solitary bee box

Bat box

Bird box

Where an ssRMP applies, other additional capital works may be included.

#### 8.2.6.3.64.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.64.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.64.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.64.6. Eligibility conditions

Only EFS(H) and EFS(G) are eligible.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

#### 8.2.6.3.64.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.64.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£699 per hectare

£0 per hectare with greening

#### 8.2.6.3.64.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.64.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.64.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.64.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.64.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation

- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

Please see tables below

With Greening consideration:

<b>Basis of calculations:</b>						
Total loss of production in area of fallow plot - income forgone = £698.00/ha						
Costs incurred	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
N/A						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£0.00	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping for implementation of Remedial Management Plan for moorland sites. AWB 2015 management rate. 0.2 hrs planning/ha/year		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£1.87
Income forgone	£ / ha	% loss			total loss	£ / ha / yr
Average NI GM	£698.00	0.00%		5	£0.00	£0.00
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£0.00
						£ / ha / yr
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						£1.87
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						£0.00

Lapwing Fallow Plot with greening

Without Greening:

<b>Basis of calculations:</b>						
Total loss of production in area of fallow plot - income forgone = £698.00/ha						
	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	num ber requi red	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Costs incurred</b>						
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
N/A						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£0.00	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping for implementation of Remedial Management Plan for moorland sites. AWB 2015 management rate. 0.2 hrs planning/ha/year		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£1.87
<b>Income forgone</b>	£ / ha	% loss			total loss	£ / ha / yr
Average NI GM	£698.00	100.00 %		5	£3,490.00	£698.00
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£698.00
						£ / ha / yr
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						£699.87
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						£699/ha *

\*This payment rate equates to 7p per m<sup>2</sup>.

Lapwing Fallow Plot without greening

#### 8.2.6.3.65. Sub-measure 10.1.66 - Hedge Laying including 2 protective fences (NPI)\*

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.65.1. Description of the type of operation

\* This is a one-off action, to be completed in year one of the agreement, and as such the provisions of M4.4 (non-productive investments) apply.

Aim of commitment: Hedge laying aims to maintain the biodiversity, structure, and landscape patterns of field boundaries in the countryside.

Description of the commitment: This Option is a combination of essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works) to establish and protect the Option. Hedge laying involves partially cutting through hedge stems close to ground level and bending them over to create a dense hedge. Gaps greater than one metre in the laid hedge are interplanted with suitable hedge species. Native trees are planted along the length of the laid hedge. The laid hedge must be protected using two fences, one on each side.

The species suitable for interplanting gaps in the laid hedge are as follows:

- Hedge species list
  - Hawthorn, *Crataegus monogyna*
  - Hazel, *Corylus avellana*
  - Blackthorn/sloe, *Prunus spinosa*
  - Holly, *Ilex aquifolium*
  - Gorse/whin, *Ulex europaeus*
  - Dog rose, *Rosa canina*
  - Guelder rose, *Viburnum opulus*
  - Spindle, *Euonymus europaeus*
  - Fuschia, *Fuchsia magellanica* (only plant where fuschia is traditionally found in the locality)

The species suitable for planting as trees in the laid hedge is as follows. Hawthorn or other woody species in the existing hedge can be allowed to develop into hedgerow trees

- Tree species list
  - Crab apple, *Malus sylvestris*
  - Wild pear, *Pyrus pyraeaster*
  - Wild plum/Damson, *Prunus domestica*
  - Wild cherry, *Prunus avium*
  - Bird cherry, *Prunus padus*
  - Willow, *Salix* species
  - Birch, *Betula*
  - Oak, *Quercus*
  - Juniper, *Juniperus communis*
  - Rowan, *Sorbus aucuparia*
  - Whitebeam, *Sorbus hibernica*

- Scots pine, *Pinus sylvestris*
- Alder, *Alnus glutinosa*
- Wych elm, *Ulmus glabra*
- Aspen, *Populus tremula*

The inspector will check that:

- All capital works required (hedge laying, interplanting, planting native hedgerow trees and protection with 1.2 metre tubular or square tree guards and erection of two protective fences) has been completed by 01 June in the first year of the EFS agreement;
- The claimed length of ‘Hedge laying and interplanting including two protective fences’ has been established in the fields, where it has been approved;
- The length of each individual laid hedge is a minimum of 10 metres;
- Stems have been laid as close as possible to ground level, and secured with stakes, where necessary, along the full length of the boundary;
- All gaps larger than one metre long have been planted with at least five native woody plants (one or more species) from the Hedge species list;
- On average, eight trees per 100 metre length of boundary, have been either planted or left unladen. New native trees are selected from the tree species list.
- Newly planted native trees have been planted at least 8 m apart;
- Each newly planted native tree has been protected with a new 1.2 metre tubular or square tree guard and stake;
- The claimed length of two protective fences, to BS 1722-2: 2006 and BS 4102, has been erected on either side of the laid hedge, in the first year of the EFS agreement, in the field(s) where the Option has been approved;
- The same linear length and location of the commitment has been retained and managed for the duration of the EFS agreement;
- Hedgerow trees have not been cut back; and,
- The laid and interplanted hedge and hedgerow trees has been successfully established for the duration of the EFS agreement.

#### 8.2.6.3.65.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Payment per metre



**Essential capital works:**

The hedge laying, interplanting gaps, planting hedgerow trees with protection using 1.2 metre tubular or square tree guards and erection of two protective fences are considered as essential capital works.

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

None.

Where an ssRMP applies, additional capital works may be included.

**8.2.6.3.65.3. Links to other legislation**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.65.4. Beneficiaries**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.65.5. Eligible costs**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

**8.2.6.3.65.6. Eligibility conditions**

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

**8.2.6.3.65.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria**

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.65.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£14.54 per metre (Capital Works)

8.2.6.3.65.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.6.3.65.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.65.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.65.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.65.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
  - GAEC 7: Land managers must not remove or destroy hedges, or any other landscape feature, without the prior written consent of DAERA. Land managers must not cut hedges between 1st March and 31st August.
  - SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, their

eggs and nests by preserving and maintaining land classified as a Special Protection Area (SPA).

- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

Please see table below

Costs incurred	£ / m	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required /100m	total cost / m
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>					
Planning for hedge laying. AWB 2015 management rate. 0.5hr / 100m in year 1		£9.34		0.5	£0.05
Labour (AWB 2015 standard rate), estimate 40m/day. 2.5 days or 20 hrs per 100m.		£6.91		20	£1.38
Chainsaw hire (PED) £35/day, estimate it takes 2.5 days or 20 hrs per 100m.			£35.00	2.5	£0.88
Flailing both sides of hedge in preparation for laying (PED) £30/hour. Estimate 150m/hr. Both sides included.		£30.00		0.66	£0.20
Interplanting gaps at 5 plants per metre @ £0.45/plant, assuming 1/5 of length needs gaps filled. Plants required/ 100m = $100/5 \times 5 = 100$ .			£0.45	100	£0.45
Labour for planting gaps and applying mulch (AWB 2015 standard rate). Assume 1/5 gappy and needs planting. Therefore planting rate of 5 x normal planting rate = $5 \times 50m = 250m$ /day or $(8/250 \times 100) = 3.2$ hrs/100m of laid hedge		£6.91		3.2	£0.22
Stakes - upright stakes for securing laid hedge. Allow 33/100m of laid hedge at £0.50 each.		£0.50		33	£0.17
Clearing up bushes and brash. Burning. Tractor and trailer at £15.31/hr (PED FBD 2014 rate), 2 hrs required per 100m.		£15.31		2	£0.31
Labour for clearing up bushes and brash (AWB 2015 standard rate), 2 hrs required/100m.		£6.91		2	£0.14
Tree planting for gaps. 4 trees plus guards and stakes per 100m (tree average cost £0.86 each, stake and guard together £4.02 each = £4.88)			£4.88	4	£0.20
Black plastic or mulch fabric. (Nominal 1/4 cost of hedge planting = $23/4 = £5.75/100m = £0.06/m$ )			£0.06	100	£0.06
Stockproof fence required on both sides of hedge £6.00/m x 2			£6.00	2	£12.00
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					<b>£16.04</b>

Hedge laying including two protective fences

#### 8.2.6.3.66. Sub-measure 10.1.67 - Traditional Dry Stone Wall Rebuilding (Single Skin) (NPI)\*

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.66.1. Description of the type of operation

\* This is a one-off action, to be completed in year one of the agreement, and as such the provisions of M4.4 (non-productive investments) apply.

Aim of commitment: Maintain and preserve dry stone walls which are an important biodiversity feature.

Description of the commitment: This Option is a combination of essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works) to establish the Option with additional optional capital works to supplement the Option. Traditional dry stone walls are rebuilt using local stones without the use of mortar and constructed in a style traditional to the locality.

The inspector will check that:

- All capital works required (rebuilding single skin dry stone wall) has been completed by 01 June in the first year of the EFS agreement
- Each individual length of rebuilt single skin dry stone wall is a minimum of 2 metres
- The claimed length of 'Traditional dry stone wall rebuilding – Single skin' has been completed in the field(s) where it has been approved;
- The dry stone wall has been rebuilt securely from the base and that it reflects the height of nearby stone walls which will generally be a maximum of 1.8 metres;
- No mortar or cement has been used for traditional dry stone wall rebuilding;
- The same length and location of 'Traditional dry stone wall rebuilding – Single skin' has been retained and managed for the duration of the EFS agreement;

The dry stone wall has been maintained by replacing fallen and dislodged stones for the duration of the EFS agreement

##### 8.2.6.3.66.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Payment per metre

**Essential capital works:**

Rebuilding stonewalls is considered as essential capital works.

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

None.

Where an ssRMP applies, additional capital works may be included.

8.2.6.3.66.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.66.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.66.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.66.6. Eligibility conditions

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

8.2.6.3.66.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.66.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£13.02 per metre(Capital Works)

8.2.6.3.66.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.6.3.66.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.66.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.66.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.66.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
  - GAEC 7: Land managers must not remove or destroy hedges, or any other landscape feature, without the prior written consent of DAERA.
  - SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, their eggs and nests by preserving and maintaining land classified as a Special Protection Area (SPA).

- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

Please see table below



Costs incurred	£ / m	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required/100m	total cost / m
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>					
Planning for stone wall rebuilding. AWB 2015 management rate. 1hr / 100m in year 1		£9.34		1	£0.09
Mini digger (PED data - £105/day or £13.13/hour) - 6 hours to rebuild 100m		£13.13		6	£0.79
Labour (AWB standard worker) £6.91/hr - rebuilding stone wall		£6.91		125	£8.64
Tractor + linkbox (£80/day) = £10/hr = 35 hrs to complete 100m		£10.00		35	£3.50
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£13.02
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>					<b>£13.02</b>

traditional stone wall single skin

#### 8.2.6.3.67. Sub-measure 10.1.68 - Traditional Dry Stone Wall Rebuilding (Double Skin) (NPI)\*

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.67.1. Description of the type of operation

\* This is a one-off action, to be completed in year one of the agreement, and as such the provisions of M4.4 (non-productive investments) apply.

Aim of commitment: Maintain and preserve dry stone walls which are an important biodiversity feature.

Description of the commitment: This Option is a combination of essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works) to establish the Option with additional optional capital works to supplement the Option. Traditional dry stone wall rebuilding – double skin’ are rebuilt using local stones without the use of mortar and constructed in a style traditional to the locality.

This option will usually be appropriate where there is an existing double skin dry stone wall that is in a poor or very poor state of repair.

The inspector will check that:

- All capital works required (rebuilding double skin dry stone wall) has been completed by 01 June in the first year of the EFS agreement;
- Each individual length of rebuilt stone wall is a minimum of 2 metres;
- The claimed length of ‘Traditional dry stone wall rebuilding – Double skin’ has been completed in the field(s) where it has been approved;
- The dry stone wall has been rebuilt securely from the base and that it reflects the height of nearby stone walls which will generally be a maximum of 1.8 metres;
- No mortar or cement has been used for traditional stone wall rebuilding;
- The same length and location of ‘Traditional dry stone wall rebuilding – Double skin’ has been retained and managed for the duration of the EFS agreement;
- The stone wall has been maintained by replacing fallen and dislodged stones for the duration of the EFS agreement.

##### 8.2.6.3.67.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Payment per metre

**Essential capital works:**

Rebuilding stonewalls is considered as essential capital works.

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

None Where an ssRMP applies, additional capital works may be included.

8.2.6.3.67.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.67.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.67.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.67.6. Eligibility conditions

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

8.2.6.3.67.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

#### 8.2.6.3.67.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£22.95 per metre (Capital Works)

#### 8.2.6.3.67.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.67.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.67.9.2. Mitigating actions

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.67.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.67.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- GAEC 7: Land managers must not remove or destroy hedges, or any other landscape feature, without the prior written consent of DAERA.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, their eggs and nests by preserving and maintaining land classified as a Special Protection Area (SPA).
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

Please see table below

Costs incurred	£ / m	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required/100m	total cost / m
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>					
Planning for stone wall rebuilding. AWB 2015 management rate. 1hr / 100m in year 1		£9.34		1.00	£0.09
Mini digger (PED data - £105/day or £13.13/hour) - 10 hours to service rebuild of 100m		£13.13		10.00	£1.31
Labour (AWB standard worker) £6.91/hr - rebuilding stone wall		£6.91		225.00	£15.55
Tractor + linkbox (£80/day) = £10/hr = 60hrs to complete 100m		£10.00		60.00	£6.00
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£22.95
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>					<b>£22.95</b>

traditional stone wall double skin

### 8.2.6.3.68. Sub-measure 10.1.70 - Natural Regeneration of Native Woodland

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

#### 8.2.6.3.68.1. Description of the type of operation

Aim of commitment: To increase the area of native woodland, to sequester carbon and mitigate against climate change, to enhance biodiversity by providing wildlife corridors and to enhance the landscape character of the countryside.

Description of the commitment: This Option is an annual management Option and does not contain essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). Natural colonisation by trees and shrubs is a feature of extensively managed land. Herbaceous woodland species can spread from nearby hedges or existing woodland. The Northern Ireland Countryside Survey (2007) describes this natural process of habitat succession from open ground to scrub and eventually to woodland. For EFS(H) sites the 'Natural regeneration of native woodland' Option is eligible where it will maintain and enhance the carbon sequestration and biodiversity value of these sites and is included in the site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP). This Option is an annual management requirement to ensure retention and maintenance of the Option. Areas of 'Natural Regeneration of Native woodland' must be established on LPIS eligible land are protected from livestock grazing so that they regenerate naturally.

Areas containing hawthorn, blackthorn, gorse (whin), bramble, honeysuckle, dog rose, bushy willows (sally) or stunted hazel with few or no mature trees are most suited for this Option. Non-native broadleaf tree species may be present. All livestock are excluded to allow transition to native woodland. Scrub situated on Permanent Grassland Sensitive Sites cannot be entered into this Option through an EFS(W) agreement except when the conversion has been assessed under the EIA (Forestry) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006. Areas of heather moorland, lowland raised bog, species rich grassland, breeding wader sites and wetlands are not suitable for this Option. Areas of open space equal to greater than 0.10ha adjacent to the area of 'Natural Regeneration of Native woodland' may be planted with native tree and shrub species through the 'Establishment of Native Woodland less than 5 ha' Option.

Where it is required to control the spread of bracken, rhododendron other IAS, IPM principles, including general principles 2 and 8, will be applied to ensure that, where possible, alternatives to the use of pesticides are utilised.

The inspector will check that:

- The claimed area of 'Natural regeneration of Native woodland' has been established by 01 June in the first year of the EFS agreement;
- The same area and location of 'Natural regeneration of Native woodland' has been established, retained and managed for the duration of the EFS agreement;
- Features within the scrub area, such as open ponds have been retained;
- No there has been no grazing, cutting or burning;

- The spread of Bracken, Rhododendron and Laurel has been controlled;
- The same area of 'Natural regeneration of Native woodland' has been established, retained and managed as detailed in the ssRMP for the duration of the EFS(H) agreement
- Field records detailing area created, location, date completed and all Management Requirements including Integrated Pest Management (IPM) requirements.

#### 8.2.6.3.68.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Area-based payment

##### **Essential capital works:**

This Option does not contain an essential capital works element.

##### **Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

Stock-proof fencing

Gates and posts

Drinking trough

Drinking trough base

Drinking trough pipe work

Solar-powered pump to supply drinking trough

Pasture pump and associated pipe work

Where an ssRMP applies, other additional capital works may be included.

#### 8.2.6.3.68.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.



8.2.6.3.68.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.68.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.68.6. Eligibility conditions

The 'Natural Regeneration of Native Woodland' Option and the 'Establishment of Native Woodland less than 5 ha' Option must not be established on the same area.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

8.2.6.3.68.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.68.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£360 per hectare normally

£5 per hectare with greening

#### 8.2.6.3.68.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.3.68.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.68.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

##### 8.2.6.3.68.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

#### 8.2.6.3.68.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
- GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
- GAEC 7: Land managers must not remove or destroy hedges, or any other landscape feature, without the prior written consent of DAERA. Land managers must not cut hedges between 1st March and 31st August.
- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning

phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

Please see tables below

With greening

**Basis of calculations:**

Income foregone is calculated on remaining 100% of area @ £353/ha  
 Non native canopy species management required on 1% of area/year = £1010 x 1% = £10.10  
 Tree felling for conservation purposes on 1% of woodland area @ £600/ha (eWGS costings, August 2011)  
 Routine bracken control for regenerating woodland management 5% of area/year @ £42.30/ha = £2.12  
 Removal and disposal of 0.25t/ha fly-tipped material. Hire of tractor and trailer for 0.25 hr/ha/year @ £15.31/hr + 0.25t waste disposal @ waste disposal cost of £18.00/t (Fermanagh Council charges) = £8.33/ha  
 Follow-up rhododendron and laurel control required on 5% of area each year - £35.00/ha as EFS costing for Follow-up Rhododendron control

Costs incurred	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£0.00	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping for implementation of Remedial Management Plan for ungrazed mixed ash woodland sites. AWB 2015 management rate. 0.2 hrs planning/ha/year		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
Bracken control in regenerating woodland	£2.12			5	£10.60	£2.12
Removal and disposal of fly-tipped material	£8.33			0	£0.00	£0.00
Follow-up rhododendron and laurel control	£1.75			5	£8.75	£1.75
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£5.74
<b>Income foregone</b>	£ / ha	% loss			total loss	£ / ha / yr
Average NI GM	£353.00	0.00%		5	£0.00	£0.00
<b>Subtotal (Income foregone)</b>						£0.00
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income foregone</b>						£5.74
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						£5.00/ha

Natural regeneration of native woodland - with greening

**Without greening**

**Basis of calculations:**

Income foregone is calculated on remaining 100% of area @ £353/ha

Routine bracken control for regenerating woodland management 5% of area/year @ £42.30/ha = £2.12

Removal and disposal of 0.25t/ha fly-tipped material. Hire of tractor and trailer for 0.25 hr/ha/year @ £15.31/hr + 0.25t waste disposal @ waste disposal cost of £18.00/t (Fermanagh Council charges) = £8.33/ha

Follow-up rhododendron and laurel control required on 5% of area each year - £35.00/ha as EFS costing for Follow-up Rhododendron control

Costs incurred	£ / ha	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required	total cost	£ / ha / yr
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>						
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					£0.00	
<b>Annual recurring maintenance costs</b>						
Planning, resource sourcing, organisation & record keeping for implementation of Remedial Management Plan for ungrazed mixed ash woodland sites. AWB 2015 management rate. 0.2 hrs planning/ha/year		£9.34		1	£9.34	£1.87
Bracken control in regenerating woodland	£2.12			5	£10.60	£2.12
Removal and disposal of fly-tipped material	£8.33			0	£0.00	£0.00
Follow-up rhododendron and laurel control	£1.75			5	£8.75	£1.75
<b>Subtotal (Annual recurring maintenance costs)</b>						£5.74
<b>Income forgone</b>	£ / ha	% loss			total loss	£ / ha / yr
Average NI GM	£353.00	100.00 %		5	£1,765.00	£353.00
<b>Subtotal (Income forgone)</b>						£353.00
						£ / ha / yr
<b>Total annual recurring cost incurred + income forgone</b>						£358.74
<b>Proposed payment rate</b>						£360/ha

Natural regeneration of native woodland - without greening

#### 8.2.6.3.69. Sub-measure 10.1.71 - Planting New Hedgerows including 2 Protective Fences (NPI)\*

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

##### 8.2.6.3.69.1. Description of the type of operation

\* This is a one-off action, to be completed in year one of the agreement, and as such the provisions of M4.4 (non-productive investments) apply.

Aim of commitment: New hedges fix carbon dioxide in photosynthesis and prevent soil erosion due to flooding. Planting new hedges will also enhance biodiversity and link wildlife habitats, absorb nutrients, enhance the traditional landscape of the countryside, provide shelter for livestock, and reduce nose-to-nose contact between herds which limits the spread of disease.

Description of the commitment: This Option is a combination of essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works) to establish and protect the Option with additional optional capital works to supplement the Option.

To plant a new native species stockproof hedge with hedgerow trees and two protective fences.

New hedges should not be planted along existing stone walls or hedgerows. The minimum individual length of hedge that can be planted is 10m and the maximum length for the whole farm is 500m.

##### **Hedge species list**

- Hawthorn, *Crataegus monogyna*
- Hazel, *Corylus avellana*
- Blackthorn/sloe, *Prunus spinosa*
- Holly, *Ilex aquifolium*
- Gorse/whin, *Ulex europaeus*
- Dog rose, *Rosa canina*
- Guelder rose, *Viburnum opulus*
- Spindle, *Euonymus europaeus*
- Fuschia, *Fuchsia magellanica* (only plant where fuschia is traditionally found in the locality)

The species suitable for planting as trees in the hedgerow are given below:

##### **Tree species list**

- Crab apple, *Malus sylvestris*
- Wild pear, *Pyrus pyraeaster*
- Wild plum/Damson, *Prunus domestica*
- Wild cherry, *Prunus avium*
- Bird cherry, *Prunus padus*
- Willow, *Salix* species
- Birch, *Betula*

- Oak, Quercus
- Juniper, Juniperus communis
- Rowan, Sorbus aucuparia
- Whitebeam, Sorbus hibernica
- Scots pine, Pinus sylvestris
- Alder, Alnus glutinosa
- Wych elm, Ulmus glabra
- Aspen, Populus tremula

The inspector will check that:

- All capital works required (planting hedge and native hedgerow trees and protection with 1.2 metre tubular or square tree guards and erecting two protective fences) has been completed by 01 June in the first year of the EFS agreement;
- Each individual length of new hedge planted is at least 10 metres;
- The claimed length of ‘Planting new hedgerows including two protective fences’ has been planted in the field(s) where the option has been approved;
- At least five native woody plants (one or more species) per metre length from the Hedge Species list, and at least 8 trees per 100 metres from the Tree Species list have been planted;
- The native trees are planted at least 8m apart;
- The claimed length of two protective fences have been erected to BS1722-2:2006 and BS4102 in the field(s) where the option has been approved;
- Each newly planted native tree has been protected by a new 1.2 metre tubular or square tree guard and stake;
- The same area and location of ‘Planting new hedgerows including two protective fences’ has been retained and managed for the duration of the EFS agreement;
- The hedgerow trees have not be cut back;
- Weeds are being controlled to ensure that a dense hedge is established.

#### 8.2.6.3.69.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Payment per unit

**Essential capital works:**

Planting the new hedge including planting native hedgerow trees with protection using 1.2 metre tubular or square tree guards and stakes and erecting two protective fences are considered as essential capital works.

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:**

None.

8.2.6.3.69.3. Links to other legislation

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.69.4. Beneficiaries

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.69.5. Eligible costs

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.

8.2.6.3.69.6. Eligibility conditions

Hedges should be planted in free draining soils along existing boundaries where the previous hedge has been removed or link with other hedges or habitats.

For general measure 10 eligibility conditions please see sub-measure 10.1

8.2.6.3.69.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Please see sub-measure 10.1 description.



8.2.6.3.69.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

£14.33 per metre (Capital Works)

8.2.6.3.69.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.6.3.69.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.69.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.69.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

Please see overall measure description.

8.2.6.3.69.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

- GAEC4: land managers must protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion.
  - GAEC 5: Land managers must prevent the erosion of the banks of water courses, watering points and feeding areas from overgrazing or heavy poaching by livestock.
  - GAEC 6: Land managers must protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks.
  - GAEC 7: Land managers must not remove or destroy hedges, or any other landscape feature,

without the prior written consent of DAERA. Land managers must not cut hedges between 1st March and 31st August.

- SMR 2: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to protect wild birds, eggs and their nests in Special Protection Areas
- SMR 3: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements to conserve land designated as Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 10: Land managers must comply with legislative requirements regarding pesticide use

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

Please see overall measure description.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Please see overall measure description.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

Please see table below

Costs incurred	£ / m	£ / hr	£ / unit	number required /100m	total cost / m
<b>Non-productive investment (NPI)</b>					
Hedgerow quicks - plant 5 per m @ £0.45/plant			£0.45	500	£2.25
Mini digger (PED data - £105/day or £13.13/hour) - 4 hours to prepare/cultivate 100m		£13.13		4	£0.53
Labour (AWB standard worker) £6.91/hr - planting and applying mulch at 150m/day or 5.33 hrs/100m		£6.91		5.33	£0.37
Gravel - £7/100m and fabric mulch - £23/100m = £30.00/100m			£30.00	1	£0.30
8 trees plus guards and stakes per 100m (tree average cost £0.86 each, stake and guard together £4.02 each)			£39.04	1	£0.39
Stockproof fence required on both sides of hedge £6.00/m x 2			£6.00	2	£12.00
<b>Total Year 1 NPI cost</b>					<b>£15.83</b>

Planting new hedgerows including 2 protective fences

#### 8.2.6.4. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.6.4.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

###### Risk(s)

An assessment of the proposed activities for the measure identified the following potential main root causes of error as defined in the Commission Staff Working Document SWD(2013) 244 final.

1. Root Cause 1 – the system of reduction of support in cases of non-compliances is not proportionate. The risk is, for example, that a small over-declaration of land on the SAF could result in a disproportionate reduction of support. This may be due to the over-declaration, even though small in area, making up a high percentage of over-declaration in relation to an individual crop group.
2. Root Cause 2 – beneficiaries are sometimes not duly informed and do not take into account the changes caused by updates to the Land Parcel Information Systems (LPIS). The risk is that there is a delayed update of agri-environment commitments following LPIS updates.
3. Root Cause 3: Lack of exchange of information between authorities involved in implementing the measure: The risk is that information being relayed to beneficiaries may be inconsistent, resulting in a confused message being conveyed in relation to management prescriptions.
4. Root Cause 6 – commitments are difficult to implement and verify. The risk is that DAERA cannot effectively control and verify the commitments. Therefore, it is difficult to provide assurance on whether commitments have been adhered to, and objectives have been met.
5. Root Cause 7 - Beneficiaries provide incorrect area declarations. The main risk is that beneficiaries over-declare areas or do not fill in the maps correctly when claiming.
6. Root Cause 15 - Handling of the payment claims by beneficiaries. Risks could include beneficiaries making errors in a claim for payment or failing to include or retain required documentation.

#### 8.2.6.4.2. Mitigating actions

##### Mitigating Actions:

The following mitigating actions will be implemented to address the risks identified:

1. A review of the results of management re-performance and on-the-spot checks from the 2007-2013 programming period and revision of the procedures to implement lessons learnt.
2. Completion of Fraud Risk Assessments on each scheme implemented.
3. Detailed supporting information, guidance and training will be provided to beneficiaries at the outset of the measure which sets out what the measure involves and what is required of them. Further training will also be provided at specified points in the duration of the agreement. This will also be set out in a formal agreement between the beneficiary and the Department.
4. Compulsory training and guidance on sub-measure requirements will also be provided to administration staff, along with clear procedures and instructions for the administration of the measure, processing of payments and procurement rule.
5. Standard costs will be applied in relation to the measure. No advance payments will be made, all payments will be paid on receipt of a claim with appropriate supporting documentation e.g. receipt.
6. Eligibility conditions are relevant and appropriate and implementation has been considered to ensure implementation is simple and straightforward for the beneficiary.
7. Elements of the sub-measure which are to be contracted out to providers will be subject to national and European public procurement rules. The invitation to tender will include a detailed specification of requirements and accompanying guidance.
8. The sub-measure will be subject to an appropriate checking and approval process, verification, on the spot checks and audit reviews to identify residual errors.
9. Continuing development and refinement of the IT tool for the identification of land parcels for all area based schemes in both Pillar 1 and Pillar 2. Improved correlation between LPIS and agri-environment commitments to avoid mismatches between LPIS areas and commitment areas eligible for payment to beneficiaries.
10. The measure will be directly administered by the Department thereby ensuring there is sufficient experience and expertise in implementing the application, eligibility, claims and payments processes.

#### 8.2.6.4.3. Overall assessment of the measure

##### Overall Assessment

An analysis of the errors and non-compliances in the implementation of similar measures in the 2007-2013 Rural Development Programme indicates that the agri-environment scheme has a consistent error rate of below 2%. The scheme is currently administered directly by the Department and will continue to

be implemented directly for the 2014-2020 programming period. Direct management of the scheme reduces the risk of a lack of experience and training by external providers. The mitigating actions detailed above address the following recommended corrective and preventative actions:

- Corrective and preventative Action 1 – Training for administrative staff. DAERA will ensure that the staff implementing the measure are trained on the scheme requirements and the procedures for processing the payments to beneficiaries.
- Corrective and Preventative Action 2 – Information, training and advice for beneficiaries. One of the lessons learnt from the 2007-2013 current programming period was the need to provide training to beneficiaries. Training for beneficiaries under taking agri-environment commitments has been included in Measure 01 (Knowledge transfer and information actions).
- Corrective and Preventative Action 3 – information campaigns and guidance documents to ensure beneficiaries understand payment declarations, eligibility of areas and the claims process.
- Corrective and preventative Action 4 – improvement of IT tools to improve electronic applications with updated accurate information and the development of IT applications to check the reasonableness of the payment declarations.
- Corrective and Preventative Action 7 – improving internal control and coordination procedures through reviewing the results of management re-performance checks, on-the-spot checks, audit recommendations and the review of procedures and forms.
- Corrective and Preventative Action 8 – applying claim reductions in proportion with the non-compliance.

Following consideration of the mitigating actions and the corrective and preventative actions the Managing Authority and Paying Agency have assessed the error rate for the measure as **medium**. This reflects the new proposed activity and the effectiveness of the mitigating actions will be reviewed during implementation and the risk rating reassessed.

#### 8.2.6.5. Information specific to the measure

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

Annex E refers

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning

phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

### **Minimum Requirement for Pesticides**

- Directive 2009/128/EC establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides (Sustainable Use Directive)
- Regulation (EC) 1107/2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market.
- The Plant Protection Products Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 (SR 2011 No 295) as amended by The Plant Protection Products (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 (SR 2012 No 12)
- Under UK legislation the Integrated Pest Management general principles are considered as voluntary, however for the purposes of the NIRDP baseline, and payments to farmers for undertaking actions, there are 2 mandatory elements. Record keeping of pesticide use (general principle 8) is a regulatory requirement, and monitoring of pests (general principle 2) is part of the NIRDP baseline. Therefore we do not fund either record keeping or monitoring of pests in relation to IPM or pesticides use generally under Measure 10. Prevention and/or suppression of harmful organisms is to be achieved or supported and pest species managed in accordance with the principles of Integrated Pest Management and the pesticide regulation and directive.
- Plant Protection Products Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011(as amended) These regulations provide for the enforcement of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market.
- Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012 - transposing Directive 2009/128/EC to establish a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides and provide enforcement provisions.
- The UK National Action Plan for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides (Plant Protection Products):

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/221034/pb13894-nap-pesticides-20130226.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/221034/pb13894-nap-pesticides-20130226.pdf)

- The Northern Ireland Code of Practice for Using Plant Protection Products:

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/code-practice-using-plant-protection-products>

In the NIRDP, for measures where the minimum requirement for pesticides is part of the baseline the farmer will need to implement the monitoring of pests.

In the UK professional pesticide users must:

- > have a recognised certificate, including from 26 November 2015, those operating under grandfather rights;
- > take reasonable precautions to protect human health or the environment;

- > confine pesticide application to the target area;
- > ensure the amount used and frequency of application are as low as reasonably practicable in specific areas;
- > give preference to products which protect water supplies;
- > adhere to rules under a new aerial spraying permit system;
- > take reasonable precautions in relation to storage, handling and disposal of pesticide products to protect human health or the environment;
- > ensure pesticides are stored in areas that are constructed in a way as to prevent unwanted releases;
- > by 26 November 2016 and at regular intervals owners of pesticide application equipment in use (except knapsack and handheld sprayers) must ensure it is inspected to certain timetables (the UK has designated a competent body to implement and administer the inspection scheme as required by the Directive);
- > after 26 November 2015, anyone purchasing a pesticide for professional use must ensure the product will be used by someone who holds an appropriate training certificate or who will be working under the direct supervision of someone who holds one;

The UK also has a National Action Plan for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides (Plant Protection Products) as required by the Directive. There are further obligations in the UK Regulations on those who Store and Sell Pesticides.

### **Record Keeping**

Record keeping of pesticide treatments has been a legal requirement in NI law since 2006 for those who produce food and animal feed under The Food Hygiene Regulations (NI) 2006 and The Feed (Hygiene and Enforcement) Regulations (NI) 2005.

EC Regulation No 1107/2009, directly applicable in MS, requires professional users of pesticides to keep records for at least 3 years.

Producers, suppliers, distributors, importers and exporters of pesticides must keep records for at least 5 years.

The Plant Protection Products Regulations (NI) 2011 include a provision for the enforcement of record keeping by identifying who is responsible for complying with the requirements and prohibitions in Regulation 1107/2009.

The type of record keeping referred to in relation to IPM goes beyond this as it uses this information along with information on chemical monitoring to check the success of the applied plant protection practices.

### **Minimum Requirements for Phosphorus**

- The Phosphorous (Use in Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 aims to reduce water pollution by reducing the amount of chemical phosphorus fertiliser applied to land.

Chemical Phosphorus (P) fertiliser must not be applied unless there is a crop requirement,

Soil fertility status must be sampled at least every 4 years and must demonstrate a need for Phosphorus to be added.

Phosphorus added must not exceed that recommended by the phosphorus index of the soil for the crop as published in the Fertiliser Manual (RB209)(Defra 2011)

<http://www.ahdb.org.uk/documents/rb209-fertiliser-manual-110412.pdf>

The supply of phosphorus available from the application of organic manures must be included in the total P added.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

The only breed of cattle native to Northern Ireland is the Irish Moiled. It is defined as 'at risk' on the Rare Breeds Survival Trust watchlist. Therefore, support to protect and increase Irish Moiled Cattle numbers will be offered through the Environmental Farming Scheme.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

Payments for EFS options are based on costs incurred and income forgone. Costs incurred are calculated from data in the DARD publication Farm Business Data 2013 - which details items such as average contractor costs, costs for hire of machinery and crop establishment. Income forgone was calculated from gross margins for type of agricultural production typical for the area of land given over to the agri-environment option. Average Gross Margin figures covering a four-year period were supplied by DAERA's Policy and Economics Division.

#### *8.2.6.6. Other important remarks relevant to understand and implement the measure*

N/A



## 8.2.7. M11 - Organic farming (art 29)

### 8.2.7.1. *Legal basis*

Article 29 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

### 8.2.7.2. *General description of the measure including its intervention logic and contribution to focus areas and cross-cutting objectives*

With 73% of the Northern Ireland land area in agricultural and forestry use, agriculture has a significant impact on the quality of the soil, water and biodiversity of the flora and fauna of the environment.

A history of intensive agricultural practice has led to gradual environmental degradation in many areas of Northern Ireland. This degradation extends beyond biodiversity impacts. It is increasingly clear that past agricultural practice has had, and continues to have, adverse impacts upon ecosystem services. These can be defined as those outputs from ecosystems that support human society – e.g. soil conservation, carbon conservation and sequestration, water quality and flood management. In addition, land use also contributes to the emission of greenhouse gases – in particular, carbon dioxide and methane, the main causes of climate change, and ammonia.

In the rural development context, organic farming is mainly expected to establish and maintain a sustainable management system for agriculture. Organic farming contributes to improving soil, water quality, biodiversity and mitigation and adaptation to climate change, through practices including crop rotation, use of organic fertilisers, improvement to soil organic matter, and by not using synthetic plant protection products or synthetic fertilisers. The support under this measure aims to encourage farmers to convert from conventional farming methods and to apply organic farming methods as defined in Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007, as well as maintain these methods after the initial period of conversion. Organic farming responds to societal demand for environmentally friendly farming practices and organic products. It also contributes to environmental, animal welfare and rural development issues.

The overall objective of the support for organic farming is to deliver enhanced environmental and animal welfare benefits and to encourage producers to respond to the market demand for organically produced food.

Northern Ireland has a strong natural environment that is managed by relatively small family farms with a low proportion of organic producers compared with the rest of the UK. The SWOT analysis identifies the low level of organic production in Northern Ireland. The total area of land under organic production in Northern Ireland is 0.9% of Utilised Agricultural Area (UAA), compared to the 5.4% EU average. The SWOT identifies an opportunity to develop the organic sector through producer co-operation and marketing, as well as supply chain development, to access markets that appreciate high quality produce from sustainable sources.

There is also very strong evidence that organic farming delivers more than conventional farming, in terms of biodiversity, and it differs from other farming systems in a number of ways. It favours crop rotation, animal husbandry, renewable resources and recycling, returning to the soil the nutrients found in manures and

composts.

Soil management is identified as an area which underpins all agricultural and ecological systems and the services that they provide. Organic producers are more susceptible to the effects of poor soils as it will directly affect yield and quality. Through regular cultivation, organic crop rotation systems help to avoid soil compaction and excessive weeds, making the land less susceptible to drought and water saturation. This is extremely valuable for arable plants, invertebrates, farmland birds and small mammals. The prohibited use of synthetic inputs enhances the environmental value of the crop. Field margins and headland are allowed to develop and flower, providing a vital source of nectar for the pollinators.

Organic producers rely on maintaining soil fertility by recycling the manure from livestock. As the amount of nutrient available to the producer is limited, organic farming practices ensure that the manure is fully utilised thus reducing the risk of run-off and leaching of nutrients to the water courses. In addition, this provides the plants with all the nutrients that they need, rather than just the three basic elements (nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium) as contained in chemical fertilisers.

Where livestock is concerned, meat and poultry production is regulated with particular concern for animal welfare and by using natural foodstuffs.

Organic farming respects the environment's own systems for controlling pests and disease in raising crops and livestock and avoids the use of synthetic pesticides, herbicides, chemical fertilisers, growth hormones, antibiotics or gene manipulation. Instead, organic farmers use a range of techniques that help sustain ecosystems and reduce pollution and nutrient enrichment of watercourses.

On climate change, organic farming practices are based on replenishing the soils using organic manure and the nitrogen fixing legumes rather than on synthetically manufactured fertiliser which has a high energy requirement.

### **Contribution to Focus Areas**

Organic farming practices will contribute to Focus Areas 4A, 4B, 4C and 5D.

### **Contribution to Cross-Cutting Objectives**

The activities funded under this measure will contribute to the cross-cutting objective of the environment, and climate change mitigation and adaptation, through restoring, preserving and enhancing biodiversity and improving soil and water quality.

*8.2.7.3. Scope, level of support, eligible beneficiaries, and where relevant, methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate broken down by sub-measure and/or type of operation where necessary. For each type of operation specification of eligible costs, eligibility conditions, applicable amounts and support rates and principles with regard to the setting of selection criteria*

8.2.7.3.1. Sub-measure 11.1 – payment to convert to organic farming practices and methods

Sub-measure:

- 11.1 - payment to convert to organic farming practices and methods

#### 8.2.7.3.1.1. Description of the type of operation

The purpose of this operation is to provide support for the conversion of land, which has been managed conventionally, to certified organic production. Land which is, or has previously been, certified as fully organic at the time of application is not eligible for support.

Conversion to organic production involves reducing or removing the use of synthetic inputs such as inorganic fertiliser, plant protection products and routinely administered preventative medicine. Such actions reduce the potential yield. Additional costs are also incurred for introducing arable rotation to build up soil fertility and additional stock management to avoid disease build up. During the conversion period, the farmer experiences increased costs and reduce yields but is unable to market produce as organic.

Therefore, this sub-measure provides support for a conversion period of two or three years, depending on the type of crop, as laid down in Regulation 889/2008.

For crops that require a two year conversion period, a conversion payment will be made for the first two years., where the farmer experiences increased costs and reduced yields but is unable to market produce as organic. This will be followed by a maintenance payment, under sub-measure 11.2, which will last for three years. Therefore, the total length of the agreement will be five years.

For crops that require a three year conversion period, the conversion payment will be made for three years, followed by two years of maintenance payment supported under sub measure 11.2.

Therefore, the total length of the agreement will be five years.

#### 8.2.7.3.1.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Payment will be made on multi-annual, area-based (hectare) standard cost reflecting the costs incurred and income foregone for converting from conventional farming practices to organic farming.

#### 8.2.7.3.1.3. Links to other legislation

- GAEC and cross compliance requirements: Organic farmers are subject, where applicable, to the full suite of GAEC and Cross Compliance Requirements (SMRs).
- Greening requirement: Organic farmers may meet the Greening requirement by virtue of a high proportion of permanent grassland or by any other of the various options available, including their organic status.
- Relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and relevant mandatory requirements established by national law.

- The minimum activity requirements will be the same as those under the Environmental Farming Scheme under Article 28

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRD baseline.

#### 8.2.7.3.1.4. Beneficiaries

Active farmers with management control over 3 ha or more of eligible land, for the duration of the contract. For horticultural land, the minimum eligible area will be 1 ha.

#### 8.2.7.3.1.5. Eligible costs

The support is based on the costs incurred and income foregone resulting from converting new land to certified organic production.

Agreements will be for a total of five years consisting of two or three years Conversion payment under this

sub measure, followed by 3 years of Maintenance payments for the remaining years under sub measure 11.2.

Transaction costs, of no more than 20% of the premium, may be paid.

#### 8.2.7.3.1.6. Eligibility conditions

- Beneficiaries of the measure must comply with the definition of active farmer based on Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 and undertake the minimum agricultural activities as required by article 4.1c of 1307/2013 on agricultural land in Northern Ireland.
- All farmers, with either at least 3 hectares of arable or improved permanent grassland or at least 1 hectare of horticultural land, that wish to convert or certified organic production.
- Beneficiaries under the scheme will be active farmers registered with DAERA and licensed by one of the Organic Control Bodies.
- Beneficiaries must have full management control over all of the eligible land for the full term of the contract.

#### 8.2.7.3.1.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Where necessary, selection criteria may be used. The key selection criteria are designed to incentivise whole farm conversions, a mixed farming approach and sectoral balance. Applicants will be selected according to criteria which may include:

- Prioritisation of total conversion over partial.
- Prioritisation of mixed farms.
- Achieving sectoral balance across grassland, horticulture and arable.
- Participation in other agri-environment schemes.

#### 8.2.7.3.1.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

The premium will be area based as a payment per hectare of UAA. Support for conversion to organic farming will be offered for a maximum of three years, followed by annual organic management payments for the remaining period of the five year agreement.

Payment will be made in pounds sterling. The payment rates are as shown in the table below.

Grassland and arable rates below are payable on the first sixty hectares. After sixty hectares, rates of £45/ha will apply, except for Horticulture.

The higher Horticulture rates apply to the first six hectares only; thereafter rates of £149 will apply.

Payment rates were calculated taking into account the costs incurred on a farm of average size. However, as farm size increases the cost incurred per hectare reduces. Therefore, digressive payments are utilised.

Support under this measure shall be limited to the maximum support rates laid down in Annex II to the Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013.

Option	Payment £/ha		Equivalent Payment €/ha, at an exchange rate of 1 euro = £0.82 sterling	
	Conversion	Maintenance	Conversion	Maintenance
Grassland	144	53	175.60	64.63
Arable land	149	53	181.70	64.63
Horticulture	358	197	436.58	240.24

M11.1 Payment rates

#### 8.2.7.3.1.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.7.3.1.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

##### 8.2.7.3.1.9.2. Mitigating actions

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

##### 8.2.7.3.1.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

#### 8.2.7.3.1.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

### 8.2.7.3.2. Sub-measure 11.2 – payment to maintain organic farming practices and methods

Sub-measure:

- 11.2 - payment to maintain organic farming practices and methods

#### 8.2.7.3.2.1. Description of the type of operation

To provide support for those producers who have achieved full organic certified status to continue to produce organically. It is also designed to provide an improved incentive to those considering conversion to organic status, by offering continued financial support rather than discontinuing support at the end of conversion agreements.

#### 8.2.7.3.2.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Payment will be made on multi-annual, area-based (hectare) standard cost reflecting the costs incurred and income foregone for maintaining organic farming practices.

Agreements will be for 5 years for maintenance that does not directly follow conversion. For maintenance that follows conversion, the maintenance payment will be for either two or three years to give a combined agreement length of five years

Annual extensions may be offered after the end of the agreement period.

#### 8.2.7.3.2.3. Links to other legislation

- GAEC and cross compliance requirements: Organic farmers are subject, where applicable, to the full suite of GAEC and Cross Compliance Requirements (SMRs).
- Greening requirement: Organic farmers may meet the Greening requirement by virtue of a high proportion of permanent grassland or by any other of the various options available, including their organic status.
- Relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and relevant mandatory requirements established by national law.
- The minimum activity requirements will be the same as those under the Environmental Farming Scheme under Article 28.

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:



- Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.
- Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

#### 8.2.7.3.2.4. Beneficiaries

Active farmers with management control over 3 ha or more of eligible land, or 1 ha for horticultural land, for the duration of the agreement.

#### 8.2.7.3.2.5. Eligible costs

The costs incurred and income foregone will be reimbursed by an annual payment. Costs incurred and income foregone will be based on the more burdensome farming practices that will incur additional costs and/or reduced productivity.

Transaction costs, of no more than 20% of the premium may be paid

#### 8.2.7.3.2.6. Eligibility conditions

- Beneficiaries of the measure must comply with the definition of active farmer based on Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 and undertake the minimum agricultural activities as required by article 4.1c of 1307/2013 on agricultural land in Northern Ireland.

- All farmers, with either at least 3 hectares of certified organic arable or improved permanent grassland, or at least 1 hectare of certified organic horticultural land.
- All land included in an application for organic management must also be eligible for Basic Payment.
- Beneficiaries must have full management control over all of the eligible land for the full term of the contract.
- Land eligible for organic management support must, at the time of application, be fully certified as organic by a recognised organic certification body.

#### 8.2.7.3.2.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Where necessary, selection criteria will target support for organic maintenance, based on environmental criteria. Applications which deliver most environmental benefit against AECM objectives of restoring, preserving and enhancing biodiversity, improving water quality, improving soil management and mitigating against climate change will receive priority entry into the scheme.

#### 8.2.7.3.2.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment will be made in pounds sterling. The payment rates are as shown in the table below.

Grassland and arable rates below are payable on the first sixty hectares. After sixty hectares, rates of £20/ha will apply, except for Horticulture.

The higher Horticulture rates apply to the first six hectares only; thereafter rates of £53/ha will apply.

Payment rates were calculated taking into account the costs incurred on a farm of average size. However, as farm size increases the cost incurred per hectare reduces. Therefore, digressive payments are utilised.

Support under this measure shall be limited to the maximum support rates laid down in Annex II to the Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013.

<b>Option</b>	<b>Maintenance Payment £/ha</b>	<b>Equivalent Payment €/ha, at an exchange rate of 1 euro = £0.82 sterling</b>
Grassland	53	64.63
Arable land	53	64.63
Horticulture	197	240.24

8.2.7.3.2.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.2.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

8.2.7.3.2.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

8.2.7.3.2.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

8.2.7.3.2.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

#### 8.2.7.4. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.7.4.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

An assessment of the proposed activities for the measure identified the following potential main root causes of error as defined in the Commission Staff Working Document SWD(2013) 244 final.

1. Root Cause 1 – the system of reduction of support in cases of non-compliances is not proportionate. The risk is, for example, that a small over-declaration of land on the SAF could result in a disproportionate reduction of support. This may be due to the over-declaration, even though small in area, making up a high percentage of over-declaration in relation to an individual crop group.
2. Root Cause 2 – beneficiaries are sometimes not duly informed and do not take into account the changes caused by updates to the Land Parcel Information Systems (LPIS). The risk is that there is a delayed update of Organic Farming commitments following LPIS updates.
3. Root Cause 3: Lack of exchange of information between authorities involved in implementing the measure: The risk is that information being relayed to beneficiaries may be inconsistent, resulting in a confused message being conveyed in relation to management prescriptions.
4. Root Cause 6 – commitments are difficult to implement and verify. The risk is that DAERA cannot effectively control and verify the commitments. Therefore, it is difficult to provide assurance on whether commitments have been adhered to, and objectives have been met.
5. Root Cause 7 - Beneficiaries provide incorrect area declarations. The main risk is that beneficiaries over-declare areas or do not fill in the maps correctly when claiming.
6. Root Cause 15 - Handling of the payment claims by beneficiaries. Risks could include beneficiaries making errors in a claim for payment or failing to include or retain required documentation.

##### 8.2.7.4.2. Mitigating actions

The following mitigating actions will be implemented to address the risks identified:

1. A review of the results of management re-performance and on-the-spot checks from the 2007-2013 programming period and revision of the procedures to implement lessons learnt.
2. Completion of Fraud Risk Assessments on each scheme implemented.
3. Detailed supporting information, guidance and training will be provided to beneficiaries at the outset of the measure which sets out what the measure involves and what is required of them. Further training will also be provided at specified points in the duration of the agreement. This will also be set out in a formal agreement between the beneficiary and the Department.
4. Compulsory training and guidance on sub-measure requirements will also be provided to administration staff, along with clear procedures and instructions for the administration of the measure, processing of payments and procurement rule.
5. Standard costs will be applied in relation to the measure. No advance payments will be made, all payments will be paid on receipt of a claim with appropriate supporting documentation e.g. receipt.
6. Eligibility conditions are relevant and appropriate and implementation has been considered to ensure implementation is simple and straightforward for the beneficiary.
7. Elements of the sub-measure which are to be contracted out to providers will be subject to

national and European public procurement rules. The invitation to tender will include a detailed specification of requirements and accompanying guidance.

8. The sub-measure will be subject to an appropriate checking and approval process, verification, on the spot checks and audit reviews to identify residual errors.
9. Continuing development and refinement of the IT tool for the identification of land parcels for all area based schemes in both Pillar 1 and Pillar 2. Improved correlation between LPIS and Organic Farming commitments to avoid mismatches between LPIS areas and commitment areas eligible for payment to beneficiaries.
10. The measure will be directly administered by the Department thereby ensuring there is sufficient experience and expertise in implementing the application, eligibility, claims and payments processes. The approved UK organic control bodies will check that beneficiaries are adhering to the rules of certified organic production. DAERA will request proof of a beneficiaries' organic certification, in line with all necessary control requirements.
11. All control bodies are required to be approved by Defra (the UK Competent Authority) and are inspected and accredited by UKAS – the sole national accreditation body recognised by the UK Government. In Northern Ireland organic farmers must meet the requirements for organic production, labelling and control defined in Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 to be deemed organic. All applicants must be licensed and certified by an Organic Control Body before being accepted into an organic support scheme.

#### 8.2.7.4.3. Overall assessment of the measure

##### Overall Assessment

An analysis of the errors and non-compliances in the implementation of similar measures in the 2007-2013 Rural Development Programme indicates that the Organic Farming scheme as part of the Agri-Environment Scheme has a consistent error rate of below 2%. The scheme is currently administered directly by the Department and will continue to be implemented directly for the 2014-2020 programming period. Direct management of the scheme reduces the risk of a lack of experience and training by external providers. The mitigating actions detailed above address the following recommended corrective and preventative actions:

- Corrective and preventative Action 1 – Training for administrative staff. DAERA will ensure that the staff implementing the measure are trained on the scheme requirements and the procedures for processing the payments to beneficiaries.
- Corrective and Preventative Action 2 – Information, training and advice for beneficiaries. One of the lessons learnt from the 2007-2013 current programming period was the need to provide training to beneficiaries. Training for beneficiaries undertaking Organic Farming commitments has been included in Measure 01 (Knowledge transfer and information actions).
- Corrective and Preventative Action 3 – information campaigns and guidance documents to ensure beneficiaries understand payment declarations, eligibility of areas and the claims process.
- Corrective and preventative Action 4 – improvement of IT tools to improve electronic

applications with updated accurate information and the development of IT applications to check the reasonableness of the payment declarations.

- Corrective and Preventative Action 7 – improving internal control and coordination procedures through reviewing the results of management re-performance checks, on-the-spot checks, audit recommendations and the review of procedures and forms.
- Corrective and Preventative Action 8 – applying claim reductions in proportion with the non-compliance.

Following consideration of the mitigating actions and the corrective and preventative actions the Managing Authority and Paying Agency have assessed the error rate for the measure as **medium**. This reflects the new proposed activity and the effectiveness of the mitigating actions will be reviewed during implementation and the risk rating reassessed.

#### *8.2.7.5. Information specific to the measure*

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

#### Baseline

- GAEC and cross compliance requirement. Organic farmers are subject, where applicable, to the full suite of GAEC and Cross Compliance Requirements (SMRs).
- Greening requirement - organic farmers may meet the Greening requirement by virtue of a high proportion of permanent grassland or by any other of the various options available, including their organic status.
- Relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and relevant mandatory requirements established by national law. These requirements will be the same as those under the Environmental Farming Scheme (EFS) under Article 28.
- The minimum activity requirements will also be the same as those under the EFS.

In NI the minimum activity, on “agricultural land that is naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation”, will be:

- Land must be accessible for grazing or other agricultural activity.
- Grass and other herbaceous forage are eligible provided they are not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no, or an insignificant level of, agricultural activity.
- Heather is eligible if maintained in a state suitable for grazing and, therefore, has significant

forage value – a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.

- Scrub and similar vegetation is ineligible.
- Rush eligibility depends on the density and height of the rush. If the density or height of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity, then it is ineligible.
- If grass areas are mixed with ineligible vegetation, then a pro-rata deduction is made according to the percentage coverage of the ineligible vegetation.
- Agricultural activity must take place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

It is considered that NI's interpretation of the "Minimum activity" requirements will not affect the NIRDP baseline.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

The calculations for the organic conversion payment rates are based on the provisions contained in Article 29 of EC Regulation (1305/2013). This states that payments should be based on the additional costs and income foregone resulting from the additional commitment made by the farmer.

Where necessary, payments may also cover transaction costs.

These costs have been certified by an independent body.

In order to respect the principle of non-double funding, the calculation of the organic payment will address the Greening issue and the certification of the correctness of the premia calculations will include a specific reference confirming that the proposed premia avoids double funding, following EU guidelines and methodologies.

#### *8.2.7.6. Other important remarks relevant to understand and implement the measure*

N/A

## 8.2.8. M13 - Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints (art 31)

### 8.2.8.1. *Legal basis*

Recital 1, 2 and 3 and Article 1 of the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down certain transitional provisions on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural development (EAFRD) No 1310/2013.

Recital 25 and Articles 31 and 32 of Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) No 1305/2013.

Article 5 (2) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 640/2014

Article 67 of Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Common Provisions for the ESI funds N° 1303/2013.

### 8.2.8.2. *General description of the measure including its intervention logic and contribution to focus areas and cross-cutting objectives*

A compensation measure to support those who farm in naturally disadvantaged areas in Northern Ireland has been in place since the 1970's. In the 1980's, the designation of disadvantaged areas was extended and modified to reflect differing levels of severity of permanent handicap – creating a Severely Disadvantaged Area and a Disadvantaged Area. Together, these constitute the Less Favoured Area (LFA). Aid has been differentiated since then to reflect the level of handicap. The LFA Compensatory Allowances Scheme operating under the 2007-13 Programme offered support on three land classification categories:

- Severely Disadvantaged Area land
- Disadvantaged Area land
- Common land falling within either of the above two designations

Approximately 70% of the 1.12m hectares of agricultural area in Northern Ireland is currently designated as disadvantaged. The Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDA) accounts for approximately 480,000 hectares and the Disadvantaged Area (DA) accounts for approximately 300,000 hectares. Common Land (CL) is defined as land on which the right to graze animals is shared. The total area of Common Land in Northern Ireland is approximately 40,000 hectares, the majority being located in the SDA.

Almost 70% of all farms in Northern Ireland are located in the LFA. Of these, some 55% are located in the SDA and 45% in the DA. Farmers operating in areas designated as LFA usually face significant handicaps deriving from factors such as difficult topography, poor soil conditions and difficult climate. In the case of the SDA in particular, sheep and/or suckler cow production are, for the most part, the only viable farming enterprises that can be pursued. Farmers in the LFA tend to have lower farm productivity and, often, higher unit production costs than farmers in non-disadvantaged (lowland) areas. Without appropriate financial support to these farm businesses, the ongoing lower return from farming would lead



to economic hardship and a threat to the future viability of these businesses.

Furthermore, should such businesses cease to operate, particularly in the SDA, there is the risk that there will be a move to minimal land management and possibly land abandonment. This would result in accompanying undesirable environmental consequences, such as ingress of scrub and development of a dense mat of sward and ungrazed herbage. These developments restrict growth of sensitive plant species, allow the development of aggressive species such as bracken and can cause build up of soil acidity, thus reducing the range of plants that can grow and thereby restricting the range and species of ground dwelling invertebrates and ground nesting birds. Therefore, the provision of appropriate support to these farm businesses is important in helping to prevent minimal land management, land abandonment, preserving and enhancing biodiversity and protecting the environment through sustainable farming systems.

These farms also play a key role in rural communities, maintaining the social fabric of rural areas via social capital (roles in local organisations and contribution of entrepreneurial skills) and cultural capital (maintenance of value sets and cultural traditions). Any significant loss of such farms could have a negative impact on these communities.

A review of the support arrangements for LFAs in Northern Ireland was carried out in 2009 (including full stakeholder engagement and public consultation). The review concluded that support should continue, with a clear focus on contributing, through continued use of agricultural land, to delivering positive environmental outcomes.

A Mid-Term Evaluation of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 was carried out in 2010. The evaluation found that LFA support was vital for continued agricultural activities (particularly in the SDA), reducing the area of land that would otherwise be lost for agricultural production and thus helping to maintain biodiversity. Without that support, it was concluded, land abandonment was a real risk. In addition, it was concluded that the LFACA Scheme payments were keeping young people in the areas in question, which was clearly positive for the future viability of those areas and communities. Furthermore, the evaluation stated that it was evident that active agricultural land management in a sustainable manner was crucial to the future environmental health and character of LFA areas.

Regulation (EU) No 1310/2013 allows for certain measures supported under the 2007–2013 Rural Development Programme to be carried forward in 2014 and prior to the adoption of a Rural Development Programme 2014–2020. Therefore, an LFACA Scheme commitment was made to farmers in 2014, with payments made in 2015. This ensured a continuity of support and maintenance of a long standing scheme that is viewed as beneficial by those farming in disadvantaged areas. This Scheme adhered to the eligibility criteria, objectives and payment framework laid out in the 2007- 2013 measure sheet.

From the 2015 claim year, the LFACA Scheme will be replaced by an Areas of Natural Constraint (ANC) Scheme, as provided for in Regulation (EU) No. 1305/2013. This Regulation includes a requirement that redesignation of disadvantaged areas must be carried out by no later than 2018. Agricultural land in Northern Ireland will have to be re-designated according to the methodology set out in the above Regulation and EU Commission guidelines. The new approach identifies constrained land based on a set of natural (biophysical) criteria and thresholds. Member States and regions must then fine tune the primary map to remove areas where the constraint has been overcome by investment or economic activity. There is no intention to designate an ANC in Northern Ireland as provided for in Regulation

(EU) No 1305/2013.

An ANC Scheme will be implemented in Northern Ireland based on the current LFA land designation. This Scheme will operate for three years in 2016, 2017 and 2018 (i.e. commitments made in 2015, 2016 and 2017 scheme years with payments made in 2016, 2017 and 2018). The Scheme will operate in accordance with the rules established in Article 31 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 and the transitional arrangements in Regulation (EU) 1305/2013.

ANC Scheme payments are designed to compensate farmers in total, or partially for disadvantages to which agricultural production is exposed due to natural constraints. Under the Transitional Arrangements, Regulation (EU) 1305/2013 allows Member States to use the specific eligibility conditions, which are in place under the old designation, to continue. However, as soon as commitments start being made from the new Rural Development Programme and financed from the budget resources 2014-2020, the new rules for the periods 2014-2020 apply, i.e. payment shall to be based on the calculation of additional costs incurred/income foregone and payments must be degressive and the minimum and maximum payment thresholds must be respected.

The most recent analysis of the income differentials on specific farm types (cattle and sheep farms) between SDA and non-disadvantaged areas and DA and non-disadvantaged areas found that the income differential between DA cattle and sheep farms and lowland cattle and sheep farms is no longer sufficient to meet the threshold for support stipulated in Regulation EU (No) 1305/2013. However, there remains a significant income disparity between SDA and lowland incomes. Therefore, compensation payments will be made under an ANC Scheme from 2016 - 2018 to SDA areas only. (Table 13 illustrates the income differential between SDA and lowland cattle and sheep farms). The budget for the scheme will be £20million per annum for the Scheme years 2016 and 2017. For the 2018 scheme year, the budget will be approximately £8million. The reduced budget for the 2018 scheme year is due to budget availability and in recognition of the increase in the CAP Pillar I payment going to the SDA region as a whole by around €4m per year (by 2021 the increase will be €28 million compared to the 2014 level). This increased payment is due to the redistribution of funds as a result of the transition to a flat rate Basic Payment Scheme payment by 2021. The 2018 scheme will partially bridge the dip for SDA farmers as the ongoing redistribution of Pillar I funds will move support gradually to the SDA area.

### **Contribution to Focus Areas**

The measure will primarily contribute to focus areas 4A, 4B and 4C.

### **Contribution to Cross-Cutting Objectives**

Support under this measure will contribute to the cross cutting objective of environment and climate change mitigation through maintaining and enhancing biodiversity. It will do this by:

- Ensuring continued agricultural land use and, thereby, mitigating the risk of minimal land management or land abandonment; and
- Maintaining and promoting sustainable farming systems which in particular take account of environmental protection requirements.

*8.2.8.3. Scope, level of support, eligible beneficiaries, and where relevant, methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate broken down by sub-measure and/or type of operation where necessary. For each type of operation specification of eligible costs, eligibility conditions, applicable amounts and support rates and principles with regard to the setting of selection criteria*

8.2.8.3.1. Sub-measure 13.2 – Compensation payment for other areas facing significant natural constraints.

Sub-measure:

- 13.2 - compensation payment for other areas facing significant natural constraints

8.2.8.3.1.1. Description of the type of operation

In recognition of the specific natural constraints faced by farmers, payments will be made to farmers with breeding beef cows, sheep, goats or deer per hectare of agricultural area that comply with the eligibility rules from 2015 - 2017 in order to compensate for additional costs and income foregone related to the constraints for agricultural production in the area concerned. Specific eligibility conditions as per Article 32(1)(b) which are in place under the old delimitation will continue to apply in this period.

Commitments made in 2015, 2016 and 2017 will be in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 and the Scheme will be known as the “Areas of Natural Constraint Scheme”. Payment will be made in the year following the year in which the commitment was made (i.e. claim in 2015, payment in 2016 etc).

Under the transitional arrangements of Articles 1 and 3 of Regulation (EU) No 1310/2013, an LFACA commitment was made to claimants in 2014 pursuant to the Rural Development Programme adopted on the basis of Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 (i.e. the Scheme continued for the same areas that were eligible under article 36(a)(ii) of Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005, and with the same payment calculations. The payment arising from this commitment was made in 2015.

8.2.8.3.1.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

An area based payment to compensate for all or part of the additional costs and income foregone related to the constraints for agricultural production in the area concerned. No advance payments will be available.

8.2.8.3.1.3. Links to other legislation

Obligation to comply with Regulation (EU) No 1310/2013, the “Transitional Regulation” Article 1 and Article 3 for undertaking new commitments in relation to beneficiaries in 2014 and before the adoption of the rural development programme for the 2014–2020 programming period.

Obligation to comply with cross compliance, as embedded in Article 92 of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013.

This obligation will be made explicit to all eligible beneficiaries of the scheme.

#### 8.2.8.3.1.4. Beneficiaries

##### Less Favoured Area Compensatory Scheme 2015 (transition year).

Beneficiaries are farmers in Less Favoured Areas (Severely Disadvantaged Areas and Disadvantaged Areas designation) who use their land to maintain breeding herds of beef cattle, sheep, deer or goats.

##### Areas of Natural Constraint Scheme 2016 and 2017

Beneficiaries will be active farmers (in accordance with Article 31(2) of regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 and Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013) in Less Favoured Areas (Severely Disadvantaged Areas designation only) who use their land to maintain breeding herds of beef cattle, sheep, deer and goats.

##### Areas of Natural Constraint Scheme 2018

Beneficiaries will be active farmers (in accordance with Article 31(2) of regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 and Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013) in Less Favoured Areas (Severely Disadvantaged Areas designation only) who use their land to maintain breeding herds of beef cattle, sheep, deer and goats.

#### 8.2.8.3.1.5. Eligible costs

Beneficiaries will be compensated for all or part of the additional costs and income foregone related to the constraints for agricultural production in the area concerned compared to agricultural production areas not facing natural constraints.

#### 8.2.8.3.1.6. Eligibility conditions

The following eligibility conditions will apply for each scheme:

##### LFACA 2015

The scheme will operate for one year and, to qualify for compensation, farmers must:

- Undertake to pursue their farming activity in the delimited area;
- Adhere to the requirements of Council Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 in respect of cross compliance;
- Farm 3 ha or more of constrained land;
- Maintain breeding herds of suckler cows, sheep, deer or goats; and

- Maintain a stocking density of eligible animals of at least 0.2 LU/Hectare across the full holding.
- For new beneficiaries entering the 2015 LFACA Scheme for the first time, there is no requirement to continue to farm for five years (Article 1(2) of Regulation (EU) 1310/2013)

#### ANC 2016 and 2017

The scheme will operate on an annual basis for two years and, to qualify for compensation, farmers must:

- Be identified as active farmers in accordance with Article 31(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 and Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013;
- Undertake to pursue their farming activity in the delimited area;
- Adhere to the requirements of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 Article 923 on cross compliance;
- Farm 3ha or more of constrained land;
- Maintain breeding herds of suckler cows, sheep, deer or goats; and
- Maintain a stocking density of eligible animals of at least 0.2 LU/Hectare across the full holding.

#### ANC 2018

The scheme will operate for one year and, to qualify for compensation, farmers must:

- Be identified as active farmers in accordance with Article 31(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 and Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013;
- Undertake to pursue their farming activity in the delimited area;
- Adhere to the requirements of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 Article 93 on cross compliance;
- Farm 3ha or more of constrained land;
- Maintain breeding herds of suckler cows, sheep, deer or goats; and
- Maintain a stocking density of eligible animals of at least 0.2 LU/Hectare across the full holding.

#### 8.2.8.3.1.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Not Applicable. The measure is excluded from selection criteria by Article 49 of the Rural Development Regulation.

#### 8.2.8.3.1.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

##### Level of support:

Payments will be made on eligible forage areas within the designated disadvantaged areas declared in the Department's Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS). Payment rates will be set on an annual basis, reflecting costs incurred and income foregone (or part thereof) and will remain between the minimum and maximum levels permitted by Annex 1 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013:

- Minimum per ha per year 25€
- Maximum per ha per year 250€

Degrressive payments will apply above a threshold level of area per holding in the ANC Scheme (however degressive payments will not apply to LFACA 2015) Degrressive payments will be triggered by the total amount claimed under the ANC Scheme.

##### Support for LFACA 2015 Scheme

In line with the provisions of Regulation (EU) No 1310/2013 Article 1 and Article 3, aid will be differentiated to reflect the differing levels of severity of permanent handicap recognised by the 2007–2013 Rural Development Programming document. Table 11 outlines the LFACA 2015 Grant rates.

A cattle bonus will also be paid to producers who have 25% or more of their eligible livestock units as suckler cows or replacement heifers. Such producers will have their basic compensatory allowance payment increased by 25%. This will be determined from the data used to confirm the minimum stocking density is met. This cattle bonus will be funded from national funds only and is permitted as per Article 89 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005.

##### Support for the ANC 2016 and ANC 2017 scheme

In line with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 1305/2013 Article 31 (1) and Annex II, aid will be provided to SDAs only based on an analysis of average farm business income survey data on cattle and sheep farms in the SDA and lowland over the five years 2008/9–2012/13. Table 12 outlines the ANC 2016 and 2017 grant rates. Each year the actual payment rate (in £ Sterling) will be checked to ensure that the €25/ha minimum payment in Regulation 1305/2013 Annex II is always respected. The cattle bonus will not be available in ANC 2016 and ANC 2017 Scheme (i.e. not maintained beyond commitments entered in 2014).

##### Support for the ANC 2018 Scheme

In line with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 1305/2013 Article 31 (1) and Annex II, aid will be provided to SDAs only based on an analysis of average farm business income survey data on cattle and sheep farms in the SDA and lowland over the five years 2008/9–2012/13. Table 13 outlines the minimum ANC 2018 grant rates. Each year the actual payment rate (in £ Sterling) will be checked to ensure that the €25/ha minimum payment in Regulation 1305/2013 Annex II is always respected. The cattle bonus will not be available in this Scheme.

**Table 11 – LFACA 2015 grant rates**

Land Classification	Grant rate
Severely Disadvantaged Area	£47.62/ha
Disadvantaged Area	£23.81/ha

Table 11 – LFACA 2015 grant rates

**Table 12 – ANC 2016 and 2017 Grant rates**

Land classification	Grant rate*
Severely Disadvantaged Area	Up to and including 200 hectares of SDA land - £56.47 per hectare  Areas above 200 hectares of SDA land: 75% of the rate set for areas up to 200 hectares (i.e. £42.35 per hectare)

\*Final rates will be set subject to a review of affordability

Table 12 – ANC 2016 and 2017 Grant rates

### ANC 2018 Grant rates

Land classification	Grant rate
Severely Disadvantaged Area	Up to and including 200 hectares of SDA land – a minimum of €25 per hectare on average of the area of the beneficiary receiving support.-  Areas above 200 hectares of SDA land: 75% of the rate set for areas up to 200 hectares, ensuring that the minimum of €25 per hectare on average of the area of the beneficiary receiving support is respected.

Table 13 - ANC 2018 Grant rates

#### 8.2.8.3.1.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.8.3.1.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

##### 8.2.8.3.1.9.2. Mitigating actions

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

##### 8.2.8.3.1.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

#### 8.2.8.3.1.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

##### Support for LFACA 2015 scheme

The methodology applied to this Scheme is the same as that described in the 2007 – 2013 Rural Development Programme document (given that this Scheme year is a continuation of the existing scheme in line with the provisions of Regulation (EU) No 1310/2013 Article 1 and Article 3).

##### Support for ANC 2016 and ANC 2017 Scheme

Article 31 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 states that additional costs and income forgone must be calculated by comparing areas which are not affected by specific constraints and that payments can be granted annually per hectare of agricultural areas in order to compensate farmers for all or part of the additional costs and income foregone related to the constraints for agricultural production in the area concerned. It further states that Member States shall provide for degressivity above a threshold level of area per holding. The principles underpinning the calculation method used were the same for both the 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 programmes – i.e. a comparison of average incomes per hectare between constrained area and non-constrained area - and both used FADN data. For the 2007-2013 LFACA Scheme, we compared the average income/ha in the relevant farm types across all constrained land versus that on non-constrained land. The same principle has been used for the 2016 and 2017 ANC Scheme (as proposed in the 2014-2020 RDP) but the detail is different. For the ANC Scheme, a more sophisticated approach was used, as agreed with the Commission in April 2013, whereby the comparisons for DA and SDA were performed separately, i.e. a comparison of the income/ha on SDA versus non-constrained and income/ha on DA versus non-constrained land.

Data from the Farm Business Survey in Northern Ireland (part of the FADN) for the past five years have been used to compare the farm business incomes on cattle and sheep farms in the SDA with the farm business income in the lowland (non-constrained area). Single Farm Payment receipts received by the farm businesses were included in the calculations. As we are assessing the need for LFA/ANC support, LFA receipts/payments were excluded from the comparison. Table 14 shows that farm business incomes on SDA cattle and sheep farms were, on average, **£115/ha lower** than on lowland (non-constrained area)



cattle and sheep farms. The data in the table indicates that if an ANC Scheme payment was to compensate for all the costs incurred and income forgone for farming in the SDA, then the highest payment that could be justified is approximately £115/ha. This exceeds the minimum threshold of €25 per hectare required by Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013.

Data from the Farm Business Survey in Northern Ireland (part of the FADN) for the past five years was also used to compare the farm business incomes on cattle and sheep farms in the DA with the farm business income on cattle and sheep farms in the lowland (non-disadvantaged area). Single Farm Payment (SFP) receipts received by the farm businesses were included in the calculations. As we were assessing the need for LFA/ANC support, LFA receipts/payments were excluded from the comparison.

Table 15 shows that farm business incomes on DA cattle and sheep farms were, on average, **£47/ha higher** than on lowland (non-constrained area) cattle and sheep farms over the five years in questions. In only one of the five years was the average income on DA cattle and sheep farms lower than that on lowland cattle and sheep farms, and even then only by £14/ha. This does not meet the minimum threshold required for payment.

#### Degressive payment structure for ANC 2016 and 2017 Scheme.

An analysis of the farm business incomes of SDA cattle and sheep farms indicates that there is no significant difference in terms of income per hectare of larger holdings when compared with that of smaller holdings. In other words, there is little evidence of economies of scale. On that basis, the degressivity threshold should be set at a high level and reduction in payment rates above that threshold should be modest.

Given that:

1. the purpose of degressivity is to avoid the risk of overcompensation on larger holdings;
2. the available evidence suggests that there is no identifiable risk of overcompensation on larger holdings; and
3. there is a preference from the majority of stakeholders to avoid a large impact arising from degressivity;

It is proposed that a simple two tier payment structure is deployed, with a full rate payment on the first 200ha of SDA land claimed per holding, followed by a degressive payment on all SDA land claimed above this threshold to be paid at 75% of the full rate. Within the proposed budget of £20 million per annum, this would result in a full rate of £56.47 per hectare and a 75% rate of £42.35 per hectare.

#### Support for ANC 2018 Scheme

Article 31 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 states that additional costs and income forgone must be calculated by comparing areas which are not affected by specific constraints and that payments can be granted annually per hectare of agricultural areas in order to compensate farmers for all or part of the additional costs and income foregone related to the constraints for agricultural production in the area concerned. It further states that Member States shall provide for degressivity above a threshold level of area per holding. The principles underpinning the calculation method used were the same for both the 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 programmes – i.e. a comparison of average incomes per hectare between constrained area and non-constrained area - and both used FADN data. For the 2007-2013 LFACA Scheme, we compared the average income/ha in the relevant farm types across all constrained land versus

that on non-constrained land. The same principle has been used for the 2016 and 2017 ANC Scheme (as proposed in the 2014-2020 RDP) but the detail is different. For the ANC Scheme, a more sophisticated approach was used, as agreed with the Commission in April 2013, whereby the comparisons for DA and SDA were performed separately, i.e. a comparison of the income/ha on SDA versus non-constrained and income/ha on DA versus non-constrained land.

Data from the Farm Business Survey in Northern Ireland (part of the FADN) for the past five years have been used to compare the farm business incomes on cattle and sheep farms in the SDA with the farm business income in the lowland (non-constrained area). Single Farm Payment receipts received by the farm businesses were included in the calculations. As we are assessing the need for LFA/ANC support, LFA receipts/payments were excluded from the comparison. Table 13 shows that farm business incomes on SDA cattle and sheep farms were, on average, **£115/ha lower** than on lowland (non-constrained area) cattle and sheep farms. The data in the table indicates that if an ANC Scheme payment was to compensate for all the costs incurred and income forgone for farming in the SDA, then the highest payment that could be justified is approximately £115/ha. This exceeds the minimum threshold of €25 per hectare required by Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013.

Data from the Farm Business Survey in Northern Ireland (part of the FADN) for the past five years was also used to compare the farm business incomes on cattle and sheep farms in the DA with the farm business income on cattle and sheep farms in the lowland (non-disadvantaged area). Single Farm Payment (SFP) receipts received by the farm businesses were included in the calculations. As we were assessing the need for LFA/ANC support, LFA receipts/payments were excluded from the comparison.

Table 15 shows that farm business incomes on DA cattle and sheep farms were, on average, **£47/ha higher** than on lowland (non-constrained area) cattle and sheep farms over the five years in questions. In only one of the five years was the average income on DA cattle and sheep farms lower than that on lowland cattle and sheep farms, and even then only by £14/ha. This does not meet the minimum threshold required for payment.

#### Degressive payment structure for ANC 2018 Scheme.

An analysis of the farm business incomes of SDA cattle and sheep farms indicates that there is no significant difference in terms of income per hectare of larger holdings when compared with that of smaller holdings. In other words, there is little evidence of economies of scale. On that basis, the degressivity threshold should be set at a high level and reduction in payment rates above that threshold should be modest.

Given that:

1. the purpose of degressivity is to avoid the risk of overcompensation on larger holdings;
2. the available evidence suggests that there is no identifiable risk of overcompensation on larger holdings; and
3. there is a preference from the majority of stakeholders to avoid a large impact arising from degressivity;

It is proposed that a simple two tier payment structure is deployed, with a full rate payment on the first 200ha of SDA land claimed per holding, followed by a degressive payment on all SDA land

claimed above this threshold to be paid at 75% of the full rate.

Table 14: Comparison of Farm Business Incomes per hectare (including SFP excluding LFACA) of Cattle & Sheep farms in the Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDA) and Lowland 2008/9 – 2012/13

Year	Cattle and Sheep Farms £ per ha UAA		
	SDA	Lowland	SDA: lowland difference
2008/09	118	283	-165 (-€201*)
2009/10	131	242	-111 (-€135*)
2010/11	111	139	-28 (-€34*)
2011/12	138	304	-166 (-€202*)
2012/13	71	179	-108 (-€132*)
Average	114	229	-115 (-€140*)**

\* Exchange Rate €1 = £0.82

\*\* Small differences due to rounding

Table 14

Table 15 Comparison of Farm Business Incomes per hectare (including SFP excluding LFACA) of Cattle & Sheep farms in the Disadvantaged Area (DA) and Lowland 2008/9 – 2012-13

Year	Cattle and Sheep Farms £ per ha UAA		
	DA	Lowland	DA: lowland difference
2008/09	343	283	+59 ** (€72*)
2009/10	289	242	+47 (€57*)
2010/11	243	139	+104 (€127*)
2011/12	342	304	+38 (€46*)
2012/13	165	179	-14 (-€17*)
Average	276	229	+47 (€57*)

\* Exchange Rate €1 = £0.82

\*\* Small differences due to rounding

Table 15

**Table 15 – Degressive payment bands**

Land classification	Grant rate*
Severely Disadvantaged Area	Up to and including 200 hectares of SDA land - £56.47 per hectare  Areas above 200 hectares of SDA land: 75% of the rate set for areas up to 200 hectares (i.e. £42.35 per hectare)

\*final rates will be set subject to a review of affordability

Table 16

Table 16 – Degressive payment bands ANC 2018

Land classification	Grant rate*
Severely Disadvantaged Area	<p>Up to and including 200 hectares of SDA land – a minimum of €25 per hectare on average of the area of the beneficiary receiving support.</p> <p>Areas above 200 hectares of SDA land: 75% of the rate set for areas up to 200 hectares, ensuring that the minimum of €25 per hectare on average of the area of the beneficiary receiving support is respected.</p>

\*final rates will be set subject to a review of affordability

Table 17

#### 8.2.8.3.1.11. Information specific to the operation

Definition of the threshold level of area per holding on the basis of which the Member State calculates degressivity of payments

#### Degrressive payment structure ANC 2016 and ANC 2017.

An analysis of the farm business incomes of SDA cattle and sheep farms indicates that there is no significant difference in terms of income per hectare of larger holdings when compared with that of smaller holdings. In other words, there is little evidence of economies of scale. On that basis, the degressivity threshold should be set at a high level and reduction in payment rates above that threshold should be modest.

Given that:

1. the purpose of degressivity is to avoid the risk of overcompensation on larger holdings;
2. the available evidence suggests that there is no identifiable risk of overcompensation on larger holdings; and
3. there is a preference from the majority of stakeholders to avoid a large impact arising from degressivity;

it is proposed that a simple two tier payment structure is deployed, with a full rate payment on the first 200ha of SDA land claimed per holding, followed by a degressive payment on all SDA land claimed above this threshold to be paid at 75% of the full rate. Within the proposed budget of £20 million per annum, this would result in a full rate of £56.47 per hectare and a 75% rate of £42.35 per hectare.

#### Degrressive payment structure ANC 2018.

An analysis of the farm business incomes of SDA cattle and sheep farms indicates that there is no

significant difference in terms of income per hectare of larger holdings when compared with that of smaller holdings. In other words, there is little evidence of economies of scale. On that basis, the degressivity threshold should be set at a high level and reduction in payment rates above that threshold should be modest.

Given that:

1. the purpose of degressivity is to avoid the risk of overcompensation on larger holdings;
2. the available evidence suggests that there is no identifiable risk of overcompensation on larger holdings; and
3. there is a preference from the majority of stakeholders to avoid a large impact arising from degressivity;
4. The budget for ANC 2018 is much less than ANC 2016 and ANC 2017 therefore a very mild level of degressivity is required to ensure that the minimum threshold of 25€ per ha specified in Annex II of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 is not breached;

It is proposed that a simple two tier payment structure is deployed, with a full rate payment on the first 200ha of SDA land claimed per holding, followed by a degressive payment on all SDA land claimed above this threshold to be paid at 75% of the full rate.

**Table 15 – Degressive payment bands**

Land classification	Grant rate*
Severely Disadvantaged Area	Up to and including 200 hectares of SDA land - £56.47 per hectare  Areas above 200 hectares of SDA land: 75% of the rate set for areas up to 200 hectares (i.e. £42.35 per hectare)

\*final rates will be set subject to a review of affordability

Table 16 – Degressive payment bands ANC 2018

Land classification	Grant rate*
Severely Disadvantaged Area	<p>Up to and including 200 hectares of SDA land – a minimum of €25 per hectare on average of the area of the beneficiary receiving support.</p> <p>Areas above 200 hectares of SDA land: 75% of the rate set for areas up to 200 hectares, ensuring that the minimum of €25 per hectare on average of the area of the beneficiary receiving support is respected.</p>

\*final rates will be set subject to a review of affordability

Table 17

[Designation of areas facing natural and other specific constraints] Description of the local unit-level applied for the designation of the areas.

Designation will not be undertaken in Northern Ireland.

[Designation of areas facing natural and other specific constraints] Description of the application of the method including the criteria referred to in Article 32 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 for the delimitation of the three categories of areas referred to in that Article including the description and results of the fine-tuning exercise for areas facing natural and other specific constraints other than mountain areas.

Designation will not be undertaken in Northern Ireland.

#### 8.2.8.4. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.8.4.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

An assessment of the proposed activities for the measure identified the following potential main root causes of error as defined in the Commission Staff Working Document SWD(2013) 244 final.

1. Root Cause 2 – beneficiaries are sometimes not duly informed and do not take into account the changes caused by updates to the Land Parcel Information Systems (LPIS). The risk is that there is a delayed update of agri-environment commitments following LPIS updates.
2. Root Cause 4 – Pre-conditions to enter the scheme have been established as eligibility conditions for the programme. Both the LFA and ANC schemes include a minimum livestock density as an eligibility condition. The most common reason for LFA Scheme claims being rejected as ineligible is that they do not meeting the stocking density requirement.

3. Root Cause 7 – Beneficiaries provide incorrect area declarations. The Less Favoured Areas scheme (2015) has two payment rates which can contribute to the error rate. These are the Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDA) and the Disadvantaged Area (DA). For example over declaring an SDA field by two hectares and under declaring a DA field by two hectares means two errors, even though the total area claimed was correct. It is anticipated that the Areas of Natural Constraint Scheme (2016-2018) will also carry the risk of over-declarations however given that there will be only one payment rate (SDA) the error rate would be expected to fall.

#### 8.2.8.4.2. Mitigating actions

##### Mitigating Actions:

The following mitigating actions will be implemented to address the risks identified:

1. A review of the results of management re-performance and on-the-spot checks from the 2007-2013 programming period and revision of the procedures to implement lessons learnt.
2. Completion of Fraud Risk Assessments on each scheme implemented.
3. To make available information and advice to beneficiaries through comprehensive scheme guidance and explanatory notes, coupled with promotional campaigns (press releases, newspaper articles) specifying the requirements of the scheme. The scheme guidance and promotional activity will explain the key changes between the LFA and ANC schemes.
4. Continuing development and refinement of LPIS for the identification of land parcels for all area based schemes in both Pillar 1 and Pillar 2.
5. The measure will be directly administered by the Department thereby ensuring there is sufficient experience and expertise in implementing the application, eligibility, claims and payments processes.
6. Management re-performance checks and on the spot checks to be carried out on claims processed prior to release for payment to identify residual errors.

#### 8.2.8.4.3. Overall assessment of the measure

##### Overall Assessment

An analysis of the errors and non-compliances in the implementation of similar measures in the 2007-2013 Rural Development Programme indicates that the LFA Scheme has a consistent error rate of above 2% (e.g. 2.9% in 2012, 2.7% in 2013) as a result of over declarations and, to a lesser extent, under declarations. The scheme is currently administered directly by the Department and will continue to be implemented directly for the 2014-2020 programming period. Direct management of the scheme reduces the risk of a lack of experience and training by external providers. The mitigating actions detailed above address the following recommended corrective and preventative actions:

- Corrective and preventative Action 3 – information campaigns and guidance documents to ensure



beneficiaries understand payment declarations, eligibility of areas and the claims process.

- Corrective and preventative Action 4 – improvement of IT tools to improve electronic applications with updated accurate information and the development of IT applications to check the reasonableness of the payment declarations.

Following consideration of the mitigating actions and the corrective and preventative actions the Managing Authority and Paying Agency have assessed the error rate for the measure as **medium**.

#### *8.2.8.5. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant*

Please see details at sub-measure 13.2

#### *8.2.8.6. Information specific to the measure*

Definition of the threshold level of area per holding on the basis of which the Member State calculates degressivity of payments

Please see details at sub-measure 13.2

[Designation of areas facing natural and other specific constraints] Description of the local unit-level applied for the designation of the areas.

Designation will not be undertaken in Northern Ireland.

[Designation of areas facing natural and other specific constraints] Description of the application of the method including the criteria referred to in Article 32 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 for the delimitation of the three categories of areas referred to in that Article including the description and results of the fine-tuning exercise for areas facing natural and other specific constraints other than mountain areas.

Designation will not be undertaken in Northern Ireland.

#### *8.2.8.7. Other important remarks relevant to understand and implement the measure*

N/A

## 8.2.9. M16 - Co-operation (art 35)

### 8.2.9.1. *Legal basis*

Article 35 and Recital 29 of Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) N° 1305/2013.

### 8.2.9.2. *General description of the measure including its intervention logic and contribution to focus areas and cross-cutting objectives*

#### **General description of the measure**

The SWOT analysis and needs assessment has identified a number of areas across the Programme where there is the potential to support co-operation activities to achieve the programme's aims and objectives. Providing support for co-operation will provide new opportunities to bring potential beneficiaries together to overcome fragmentation and to maximise the benefits from the support.

This co-operation measure will provide support for beneficiaries or groups of beneficiaries to cooperate together to undertake innovative activities and projects that are new to them. It will also provide support to establish new groups which will undertake new activities.

The measure will support a range of co-operation activities as follows:

#### **European Innovation Partnership Operational Groups**

Support will be provided to help interested actors to meet together to develop innovative ideas and to form new EIP operational Groups. This will be achieved through existing stakeholder groups and research and development networks. The Rural Network will also have a role in bringing together interested actors from agricultural sectors or around specific issues or problems that need to be resolved. Once established an EIP Operational Group will be able to apply for funding to carry out any projects which have been detailed in their project plan. The EIP Operational Groups will be required to share the results of their projects both within Northern Ireland and more widely across Europe.

#### **Agri-Food Co-operation Scheme**

The Agri-Food Co-operation Scheme (AFCS) will reduce fragmentation within the agri-food sector by providing support for co-operation between primary producers, food processors, retailers and the food service sector to help them to make best use of available resources to identify/promote/develop local markets, improve communications and develop efficient short supply chains leading to an increase in profitability and competitiveness.

The scheme will help stimulate the formation of supply chain partnerships or develop new ideas from existing groups and support these as they move forward. It provides extensive support to groups to help them move from the concept stage to a position where options can be identified and a business/project plan can be developed for the best option. Co-operation support is also proposed for small and micro businesses to reduce their marketing, logistics and distribution costs by innovative methods and the sharing of resources. This could involve forming clusters, reviewing performance/benchmarking,

improving communications, web based marketing, creating food hubs, developing food tourism trails or promoting/developing local/new market opportunities and routes to market.

Support will bring the group to the stage where they are confident and capable of adopting new collaboration arrangements which take costs out of the supply chain, enhance efficiency and improve marketing performance. The scheme encourages both horizontal and vertical partnership working within the supply chain. The type of group established as a result of the scheme will depend on the needs and objectives of the group members, and could include Buying Groups, Supply Groups, Marketing Groups, Co-operatives and Producer Organisations.

The overall approach is one of support and encouragement through providing input from a group of experienced professionals. These “facilitators” will have the skills and experience to guide and encourage the group members to develop structures and processes which best meet their individual and group needs. They will be able to work on behalf of the group in identifying market opportunities, sourcing information and preparing reports.

At the conclusion of the process the group will either have taken an informed decision not to proceed with the proposal or if the proposal is viable, the group will be in a position to move forward with an outline business plan or commence an investment project. Any business plan must be outcome based with clear outcomes stated e.g. product developed or skills developed e.g. marketing skills.

The schemes will be supported through the following sub-measures:

- 16.1 - support for the establishment and operation of operational groups of the EIP for agricultural productivity and sustainability
- 16.2 – Support for pilot projects, and for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies.
- 16.3 – co-operation among small/micro operators in organising work processes and sharing facilities and resources, and for developing/marketing tourism.
- 16.4 – co-operation for supply chain actors – development of short supply chains/local markets and promotion activity.

### **Agri-environment-climate**

Support will be provided to help potential beneficiaries to co-operate together with the aim of supporting the Group level of the Environmental Farming Scheme under Article 28 – Measure Code 10 – Agri-environment-climate. The focus will be to support the cooperation costs of bringing farmers and land managers together to deliver environmental benefits at a landscape scale.

### **Contribution to Focus Areas**

The measure will contribute to addressing the following focus areas: 1A, 1B, 2A, 3A, 4A, 4B, 4C and 5E.

### **Contribution to Cross-Cutting Objectives**

The European Innovation Partnership operational groups, pilot projects and validation projects are important to the innovation support available across the Rural Development Programme. Support for developing new products and practices will ensure innovation is targeted in particular at the agri-food sector.

The cross-cutting objective of the environment and climate change mitigation and adaptation will be addressed through the support for joint environmental actions to address climate change and the preparation of forest management plans and forest establishment plans.

*8.2.9.3. Scope, level of support, eligible beneficiaries, and where relevant, methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate broken down by sub-measure and/or type of operation where necessary. For each type of operation specification of eligible costs, eligibility conditions, applicable amounts and support rates and principles with regard to the setting of selection criteria*

8.2.9.3.1. Sub-measure 16.1 – support for the establishment of operational groups of the EIP for agricultural productivity & sustainability

Sub-measure:

- 16.1 - support for the establishment and operation of operational groups of the EIP for agricultural productivity and sustainability

8.2.9.3.1.1. Description of the type of operation

Groups will be composed of farmers, researchers, sectoral agri-food representative bodies, advisors, businesses or other actors such as environmental groups and other NGOs. The purpose of the groups will be to advance innovation in the agricultural sector. There will be no stipulation as regards the size, the composition and the specific undertakings of a respective operational group.

EIP will normally be a two stage process.

Stage One – establishment of an operational group (anticipated to take 3-6 months)

- Applicants will apply for Stage One funding. The application will set out the Innovation the group wishes to pursue, the current composition of the group, additional members to be recruited, and a proposed Stage One (feasibility) action plan.

Stage Two - Operation of EIP operation groups

- The Stage Two application will be based on the Stage One Report and Project Plan. Applications to Stage Two will again be considered by a selection panel which will score the proposed action plan against specified criteria. The aim of Stage Two is to develop the innovation from Stage One and trial it in a real environment.
- An operational group may tackle a certain practical problem or opportunity that may lead to innovation.
- Operational groups will have to draw up a plan, describing their specific project and the expected

results of the project. They must establish internal procedures to ensure transparency in their operation and decision-making, and avoid conflicts of interest;

- The operational groups will be required to disseminate the results of their project, in particular through the EIP network.
- An operational group may build itself around a concrete innovation project targeted towards finding a solution for a specific issue while not necessarily being bound to a specific territory or an upfront fixed strategy.
- The duration of project implementation may take less than 7 years but is more likely to be in the region of 3-5 years.
- The functions of the innovation broker(s) will be to develop potential projects and bring together the relevant actors to establish an EIP operational group. The role of the innovation broker will be;
  - To act as a go-between to connect innovation actors (farmers, researchers, sectoral agri-food representative bodies, advisors, NGO's, etc.).
  - To collect information and animate the bottom-up initiative by providing support for finding partners and funding.
  - To help to refine innovative ideas.

#### 8.2.9.3.1.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

For Stage One, the setting up of operational groups, support will be a lump sum grant payable on production of a satisfactory stage 1 report.

For Stage Two, operation of an EIP operational group, support will be provided through grant aid.

No advance payments will be available.

#### 8.2.9.3.1.3. Links to other legislation

Articles 65-71 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (Eligibility of expenditure and durability).

Article 67 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (Forms of grants and repayable assistance)

Article 70 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (Eligibility of operations depending on location)

EU public procurement rules will be respected, in particular (i) Directives 2004/18/EC and 2004/17/EC, (ii)

Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU, (iii) Directives 89/665/EEC and 92/13/EEC and (iv) the general public procurement principles derived from the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. Of particular relevance to Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 1305/2013 is Annex II B of Directive 2004/18/EC relating to 'education and vocational education services' where the light procedure applies.

#### 8.2.9.3.1.4. Beneficiaries

Farmers, researchers, sectoral agri-food representative bodies, advisors, businesses or other actors such as innovation brokers, environmental groups and other NGOs. At least two entities must be involved in a supported EIP project.

#### 8.2.9.3.1.5. Eligible costs

The following costs are eligible for the European Innovation Partnership Operational Groups:

The intention is to pay approved costs to the lead actor or 'representative legal entity' for the Operational Grant.

##### Setting up of EIP operational groups:

- Animation - recruitment of participants in a project and networking between them required to define the project adequately and get it off the ground. This includes the cost associated with an "innovation broker" to take on such tasks.
- Studies – studies of the area concerned, feasibility studies and the development of a project plan.
- Running costs – costs arising from the "act" of co-operation for example the salary of a co-ordinator.

##### Operation of EIP operational groups:

- Running costs – costs arising from the "act" of co-operation for example the salary of a co-ordinator.
- Project investment (capital) costs – costs which arise directly from the activities of the project rather than from preparatory studies, animation or ongoing co-ordination will be funded from Article 17 – Measure Code 04 – Investments in Physical Assets. The eligibility and state aid conditions of M04 will apply. All other implementation costs will be met from M16.

In addition, development activities supported by EIP groups may well be connected to research which is itself being supported via other instruments such as Horizon 2020 or other research funding sources.

#### 8.2.9.3.1.6. Eligibility conditions

At least two or more entities are required to undertake a project for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies. At least one of the entities should be a farmer or forester and the activity to be supported must contribute to at least one of the priorities of the Rural Development Programme and of the aims of the EIP as set out in Art 55 (relevance for farming practice).

However, the beneficiaries will be required to disseminate the results of their project to ensure that the knowledge obtained through the support provided is spread as widely as possible to the relevant sectors and organisations, including through the EIP network

#### 8.2.9.3.1.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

The following selection criteria will be applied independently to each type of operation.

##### Setting up of EIP operational groups

The selection criteria for the setting up of the EIP operational groups may include the following.

- Clear identification of need and strategy for proposed solution including the practical application of the proposal and likely impact.
- Complementary composition of the group to include a range of multi actors such as farmers, technical advisers, scientists etc. relevant to the project objectives
- Coherence of the proposal with Executive response to Agri-Food Strategy Board's recommendations in the 'Going for Growth' report.

##### Operation of EIP operational groups

- A weighted scoring system will be used to evaluate individual applications at Selection Panel stage. It is also intended that there will be a minimum threshold across the selection criteria that projects must reach before funding would be approved. Types of application criteria appraisal include:
- Complementary composition of Group benefiting the specific project, making the best use of different types of knowledge (scientific, practical, entrepreneurial, organisational etc).
- Practical application of the project and expected impact: benefits to primary producer or sector.
- Affordability, value for money and added value of the project.

- Environmental impact.
- Contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Coherence of the project with Executive response to Agri-Food Strategy Board’s targets in the ‘Going for Growth’ report.
- Proposals for dissemination of information.

#### 8.2.9.3.1.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

##### **Stage 1**

A lump sum payment of £4,988 will be paid to operational groups following set up and on the production of a satisfactory report describing their specific project and the expected results. Lump sum payments will be calculated in line with the provisions of Article 67 (5) of Reg. 1303/2013.

##### **Stage 2**

Cooperation, animation and running costs - Grant aid will be provided at a 100% support rate

Direct costs of the project - Grant aid will be provided at a 100% support rate

Support will be based on flat rate payments for travel and subsistence, accommodation, daily rate for innovation broker/facilitator.

The support rate of Article 17 – Measure Code 04 – Investments in Physical Assets will apply to any project investment costs arising from the co-operation. The maximum rate of support will be 40%, however the grant rate will be increased to 50% for projects supported through an EIP operational group

#### 8.2.9.3.1.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### *8.2.9.3.1.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

##### *8.2.9.3.1.9.2. Mitigating actions*

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level



**8.2.9.3.1.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure**

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

**8.2.9.3.1.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant**

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

**8.2.9.3.1.11. Information specific to the operation**

Specification of the characteristics of pilot projects, clusters, networks, short supply chains and local markets

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

### 8.2.9.3.2. Sub-measure 16.2 – support for pilot projects and for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies

Sub-measure:

- 16.1 - support for the establishment and operation of operational groups of the EIP for agricultural productivity and sustainability
- 16.2 - support for pilot projects, and for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies

#### 8.2.9.3.2.1. Description of the type of operation

The support available under this sub-measure will not be used to support stand-alone research. The focus of the sub-measure will be to fund costs that are linked to practical projects. Examples of projects which may be supported include adapting solutions to specific contexts and uses or projects which adapt processes to overcome specific climate conditions. The following types of projects will be supported:

- Pilot projects – A test project which can be part of a wider process of innovative project development or a stand-alone project. Pilot projects will not be limited to any sector but must be in line with the priorities for rural development policy as set out in the strategy for the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme.
- Validation projects – Projects which support the demonstration of new technologies. The activity is defined as the final part of the process of testing or validating a technology or process. This definition differentiates the support available under Measure 01 (Article 14) where the demonstration activity is to raise awareness of technologies and techniques which are already operational and available. The activities supported under this sub-measure may be connected to research which could be supported through other instruments such as Horizon 2020 or other research funding sources.
- Agri-food Cooperation Scheme - Development of new products, practices, processes and technologies - projects which support co-operation between two or more entities to develop a new product, process, practice or technology which is not currently available, or the development of techniques / methods which are adaptations of existing technologies to situations for which they are currently not used.

#### 8.2.9.3.2.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Support will be provided through grant aid. No advance payments will be available.

#### 8.2.9.3.2.3. Links to other legislation

Articles 65-71 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (Eligibility of expenditure and durability).

Article 67 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (Forms of grants and repayable assistance)

Article 70 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (Eligibility of operations depending on location)

EU public procurement rules will be respected, in particular (i) Directives 2004/18/EC and 2004/17/EC, (ii) Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU, (iii) Directives 89/665/EEC and 92/13/EEC and (iv) the general public procurement principles derived from the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. Of particular relevance to Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 1305/2013 is Annex II B of Directive 2004/18/EC relating to 'education and vocational education services' where the light procedure applies.

#### 8.2.9.3.2.4. Beneficiaries

Farmers, researchers, sectoral agri-food representative bodies, advisors, businesses or other actors such as environmental groups and other NGOs. Pilot and demonstration projects for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies can be carried out by individual beneficiaries.

#### 8.2.9.3.2.5. Eligible costs

Costs related to the co-operation activity. The intention is to pay approved costs to the lead actor or 'representative legal entity' for the operation grant. Eligible costs may include:

##### Setting up the operational group:

- Studies of the area concerned, feasibility studies and the development of a project plan.
- Animation – recruitment of participants in a project.
- Costs associated with the act of cooperation, for example the salary of a facilitator.

##### Operation of the operational group:

- Area Studies
- Feasibility Studies for investments as foreseen in art 45(2)
- Business Plans
- Market exploration
- Running Costs of Co-operation

- Training and mentoring required to implement the cooperation project including study tours.
- Information management tools
- Promotion Activities relating to the promotion of the group and not the product, such as networking activities to attract membership or the dissemination of group activities.

Project Investment (Capital) costs – costs which arise directly from the cooperation activities of the project will be funded from Article 17 – Measure Code 04 – Investments in Physical Assets. The eligibility and state aid conditions of M4 will apply. All other implementation costs will be met from M16.

#### 8.2.9.3.2.6. Eligibility conditions

At least two or more entities are required to undertake a project for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies. At least one of the entities should be a farmer or forester and the activity to be supported must contribute to at least one of the priorities of the Rural Development Programme.

Pilot and demonstration projects can be carried out by individual beneficiaries.

However the beneficiaries will be required to disseminate the results of their project to ensure that the knowledge obtained through the support provided is spread as widely as possible to the relevant sectors and organisations, including through the EIP network

#### 8.2.9.3.2.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Selection criteria will ensure that support is directed to issues identified by, and relevant to, the industry. The criteria will also ensure that the support is in line with priorities for rural development as set out in the Programme and also the industry's "*Going for Growth*" report which sets out the industry vision for future growth. A point system will be used to score individual applications at Selection Panel stage. It is also intended that there will be a minimum threshold across the selection criteria that projects must reach before funding would be approved. Examples of application appraisal include:

- Added value.
- Benefits to primary producer or sector.
- Environmental impact.
- Contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Contribution to the Agri-Food Strategy Board's targets in the 'Going for Growth' report.

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#### 8.2.9.3.2.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Cooperation animation and running costs (EIP) - Grant aid will be provided at a 100% support rate

Direct costs of the project (EIP) - Grant aid will be provided at a 100% support rate

##### **Agri-food Co-operation Scheme**

- 100% for animation and promotion, group facilitation, training and study visits.
- 80% for specialist mentoring and business tools. The purpose of specialist mentoring is to provide support that cannot be provided by the group facilitators e.g. specialist marketing knowledge. The business tools cover items like website design and support, market research / intelligence, IT based support tools etc.
- 50% for co-operation support. This relates to specialist legal / accountancy support in setting up co-operative / business entities and contracts.

Simplified costs in the form of flat rate payments will be used for travel and subsistence, accommodation, daily rate for co-ordinator/facilitator.

The support rate of Article 17 – Measure Code 4 – Investments in Physical Assets will apply to any project investment costs arising from the co-operation. The maximum rate of support will be 40%, however the grant rate will be increased to 50% for projects supported through an EIP operational group.

#### 8.2.9.3.2.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### *8.2.9.3.2.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level
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##### *8.2.9.3.2.9.2. Mitigating actions*

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level
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##### *8.2.9.3.2.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure*

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level
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#### 8.2.9.3.2.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level
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8.2.9.3.2.11. Information specific to the operation

Specification of the characteristics of pilot projects, clusters, networks, short supply chains and local markets

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level
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### 8.2.9.3.3. Sub-measure 16.3 – co-operation – small/micro operators in organising work processes & sharing facilities/resources & tourism

Sub-measure:

- 16.1 - support for the establishment and operation of operational groups of the EIP for agricultural productivity and sustainability
- 16.3 - (other) co-operation among small operators in organising joint work processes and sharing facilities and resources, and for developing/marketing tourism

#### 8.2.9.3.3.1. Description of the type of operation

Co-operation among agriculture, food and forestry micro enterprises in developing new products, practices, processes and technologies.

Co-operation among agriculture, food and forestry micro enterprises in organising joint work processes and sharing facilities and resources, such as food hubs, and for developing/marketing tourism at regional and sub-regional level. Food hubs in this context relate to a collaborative workspace being utilised by the co-operating members and could for example be a distribution, storage, marketing, innovation or collection centre.

#### 8.2.9.3.3.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Support will be provided through grant aid. No advance payments will be available.

#### 8.2.9.3.3.3. Links to other legislation

Articles 65-71 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (Eligibility of expenditure and durability).

Article 67 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (Forms of grants and repayable assistance)

Article 70 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (Eligibility of operations depending on location)

EU public procurement rules will be respected, in particular (i) Directives 2004/18/EC and 2004/17/EC, (ii) Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU, (iii) Directives 89/665/EEC and 92/13/EEC and (iv) the general public procurement principles derived from the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. Of particular relevance to Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 1305/2013 is Annex II B of Directive 2004/18/EC relating to 'education and vocational education services' where the light procedure applies.

#### 8.2.9.3.3.4. Beneficiaries

Support is limited to agriculture, food and forestry micro-enterprises and those engaged in developing co-

operation amongst micro-enterprises.

#### 8.2.9.3.3.5. Eligible costs

Costs related with co-operation activity. The intention is to pay approved costs to the lead actor or 'representative legal entity' for the operation grant. Eligible costs may include:

##### Setting up of the co-operation activity.

- Studies of the area concerned, feasibility studies and the development of a project plan.
- Animation – recruitment of participants in a project.
- Costs associated with the act of cooperation, for example the salary of a facilitator.

##### Operation of the cooperation activity.

- Feasibility Studies for investments foreseen in Art.45(2)
- Business Plans
- Market exploration
- Running Costs of Co-operation
- Training and mentoring required to implement the cooperation project including study tours.
- Information management tools
- Promotion Activities
- Costs associated with the act of cooperation, for example the salary of a facilitator

Project Investment (capital) costs – costs which arise directly from the cooperation activities of the project will be funded from Article 17 – Measure Code 04 – Investments in Physical Assets. The eligibility and state aid conditions of M4 will apply. All other costs will be met from M16.

#### 8.2.9.3.3.6. Eligibility conditions

New or existing agri-food and forestry micro-enterprise led groups. Activities of existing groups must be new. Support will not be provided for the continuation of existing activities. Investments resulting from co-operation activity will only supported on the basis of a sustainable business plan.

Operational groups/beneficiaries will be required to disseminate the results of their project to ensure that the knowledge obtained through the support provided is spread as widely as possible to the relevant sectors and organisations, including through the EIP network.



#### 8.2.9.3.3.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Selection criteria will ensure that support is directed to issues identified by, and relevant to, the agri-food industry. The criteria will also ensure that the support is in line with priorities for rural development as set out in the Programme and also the industries “Going for Growth” report which sets out the industry vision for future growth.

A point system will be used to score individual applications at Selection Panel stage. It is also intended that there will be a minimum threshold across the selection criteria that projects must reach before funding would be approved. Examples of application appraisal include:

- Affordability, value for money and added value of the project.
- Benefits to primary producer or sector.
- Environmental impact
- Contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Contribution to the Agri-Food Strategy Board’s targets in the ‘Going for Growth’ report.

#### 8.2.9.3.3.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

##### **Agri-food Co-operation Scheme**

- 100% for animation and promotion, group facilitation, training and study visits.
- 80% for specialist mentoring and business tools. The purpose of specialist mentoring is to provide support that cannot be provided by the group facilitators e.g. specialist marketing knowledge. The business tools cover items like website design and support, market research / intelligence, IT based support tools etc.
- 50% for co-operation support. This relates to specialist legal / accountancy support in setting up co-operative / business entities and contracts.

Simplified costs in the form of flat rate payments will be used for travel and subsistence, accommodation, daily rate for co-ordinator/facilitator.

The support rate of Article 17 – Measure Code 4 – Investments in Physical Assets will apply to any project investment costs arising from the co-operation. The maximum rate of support under Article 17 will be 40%.

8.2.9.3.3.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.9.3.3.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

8.2.9.3.3.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

8.2.9.3.3.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

8.2.9.3.3.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

8.2.9.3.3.11. Information specific to the operation

Specification of the characteristics of pilot projects, clusters, networks, short supply chains and local markets

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

#### 8.2.9.3.4. Sub-measure 16.4 – Co-operation for supplychain actors - development of short supply chains/local markets & promotion activity

Sub-measure:

- 16.1 - support for the establishment and operation of operational groups of the EIP for agricultural productivity and sustainability
- 16.4 - support for horizontal and vertical co-operation among supply chain actors for the establishment and development of short supply chains and local markets, and for promotion activities in a local context relating to the development of short supply chains and local markets

##### 8.2.9.3.4.1. Description of the type of operation

Support for horizontal and vertical co-operation among short supply chain actors for the establishment and development of short supply chains and local markets, including establishment of producer groups;

Promotion activities in a local context relating to the development of short supply chains and local markets.

##### 8.2.9.3.4.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Support will be provided through grant aid.

No advance payments will be available.

##### 8.2.9.3.4.3. Links to other legislation

Articles 65-71 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (Eligibility of expenditure and durability).

Article 67 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (Forms of grants and repayable assistance)

Article 70 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (Eligibility of operations depending on location)

EU public procurement rules will be respected, in particular (i) Directives 2004/18/EC and 2004/17/EC, (ii) Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU, (iii) Directives 89/665/EEC and 92/13/EEC and (iv) the general public procurement principles derived from the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. Of particular relevance to Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 1305/2013 is Annex II B of Directive 2004/18/EC relating to 'education and vocational education services' where the light procedure applies.

#### 8.2.9.3.4.4. Beneficiaries

New or existing agri-food and forestry micro or SME led groups with partners along their respective supply chains and those engaged in developing co-operation along the supply chain.

Short supply chains are defined as having no more than one intermediary between farmer and consumer.

Local markets are defined as supply chains where the radius of the region extends no more than 30 miles. However this definition shall be increased to 75 miles in the following circumstances:

- For remote or sparsely populated areas;
- For specialised artisan foods where there is limited market opportunities available;
- For major regional events which raise awareness of regional produce.

#### 8.2.9.3.4.5. Eligible costs

Costs related with co-operation activity. The intention is to pay approved costs to the lead actor or 'representative legal entity' for the operation grant. Eligible costs may include:

##### Setting up of the co-operation activity.

- Studies of the area concerned, feasibility studies and the development of a project plan.
- Animation – recruitment of participants in a project.
- Costs associated with the act of cooperation, for example the salary of a facilitator.

##### Operation of the cooperation activity:

- Area Studies
- Feasibility Studies for investments as foreseen in Art. 45(2).
- Business Plans
- Market exploration
- Running Costs of Co-operation
- Training and mentoring required to implement the project including study tours
- Information management tools

- Promotion Activities related to short supply chains and local markets

Project Investment (capital) costs – costs which arise directly from the cooperation activities of the project will be funded from Article 17 – Measure Code 04 – Investments in Physical Assets. The eligibility and state aid conditions of M4 will apply. All other costs will be met from M16.

#### 8.2.9.3.4.6. Eligibility conditions

Activities of existing groups must be new. Support will not be provided for the continuation of existing activities. Investments resulting from co-operation activity will only supported on the basis of a sustainable business plan.

Short supply chains are defined as having no more than one intermediary between farmer and consumer.

Local markets are defined as supply chains where the radius of the region extends no more than 30 miles. However this definition shall be increased to 75 miles in the following circumstances:

- For remote or sparsely populated areas;
- For specialised artisan foods where there is limited market opportunities available;
- For major regional events which raise awareness of regional produce.

Operational groups/beneficiaries will be required to disseminate the results of their project to ensure that the knowledge obtained through the support provided is spread as widely as possible to the relevant sectors and organisations, including through the EIP network.

#### 8.2.9.3.4.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Selection criteria will ensure that support is directed to issues identified by, and relevant to, the agri-food industry. The criteria will also ensure that the support is in line with priorities for rural development as set out in the Programme and also the industries “Going for Growth” report which sets out the industry vision for future growth.

A point system will be used to score individual applications at Selection Panel stage. It is also intended that there will be a minimum threshold across the selection criteria that projects must reach before funding would be approved. Examples of application appraisal include:

- Affordability, value for money and added value of the project.
- Benefits to primary producer.
- Environmental impact.
- Contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation

- Contribution to the Agri-Food Strategy Board’s targets in the ‘Going for Growth’ report.

#### 8.2.9.3.4.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

##### **Agri-food Co-operation Scheme**

- 100% for animation and promotion, group facilitation, training and study visits.
- 80% for specialist mentoring and business tools. The purpose of specialist mentoring is to provide support that cannot be provided by the group facilitators e.g. specialist marketing knowledge. The business tools cover items like website design and support, market research / intelligence, IT based support tools etc.
- 50% for co-operation support. This relates to specialist legal / accountancy support in setting up co-operative / business entities and contracts.

Simplified costs in the form of flat rate payments will be used for travel and subsistence, accommodation, daily rate for co-ordinator/facilitator.

The support rate of Article 17 – Measure Code 4 – Investments in Physical Assets will apply to any project investment costs arising from the co-operation. The maximum rate of support under Article 17 will be 40%.

#### 8.2.9.3.4.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### *8.2.9.3.4.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

##### *8.2.9.3.4.9.2. Mitigating actions*

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

##### *8.2.9.3.4.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure*

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

#### 8.2.9.3.4.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

#### 8.2.9.3.4.11. Information specific to the operation

Specification of the characteristics of pilot projects, clusters, networks, short supply chains and local markets

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

#### 8.2.9.3.5. Sub-measure 16.5 – Support for joint action undertaken with a view to mitigating or adapting to climate change

Sub-measure:

- 16.1 - support for the establishment and operation of operational groups of the EIP for agricultural productivity and sustainability
- 16.5 - support for joint action undertaken with a view to mitigating or adapting to climate change, and for joint approaches to environmental projects and ongoing environmental practices

##### 8.2.9.3.5.1. Description of the type of operation

Support under this sub-measure will be provided for co-operation activities that support the Group level of the Environmental Farming Scheme under Article 28 – Measure Code 10 – Agri-environment climate. The focus will be to bring farmers and land managers together to deliver environmental benefits at a landscape scale. The following are the types of activity which may be supported:

- The salary costs of a project coordinator;
- Animation activities such as the recruitment of participants;
- Feasibility studies and management plans;

##### 8.2.9.3.5.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Support will be provided through grant aid. No advance payments will be available.

##### 8.2.9.3.5.3. Links to other legislation

- Articles 65-71 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (Eligibility of expenditure and durability).
- Article 67 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (Forms of grants and repayable assistance).
- Article 70 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (Eligibility of operations depending on location)
- Article 94 of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 – Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition and Statutory Management Requirements;
- Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 (greening requirements);
- Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds;
- Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora Directive



- EU public procurement rules will be respected, in particular (i) Directives 2004/18/EC and 2004/17/EC, (ii) Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU, (iii) Directives 89/665/EEC and 92/13/EEC and (iv) the general public procurement principles derived from the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. Of particular relevance to Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 1305/2013 is Annex II B of Directive 2004/18/EC relating to 'education and vocational education services' where the light procedure applies.

#### 8.2.9.3.5.4. Beneficiaries

Individuals or organisations, through project co-ordinators, bringing together a group of farmers or land managers under a single project, or for organisations themselves with permission of landowner/farmer, to take forward a project that straddles several farms/areas of land.

#### 8.2.9.3.5.5. Eligible costs

The intention is to pay approved costs to the lead actor or 'representative legal entity' for the operation grant. Eligible costs may include:

The following costs are eligible costs:

##### Setting up of the co-operation activity

- Studies of the area concerned, feasibility studies and the development of a project plan.
- Animation – recruitment of participants in a project.
- Costs associated with the act of cooperation, for example the salary of a facilitator.

##### Operation of the cooperation activity:

- Area Studies.
- Feasibility Studies for investments as foreseen in Art. 45(2).
- Running Costs of Co-operation.
- Training and mentoring required to implement the project including study tours

All direct costs of implementing the project will not be supported under M16 but will be supported under the following measures.

- Article 17 – Measure Code 04 – Non-productive Investments.
- Article 28 – Measure Code 10 – Agri-environment-climate.



#### 8.2.9.3.5.6. Eligibility conditions

The co-operation must involve at least two individuals or organisations. There must also be a contractual agreement in place for the project.

Operational groups/beneficiaries will be required to disseminate the results of their project to ensure that the knowledge obtained through the support provided is spread as widely as possible to the relevant sectors and organisations, including through the EIP network.

#### 8.2.9.3.5.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Co-operation projects will be selected on an assessment of the environmental benefit of the proposed project and in line with the objectives of Measure 10 (Agri-environment-climate).

Stakeholders will be consulted on the proposed ranking and selection criteria. The criteria may include the prioritisation of environmentally designated sites e.g. Natura 2000 and Areas of special Scientific Interest (ASSIs), priority habitats, and sensitive water habitats and catchments. The use of ranking and selection criteria where necessary will ensure that expenditure is targeted to achieve the greatest environmental benefit.

#### 8.2.9.3.5.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Cooperation animation, running costs and costs of studies or management plans - Grant aid will be provided at a 100% support rate

Direct costs of the project - Grant aid will be provided at a 100% support rate

Simplified costs in the form of flat rate payments will be used for travel and subsistence, accommodation, daily rate for co-ordinator/facilitator.

Support payment rates for M10 (Agri-environment-climate) will apply to any commitments arising from the management plan.

The support rate of Article 17 – Measure Code 4 – Investments in Physical Assets will apply to any investment costs for non-productive investments associated with an agri-environment-climate agreement.

#### 8.2.9.3.5.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.9.3.5.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

##### 8.2.9.3.5.9.2. Mitigating actions

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

##### 8.2.9.3.5.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

#### 8.2.9.3.5.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

#### 8.2.9.3.5.11. Information specific to the operation

Specification of the characteristics of pilot projects, clusters, networks, short supply chains and local markets

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

#### 8.2.9.4. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.9.4.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

###### Risk(s)

An assessment of the proposed activities for the measure identified the following potential main root causes of error as defined in the Commission Staff Working Document SWD(2013) 244 final. The risks identified below relate to the co-operation element of the measure. Where activities resulting from the co-operation are assigned to another measure (e.g. agri-environment, capital investment under Article 17, European Innovation Partnership and Pilot and Demonstration Projects) then the verifiability and controllability assessment of that measure will apply.

1. Root Cause 11 – Application of public procurement rules and private tender procedures. The risk is that the public procurement is deficient and did not comply with national laws.
2. Root Cause 13 - Tendering procedures applied by private beneficiaries (beneficiary perspective). The risk is that the beneficiary (co-operation facilitator) does not implement the agreed tendering

procedures and therefore fails to obtain value for money in the use of public funds and equality of opportunity for suppliers and service providers.

3. Root Cause 15 - Handling of payment claims by beneficiaries (beneficiary perspective). The risk is that the beneficiary does not follow the guidance provided or understands the implications for inaccurate claims.

#### 8.2.9.4.2. Mitigating actions

##### Mitigating Actions:

The following mitigating actions will be implemented to address the risks identified:

1. A review of the results of management re-performance and on-the-spot checks from the 2007-2013 programming period and revision of the procedures to implement lessons learnt.
2. Completion of Fraud Risk Assessments on each scheme implemented.
3. Public procurement and contract variations, where appropriate, will be undertaken by Central Procurement Directorate which is a centre of procurement excellence.
4. All staff involved in selection through public procurement will receive procurement training. Contract management staff will receive appropriate training to ensure they understand the requirements of the contract.
5. Flat rate payments costs will be used where appropriate to reduce the number of occasions in which the co-operation group will need to tender for goods or services.
6. The provision of clear operating rules for co-operation groups including requirements for determining eligible expenditure, supporting evidence requirements for claims and procurement rules in order to complete the administrative check.
7. Management re-performance checks and on the spot checks to be carried out on claims processed prior to release for payment to identify residual errors.

#### 8.2.9.4.3. Overall assessment of the measure

##### Overall Assessment

An analysis of the errors and non-compliances in the implementation of similar measures in the 2007-2013 Rural Development Programme indicates that procedures for the co-operation groups are generally sufficient to limit ineligible expenditure. As far as possible flat rate payments for co-operation activities will be used to reduce the administrative burden and ensure value for money. The main control will be through the on-the-spot checks. The mitigating actions detailed above address the following recommended corrective and preventative actions:

- Corrective and preventative Action 1 – training for beneficiary staff on the procedures to process payments to co-operation groups, systems for checking the reasonableness of costs and prices, procurement rules and the handling of payment claims.

- Corrective and preventative Action 2 – information and advice for beneficiaries on public procurement rules, eligible investment expenditure under the measure and the completion of payment claims.
- Corrective and preventative Action 3 – information and guidance documents for administration units and beneficiaries on public procurement best practice, identification of non-eligible costs and one to one advice at contract agreement stage.
- Corrective and preventative Action 4 – improvement of IT tools to improve the access and availability of information for beneficiaries and to prevent errors.
- Corrective and preventative Action 6 – the use of flat rate payments for co-operation groups and costs for beneficiaries, such as per diem expenses, travel and subsistence and running costs of the co-operation to reduce the risk of errors and the administrative burden on beneficiaries and administration units.
- Corrective and preventative Action 7 – improving internal control and coordination procedures through reviewing the results of management re-performance checks, on-the-spot checks, audit recommendations and the review of procedures and forms.
- Corrective and Preventative Action 8 – applying claim reductions in proportion with the non-compliance.

Following consideration of the mitigating actions and the corrective and preventative actions the Managing Authority and Paying Agency have assessed the error rate for the measure as low/medium. This reflects the new proposed activity and the effectiveness of the mitigating actions will be reviewed during implementation and the risk rating reassessed.

#### *8.2.9.5. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant*

The provision of targeted co-operation and innovation support across the rural development programme is an important priority to enable beneficiaries to co-operate to maximise the benefits and support available and to work together to find adopt new innovative practices. Evidence from the current programme (Measure 124 – Supply Chain Development) was used to inform the amount of support and the support rate. Investment arising from the co-operation activity will be funded from the relevant measure and the amount and support rates of those measures will apply.

The simplified costs used within the Measure are flat rate payments. The rates applied for travel, subsistence and accommodation are flat rate payments which are based on the Civil Service rates of reimbursement. A daily rate of £339 based on 7.5 hours (£45 per hour) will be applied for the innovation broker, coordinators and facilitators. This is based on similar schemes currently implemented within the 2007-2013 Rural Development Programme for similar beneficiaries such as the Supply Chain Development Programme. All other costs will be based on actual costs which have been subject to the necessary public procurement.

#### 8.2.9.6. *Information specific to the measure*

Specification of the characteristics of pilot projects, clusters, networks, short supply chains and local markets

See sub-measure description

#### 8.2.9.7. *Other important remarks relevant to understand and implement the measure*

For actions falling outside of the scope of Article 42 of the Treaty which constitutes State Aid will comply with the following Articles within the Block Exemption Regulations.

- Article 28 of Regulation (EU) 651/2014 as regards innovation aid for SMEs.
- Article 29 of Regulation (EU) 651/2014 as regards aid for process and organisational innovation.
- Article 32(8)(e) of Regulation (EU) 702/2014 as regards forest management plans and equivalent instruments.

The measure may also utilise de minimis Regulation (EU)1407/2013

##### Sub Measure 16.3:

The term ‘small’ is determined through the delegated act as a micro-enterprise. As per Commission Regulation 2003/361 of 6 May 2003, a micro-enterprise is an enterprise which employs fewer than 10 persons and whose annual turnover or balance sheet is lower than €2 million.

8.2.10. M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development) (art 35 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

*8.2.10.1. Legal basis*

Articles 42-45 and Recitals 31-33 of Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) N° 1305/2013.

Articles 32-35 of Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Common Provisions for the ESI funds N° 1303/2013.

*8.2.10.2. General description of the measure including its intervention logic and contribution to focus areas and cross-cutting objectives*

**Implementation of LEADER in Northern Ireland**

The first Rural Development Programme (RDP) began in NI in 1991. It was established to help rural communities meet the needs of a changing economic environment. Successive programmes have aimed to improve the economic, environmental and social opportunities available to people in rural areas. Since the first RDP, there has been considerable change in rural development policy and practice, as well as the rural landscape. However the basic foundations of the RDP have remained constant and are largely consistent with the LEADER principles.

The LEADER-type approach to delivery essentially involves a bottom-up method of delivery. The following sets out the evolution of LEADER in Northern Ireland since 1991.

- LEADER I was delivered between 1991 and 1993 and was targeted at non-profit making rural community groups in the most deprived rural areas. Community projects were funded under a range of measures including: technical assistance, rural tourism, vocational training, small enterprise and agricultural diversification.
- LEADER II – implemented between 1994 and 1999 – sought to follow the wider European model of rural development of adopting a more “local” or “bottom up” and area-based approach to the development and implementation of the programme. Its design was informed by learning from the implementation of LEADER I and gaps identified in its delivery however its broad aims remained the same. It was implemented by 15 Local Action Groups (LAGs) and 9 Other Collective Bodies (OCBs). These 24 groups had responsibility for 4 Measures (Acquisition of Skills, Rural Innovation Programmes, Transnational Co-operation and Networking).
- The LEADER approach was fully adopted via the LEADER+ Community Initiative (CI) in the 2000 to 2006 programming period. This maintained the ethos of the previous LEADER programmes. Under the Northern Ireland LEADER+ Community Initiative, 12 LAGs covering 94% of the total eligible area and 43% of the Northern Ireland population, developed and implemented local development strategies that addressed the needs and potential for micro-

businesses in their areas. The focus of the NI LEADER+ programme in contrast to other LEADER+ programmes across the EU was solely on micro-business development in the private sector (e.g. farms or rural businesses employing 10 people or less).

- LEADER in the 2007-2013 funding period drew on the local community-based capacity and knowledge acquired through community-led rural development in the three previous LEADER programmes. LEADER was included for the first time as a cross-cutting axis which was designed to contribute to the three other axes in the RDP at a local level. Axis 4 – Implementation of the LEADER approach was intended to build local capacity for employment and diversification. While contributing to the other Axes in the Programme, it also had an important role to play in improving governance and mobilising the endogenous development potential for rural areas. This LEADER approach was implemented through 7 LAGs with responsibility for allocating funding of £100m across the Axis 3 Measures (except support for rural broadband). The Measures supported a diverse range of beneficiaries and activities in rural communities (Diversification into non-agricultural activities; Business creation and development; Encouragement of tourism activities; Basic services for the economy and rural population; Village renewal and development; and Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage).

A common theme across all four generations of LEADER has been the significant contribution (including time, knowledge and experience) of the LAG members (including many who are volunteers) in assessing area needs, assessing funding applications and making recommendations for funding as well as supporting delivery of the programme in their areas. The range of measures supported has broadened over the four generations of LEADER developing to include a broad spectrum of support for rural communities.

### **Review of Public Administration**

A review of public administration has been completed within Northern Ireland with effect from 1st April 2015. This has resulted in a reduction from 26 council areas to 11 new areas. In addition to the change in boundaries, councils are also being given new devolved powers from central government for a number of functions such as community planning. Community Plans will be developed for each of the 11 council areas as part of the local government reform process. The Community plans will establish a strategy for the delivery of publicly funded economic, local and community development support at local authority or council level. The plans will come into effect from mid 2016 with a formal review mid 2018. The development of the Community Plans will provide a strong basis for the delivery of a multi fund approach through Community-led Local Development post 2020. However the main priority for the 2014-2020 funding period will be to ensure the establishment of the new council responsibilities and to ensure the coherence of the LEADER local development strategies with the community planning process.

### **LEADER approach for the 2014-2020 Programming Period**

In keeping with the evolving nature of LEADER within Northern Ireland the LEADER approach will not be restricted in the 2014-2020 funding period to specific measures and will be based on the belief that rural communities are best placed to identify and address the issues and challenges within their own areas. The SWOT and needs analysis have identified a number of challenges in rural areas which would benefit from the added value that a community-led local development approach such as LEADER would bring. In addition to the challenges identified in the SWOT and needs analysis, Government accounting rules in Northern Ireland require DAERA to complete a detailed Strategic Outline Business Case for LEADER which will set out the challenges for which the LEADER approach will deliver additional



added value and benefit for rural areas.

The outcome of this Business Case process will ensure that the Local Action Groups are provided with specific and detailed guidance from which LAGs will be asked to develop Local Development Strategies and tailored to the needs of their particular areas. This also ensures that any overlap or duplication of funding with other government funding streams will be avoided, audit and control findings and the reduction of the error rate can be taken into consideration and the RDP funds can be directed to areas of maximum benefit. The Business Case will also ensure there is coherence and complementary across all the RDP Measures and particularly in relation to M04 (Investments in Physical Assets) and M16 (Co-operation). This approach will also provide the LAGs with a degree of flexibility to manage their funds and select projects within their own areas.

### **Co-ordination between EAFRD and EMFF**

Due to the small geographical area that encompasses all of Northern Ireland's fishing dependent communities, one Local Development Strategy will be delivered by one Fisheries Local Action Group. The Local Development Strategy will be required to demonstrate how locally identified priorities will contribute to the EU 2020 strategy, Partnership Agreement, EMFF, EAFRD and other applicable domestic strategies. The Strategy will be scrutinised by the Department of Finance and Personnel to ensure there is no displacement with other ESI funds and indeed deliver additionality and complementarity to these funding programmes. Furthermore, as a result of the close proximity of the fishing communities, there is a strong local knowledge of other ongoing ESI programmes. This is reinforced with regular consultations between the NI wide Fisheries Local Action Group and the local LAGs, which mitigates the risk of duplicate funding. This level of contact will continue in the 2014 – 2020 Programme period.

### **Contribution to Focus Areas**

The measure will primarily contribute to focus areas 6A, 6B & 6C.

### **Contribution to Cross-Cutting Objectives**

Leader will primarily contribute to the cross-cutting objective of innovation through the encouragement of entrepreneurship and creativity. Innovation is likely to be demonstrated through the creation of new businesses and existing businesses undertaking a new activity. Supported projects will be required to demonstrate that their proposals will not have a detrimental or negative effect on the environment. Support for feasibility studies for the use of renewable energy will be encouraged.

The measure has the potential to contribute to the cross-cutting objectives of innovation and actions to protect the environment. Support for village plans will be assessed for environmental impact during the selection process. Innovative solutions at local community level will be supported to tackle pockets of poor accessibility and Internet speeds.

*8.2.10.3. Scope, level of support, eligible beneficiaries, and where relevant, methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate broken down by sub-measure and/or type of operation where necessary. For each type of operation specification of eligible costs, eligibility conditions, applicable amounts and support rates and principles with regard to the setting of selection criteria*

#### 8.2.10.3.1. Sub-measure 19.1 – Preparatory support.

Sub-measure:

- 19.1 - Preparatory support

##### 8.2.10.3.1.1. Description of the type of operation

The Local Action Groups (LAG) will be invited to cover the whole rural territory of Northern Ireland. This should translate to not more than eleven LAGs based on experience from previous programming periods and to ensure that the LAG is of sufficient minimum size. All LAGs will be within the confines of the Commission definition of population for a LAG (between 10,000 and 150,000). The total population figure for the rural area of Northern Ireland is 653,003. Local Development Strategies may cover all or part of the pre-defined area provided the Equality and Good Relations Statutory Duty under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act is respected.

DAERA, as Managing Authority, initiated a period of animation to engage with those in rural communities who were interested in developing rural policies for their areas. The process in Northern Ireland was wide and was supported by a comprehensive communications plan to ensure maximum engagement. All public meetings were openly promoted through local press and networks. The principles for this animation were agreed by a LAG Consultative Group formed by LAG's from members of the existing LAG's, councils and the Rural Support Networks. This group, facilitated by the Rural Network support unit, decided on and agreed the format of the animation meetings and locations, and helped facilitate at all meetings. A total of 62 meetings were held across Northern Ireland between 10 November and 16 December 2014 and the Managing Authority did not take any role in these meetings, other than to seek assurance that the process was inclusive of all sections of the community. The animation meetings culminated by bringing forward 2,067 members of the rural community who were interested in developing their communities.

This animation process was further developed through the selection in each area of a board of Rural Community Stakeholders. Nominations were invited from the 2,067 membership and a process of voting and selection was undertaken within the group. This process was facilitated by the Rural Network support unit who ensured the process was inclusive and transparent. A total of 219 rural stakeholders were selected from within their communities to develop Local Development Strategies setting out the needs for their areas.

Following this competitive process 10 area groups were established. Social partners represent 54% of the overall composition of Rural Stakeholder Boards and elected representatives 46%. This process does not preclude any stakeholder from becoming involved if they wish to throughout the programming period for either the wider Group or the Board.

The Preparatory Support from Measure 19.1 will be used to assist these rural stakeholders to receive the necessary support and training to develop strategies. Once these strategies are submitted to DAERA they will be assessed and scored. It is only at this point that each successful stakeholder group will then be constituted as a Local Action Group via a contract with the Managing Authority.

This whole process can be defined in the following stages:-

### **Stages of animation and appointment of LAG**

Stage 1 – LAG consultative group formed from existing LAGS

Stage 2 - Animation of rural areas by Rural Network Support Unit seeking expressions of interest from rural stakeholders in community development.

Stage 3 – Self selection of a board of Rural Community Stakeholders in each council area apart from Belfast.

Stage 4 – Each group of stakeholders develop a local development strategy setting out the needs for their area.

Stage 5 – Local Development Strategies assessed and scored by the Managing Authority

Stage 6 – Successful strategies awarded funding.

Stage 7 – Local Action Group formed and contract awarded.

It is hoped that the Local Development Strategies will be assessed, funding awarded and the LAGs established by August 2015.

#### 8.2.10.3.1.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Support will be provided through grant aid.

#### 8.2.10.3.1.3. Links to other legislation

- Articles 32-35 and 65-61 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013.
- Articles 65-71 of Regulation 1303/2013 (Eligibility of expenditure and durability).
- EU public procurement rules will be respected, in particular (i) Directives 2004/18/EC and 2004/17/EC, (ii) Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU, (iii) Directives 89/665/EEC and 92/13/EEC and (iv) the general public procurement principles derived from the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. Of particular relevance to Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 1305/2013 is Annex II B of Directive 2004/18/EC relating to 'education and vocational education services' where the light procedure applies.



#### 8.2.10.3.1.4. Beneficiaries

All rural stakeholders with an interest in community led local development.

#### 8.2.10.3.1.5. Eligible costs

The following costs are eligible:

- Training actions for local stakeholders.
- Studies of the area concerned, including feasibility studies for some of the projects in the local development strategies.
- Costs related to the design of the local development strategy, including consultancy costs and costs associated with the consultation with stakeholders in preparing the strategy.
- Administration costs (operating and personnel costs) of an organisation that applies for preparatory support during the preparation phase (future LAGs and existing LAGs).

#### 8.2.10.3.1.6. Eligibility conditions

Rural stakeholders involved in the animation process

#### 8.2.10.3.1.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

The selection process for the assessment of the Local Development Strategies and the appointment of the Local Action Groups will include the following:

- In developing the strategy an analysis of need including the consultation process used and an assessment of the funding gaps and synergies between existing funding streams, including funding available within the Rural Development Programme must be demonstrated.
- Contribution to Rural Development Policy Aims including contribution to cross-cutting themes of innovation, environment and climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Proposed activities are in line with the Leader Business Case
- Proposals do not duplicate other activity (whether EU, domestic or other RDP schemes)

- Proposed activities are within the eligible area
- Proposals are achievable, realistic and demonstrate value for money.
- Proposals for networking and co-operation including a description of the contribution to networking and publicity and the contribution to co-operation actions.
- Quality of the financial Plan including the description of the procedure used and details of the programme costs.
- Monitoring and evaluation including a description of the monitoring and evaluation processes and procedures to be used.

Local Development Strategies which achieve the minimum quality threshold and are successful will receive an allocation of funding based on :-

- A base line amount equal to 10% of the total available
- The rural population of the area
- Top 30% most employment deprived areas
- Multiple deprivation

80% of the total funds will be allocated with the remaining 20% of funds allocated following achievement of the implementation plan targets following a review of all strategies in 2 years time.

#### 8.2.10.3.1.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Grant aid will be provided at a 100% support rate.

#### 8.2.10.3.1.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.10.3.1.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

##### 8.2.10.3.1.9.2. Mitigating actions

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

#### 8.2.10.3.1.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

#### 8.2.10.3.1.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

#### 8.2.10.3.1.11. Information specific to the operation

Description of the obligatory community-led local development (hereafter "CLLD") elements of which the LEADER measure is composed: preparatory support, implementation of operations under the CLLD strategy, preparation and implementation of co-operation activities of the local action group (hereafter "LAG"), running costs and animation, referred to in Article 35(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Description of the use of the LEADER start-up-kit referred to in Article 43 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 as specific type of preparatory support if relevant

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Description of the system for ongoing application for LEADER co-operation projects referred to in Article 44(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

The procedure and timetable to select the local development strategies

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Justification for selection of geographical areas for local development strategy implementation whose population falls outside the limits laid down in Article 33(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Co-ordination with the other European Structural and Investment (hereafter "ESI") Funds as regards CLLD, including possible solution applied with regard to the use of the lead fund option, and any global complementarities between the ESI Funds in financing the preparatory support

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Possibility or not of paying advances

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Definition of the tasks of the Managing Authority, the paying agency and the LAGs under LEADER, in particular with regard to a non-discriminatory and transparent selection procedure and objective criteria for the selection of operations referred to in Article 34(3)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Description of co-ordination mechanisms foreseen and complementarities ensured with operations supported under other rural development measures especially as regards: investments in non-agricultural activities and business start-up aid under Article 19 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013; investments under Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013; and co-operation under Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, in particular implementation of local development strategies by public-private partnerships

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

#### 8.2.10.3.2. Sub-measure 19.2 – Implementation of operations under the community-led local development.

Sub-measure:

- 19.2 - Support for implementation of operations under the community-led local development strategy

##### 8.2.10.3.2.1. Description of the type of operation

The Community-led local development (CLLD) approach will be used to involve rural actors at local level to develop responses to the social, environmental and economic challenges of their areas. The main principles for CLLD are set out in Articles 32-35 of EU Regulation 1303/2013. In addition the complementary fund-specific rules for Rural Development, known as the LEADER approach, are set out in Articles 42 – 44 of EU Regulation 1305/2013.

The measure will involve partners at local level, including civil society and local economic actors (Local Action Groups), in designing and implementing local integrated strategies that help their area develop through smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The local development strategies (LDS) will be based on a comprehensive analysis of the development needs of each Local Action Group area and will detail how the needs of the area will be addressed using RDP funding. This ‘bottom-up’ approach provides added value by ensuring that:

- The available resources are tailored and directed at the areas of most need within the area.
- Solutions are adapted flexibly to meet the diverse needs and opportunities of the area.
- The partnership approach of the Local Action Group provides a greater sense of ownership and mobilises the knowledge, energy and resources of local rural actors.
- Generates innovation through the development of new markets, new products, services, and ways of working and social innovation.
- Local areas and communities learn from each other and linkages are strengthened between communities.

##### 8.2.10.3.2.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

The support provided to achieve the aims and objectives of the Local Development Strategies will be provided through grant aid.

Community, Voluntary and Social Economy Enterprises and public bodies may provide match funding towards eligible costs in the form of contributions in kind provided that the provisions of Article 69 (1) of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 are fulfilled.



#### 8.2.10.3.2.3. Links to other legislation

- Articles 32-35 and 65-61 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013.
- Articles 65-71 of Regulation 1303/2013 (Eligibility of expenditure and durability).
- EU public procurement rules will be respected, in particular (i) Directives 2004/18/EC and 2004/17/EC, (ii) Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU, (iii) Directives 89/665/EEC and 92/13/EEC and (iv) the general public procurement principles derived from the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. Of particular relevance to Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 1305/2013 is Annex II B of Directive 2004/18/EC relating to 'education and vocational education services' where the light procedure applies.

#### 8.2.10.3.2.4. Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of the measure include the Local Action Groups and other local actors including private investors and public authorities.

#### 8.2.10.3.2.5. Eligible costs

The eligible costs must comply with Article 45 of Regulation (EU) 1305/2013 and the following themes.

- To increase economic activity and employment rates within the wider rural economy through encouraging and supporting the creation and development of micro and smaller enterprises including on-farm diversification into non-agricultural activities and tourism.
- To maintain and improve the living conditions and general well being of rural dwellers through the provision of more, better and sustainable basic services
- To regenerate villages and their surrounding areas by improving their economic prospects, their appearance and the quality of life of village dwellers.
- To provide community based solutions to broadband black spots in rural areas.
- Projects which tackle rural poverty and social isolation, and which link into other Government and EU Strategies on poverty and isolation where this is possible.

The following should be taken into consideration in any decision to fund an operation:

- Funding should normally conform to the DAERA themes for intervention. Local Action Group (LAG) rural development strategies must also be congruent with the Council Community Plan for the relevant geographical area.
- LAGs should liaise on their linkages to all Community Plans to ensure that there is no obvious overlap in proposals for funding across Councils, particularly in boundary areas.

- Funding should not overlap or duplicate other EU and Government Programmes.
- Projects that fit with the statutory responsibilities of other Departments should not normally receive funding.
- Feasibility studies should not normally be funded unless it is clear that the study is leading to a sustainable project.
- Funding for new and enhanced rural businesses should result in the creation of new jobs.
- Funding for projects within the Basic Services Measure should normally be capital based only, and relate to activities which result in the creation of a rural hub or the enhancement of an existing rural hub that will deliver multiple services to the rural community. This includes sport related activity which must not be the core funding of a sporting organisation, and which can clearly demonstrate a community benefit.
- Any projects relating to sport must fit with DCAL's investment strategy on sport, and early engagement with DCAL and sport will be necessary.
- Monuments and wall murals will not normally be considered for funding.
- The Village Renewal Measure should normally fund both the drafting of new integrated village plans and also those projects that address rural dereliction and which prioritise reuse of existing derelict buildings to provide community infrastructure.
- Renewable energy technologies should not normally be funded.
- Rural Broadband should normally only be funded in areas that will not benefit from intervention by statutory organisations.

#### 8.2.10.3.2.6. Eligibility conditions

The following eligibility conditions apply to operations supported under the Measure:

- The operation must contribute to the aims and objectives of the Local Development Strategy of the Local Action Group.
- The operation must contribute to the objectives and priorities indicated for support within the Rural Development Programme.
- The operation must comply with the eligibility conditions of the Rural Development Regulation (1305/2013) and the Common Provisions regulation (1303/2013).

Specific eligibility rules will be defined in the LEADER operating rules and this will include rules on demarcation to ensure there is no overlap with other funding streams in order to avoid the risk of double funding.

#### 8.2.10.3.2.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

The selection criteria will be defined in the Local Development Strategy by the Local Action Group. The principles of selection will be based on the following criteria:

- Contribution to the aims and objectives of the LDS,
- Contribution to the aims and objective of the priorities outlined in the RDP,
- Government guidance on the proper handling and reporting of public money – Managing Public Money (NI) and in particular the principles of appraisal.

#### 8.2.10.3.2.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

The LAGs will be able to set the aid intensity for operations funded under the Local Development Strategies based on the degree with which the operation will contribute to the achievement of the aims of the LDS. The aid intensities will be subject to the State Aid limitations in accordance with State aid case number SA.44835 and also must not exceed the following guidelines for government intervention.

- The intervention rate must not exceed 50% for private business and 75% for Social Economy Enterprises. Where the social economy enterprise is operating a commercial, competitive business a maximum intervention rate of 50% will apply.

#### 8.2.10.3.2.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.10.3.2.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

##### 8.2.10.3.2.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

This has been covered at Measure level, not at Sub-Measure level.

#### 8.2.10.3.2.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

This has been covered at Measure level, not at Sub-Measure level.

#### 8.2.10.3.2.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

This has been covered at Measure level, not at Sub-Measure level.

#### 8.2.10.3.2.11. Information specific to the operation

Description of the obligatory community-led local development (hereafter "CLLD") elements of which the LEADER measure is composed: preparatory support, implementation of operations under the CLLD strategy, preparation and implementation of co-operation activities of the local action group (hereafter "LAG"), running costs and animation, referred to in Article 35(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Description of the use of the LEADER start-up-kit referred to in Article 43 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 as specific type of preparatory support if relevant

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Description of the system for ongoing application for LEADER co-operation projects referred to in Article 44(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

The procedure and timetable to select the local development strategies

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Justification for selection of geographical areas for local development strategy implementation whose population falls outside the limits laid down in Article 33(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Co-ordination with the other European Structural and Investment (hereafter "ESI") Funds as regards CLLD, including possible solution applied with regard to the use of the lead fund option, and any global complementarities between the ESI Funds in financing the preparatory support

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Possibility or not of paying advances

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Definition of the tasks of the Managing Authority, the paying agency and the LAGs under LEADER, in particular with regard to a non-discriminatory and transparent selection procedure and objective criteria for the selection of operations referred to in Article 34(3)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Description of co-ordination mechanisms foreseen and complementarities ensured with operations supported under other rural development measures especially as regards: investments in non-agricultural activities and business start-up aid under Article 19 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013; investments under Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013; and co-operation under Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, in particular implementation of local development strategies by public-private partnerships

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

### 8.2.10.3.3. Sub-measure 19.3 - Preparation and co-operation activities of the local action group.

Sub-measure:

- 19.3 - Preparation and implementation of cooperation activities of the local action

#### 8.2.10.3.3.1. Description of the type of operation

When developing their local development strategies, LAGs will be encouraged to identify issues or sectors which could benefit from interterritorial or transnational cooperation. Interterritorial cooperation is defined as cooperation within the UK and transnational cooperation is defined as cooperation with other Member States.

The following cooperation activities are relevant to the Measure:

- To increase economic activity and employment rates within the wider rural economy through encouraging and supporting the creation and development of micro and smaller enterprises including on-farm diversification into non-agricultural activities and tourism.
- To maintain and improve the living conditions and general well being of rural dwellers through the provision of more, better and sustainable basic services
- To regenerate villages and their surrounding areas by improving their economic prospects, their appearance and the quality of life of village dwellers.
- To provide community based solutions to broadband black spots in rural areas.
- Projects which tackle rural poverty and social isolation, and which link into other Government and EU Strategies on poverty and isolation where this is possible.

#### 8.2.10.3.3.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Support will be provided through grant aid.

Community, Voluntary and Social Economy Enterprises and public bodies may provide match funding towards eligible costs in the form of contributions in kind provided that the provisions of Article 69 (1) of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 are fulfilled.

#### 8.2.10.3.3.3. Links to other legislation

- Articles 32-35 and 65-61 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013.

- Articles 65-71 of Regulation 1303/2013 (Eligibility of expenditure and durability).
- EU public procurement rules will be respected, in particular (i) Directives 2004/18/EC and 2004/17/EC, (ii) Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU, (iii) Directives 89/665/EEC and 92/13/EEC and (iv) the general public procurement principles derived from the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. Of particular relevance to Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 1305/2013 is Annex II B of Directive 2004/18/EC relating to 'education and vocational education services' where the light procedure applies.

#### 8.2.10.3.3.4. Beneficiaries

The following beneficiaries are eligible:

- Local Actors.
- Local Action Groups.

#### 8.2.10.3.3.5. Eligible costs

The following costs are eligible:

- Preparatory technical support costs for both inter-territorial and transnational co-operation projects e.g.
  - venue hire
  - travel and subsistence
  - publicity
  - accommodation
  - translation/interpreters' fees
  - feasibility studies
- Costs of implementation of co-operation projects for both inter-territorial and transnational co-operation projects.

Eligible costs for co-operation will be in accordance with Articles 45 & 60-61 of Regulation (EU) 1305/2013 and Articles 65-71 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013.

The following should be taken into consideration in any decision to fund an operation:

- Funding should normally conform to the DAERA themes for intervention. Local Action Group (LAG) rural development strategies must also be congruent with the Council Community Plan for the relevant geographical area.
- LAGs should liaise on their linkages to all Community Plans to ensure that there is no obvious overlap in proposals for funding across Councils, particularly in boundary areas.

- Funding should not overlap or duplicate other EU and Government Programmes.
- Projects that fit with the statutory responsibilities of other Departments should not normally receive funding.
- Feasibility studies should not normally be funded unless it is clear that the study is leading to a sustainable project.
- Funding for new and enhanced rural businesses should result in the creation of new jobs.
- Funding for projects within the Basic Services Measure should normally be capital based only, and relate to activities which result in the creation of a rural hub or the enhancement of an existing rural hub that will deliver multiple services to the rural community. This includes sport related activity which must not be core funding of a sporting organisation, and which can clearly demonstrate a community benefit.
- Any projects relating to sport must fit with DCAL's investment strategy on sport, and early engagement with DCAL and sport will be necessary
- Monuments and wall murals will not normally be considered for funding.
- The Village Renewal Measure should normally fund both the drafting of new integrated village plans and also those projects that address rural dereliction and which prioritise reuse of existing derelict buildings to provide community infrastructure.
- Renewable energy technologies should not normally be funded.
- Rural Broadband should normally only be funded in areas that will not benefit from intervention by statutory organisations.
- A number of North/South co-operation projects across LAGs and Leader Groups should be available for assessment within the first 18 months of the Programme commencing.

#### 8.2.10.3.3.6. Eligibility conditions

##### Preparatory Support

To receive preparatory technical support LAGs will have to provide evidence of project development and networking with partners to show that they envisage the implementation of a project which contributes to the aims and objectives of the local Development Strategy of the Local Action Group.

##### Project Implementation

The following eligibility conditions apply to operations supported under the Measure:

- The operation must contribute to the aims and objectives of the Local Development Strategy of the Local Action Group.
- The operation must contribute to the objectives and priorities indicated for support within the Rural Development Programme.
- Cooperation must involve at least one LAG selected under the 2014-2020 RDP and at least one other public-private partnership and should involve the implementation of a joint action.
- The operation must comply with the eligibility conditions of the Rural Development Regulation (1305/2013) and the Common Provisions regulation (1303/2013).



Specific eligibility rules will be defined in the LEADER operating rules and this will include rules on demarcation to ensure there is no overlap with other funding streams in order to avoid the risk of double funding.

#### 8.2.10.3.3.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

The selection criteria will be based on a documented assessment process using consistent and relevant criteria which will be defined in the Local Development Strategy by the Local Action Group. The principles of selection will be based on the following criteria:

- Contribution to the aims and objectives of the LDS,
- Contribution to the aims and objective of the priorities outlined in the RDP,
- Government guidance on the proper handling and reporting of public money – Managing Public Money (NI) and in particular the principles of appraisal.

Supplementary selection guidance will be developed by the Managing Authority to support the selection process and this will be incorporated in the LEADER operational manual.

#### 8.2.10.3.3.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

The LAGs will be able to set the aid intensity for operations funded under the Local Development Strategies based on the degree with which the operation will contribute to the achievement of the aims of the LDS. The aid intensities will be subject to the State Aid limitations and must not exceed the following guidelines for government intervention.

- Preparatory support for the development of a project will be funded at 100%.
- The support rate for the implementation of cooperation projects must not exceed 50% for private business and 75% for Social Economy Enterprises. Where the social economy enterprise is operating a commercial, competitive business a maximum intervention rate of 50% will apply.

#### 8.2.10.3.3.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.10.3.3.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

##### 8.2.10.3.3.9.2. Mitigating actions

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

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**8.2.10.3.3.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure**

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level
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**8.2.10.3.3.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant**

Not relevant.
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**8.2.10.3.3.11. Information specific to the operation**

Description of the obligatory community-led local development (hereafter "CLLD") elements of which the LEADER measure is composed: preparatory support, implementation of operations under the CLLD strategy, preparation and implementation of co-operation activities of the local action group (hereafter "LAG"), running costs and animation, referred to in Article 35(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level
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Description of the use of the LEADER start-up-kit referred to in Article 43 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 as specific type of preparatory support if relevant

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level
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Description of the system for ongoing application for LEADER co-operation projects referred to in Article 44(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level
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The procedure and timetable to select the local development strategies

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level
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Justification for selection of geographical areas for local development strategy implementation whose population falls outside the limits laid down in Article 33(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level
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Co-ordination with the other European Structural and Investment (hereafter "ESI") Funds as regards CLLD, including possible solution applied with regard to the use of the lead fund option, and any global complementarities between the ESI Funds in financing the preparatory support

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Possibility or not of paying advances

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Definition of the tasks of the Managing Authority, the paying agency and the LAGs under LEADER, in particular with regard to a non-discriminatory and transparent selection procedure and objective criteria for the selection of operations referred to in Article 34(3)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Description of co-ordination mechanisms foreseen and complementarities ensured with operations supported under other rural development measures especially as regards: investments in non-agricultural activities and business start-up aid under Article 19 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013; investments under Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013; and co-operation under Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, in particular implementation of local development strategies by public-private partnerships

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

#### 8.2.10.3.4. Sub-measure 19.4 – Running costs and animation.

Sub-measure:

- 19.4 - Support for running costs and animation

##### 8.2.10.3.4.1. Description of the type of operation

Local Action Groups will play an important part in the delivery of support to rural areas. The Local Action Group will be responsible for the administration and financial management for the implementation of the integrated area based strategies. Another important element of the Local Action Groups' work will be animation activities within their areas. These activities will include informing, advising, training, capacity building and to specifically work with the target rural communities to develop and test ideas and to overcome difficulties during project development.

This sub-measure will support the running costs linked to the management of the implementation of the local development strategy. It will also support the animation of the local development strategy through facilitating exchanges between stakeholders to provide information and to promote the strategy. Animation activities will also support potential beneficiaries to develop potential projects and to prepare applications.

##### 8.2.10.3.4.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Support will be provided through grant aid.

##### 8.2.10.3.4.3. Links to other legislation

- Articles 32-35 and 65-61 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013.
- Articles 65-71 of Regulation 1303/2013 (Eligibility of expenditure and durability).

EU public procurement rules will be respected, in particular (i) Directives 2004/18/EC and 2004/17/EC, (ii) Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU, (iii) Directives 89/665/EEC and 92/13/EEC and (iv) the general public procurement principles derived from the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. Of particular relevance to Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 1305/2013 is Annex II B of Directive 2004/18/EC relating to 'education and vocational education services' where the light procedure applies.

##### 8.2.10.3.4.4. Beneficiaries

The following beneficiaries are eligible:

- Running costs – LAGs or the legal structures entitled to carry out the LAG administrative and

financial management tasks.

- Animation – LAGs or the structures charged with the animation tasks.

#### 8.2.10.3.4.5. Eligible costs

The following running costs are eligible:

- Costs linked to the management of the implementation of the local development strategy e.g.
  - operating costs,
  - personnel costs,
  - training costs,
  - communication costs,
  - financial costs, and
  - the costs associated with the monitoring and evaluation of the strategy.

The following animation costs are eligible:

- Costs of animation of the local development strategy,
- Costs to facilitate the exchange of information between stakeholders,
- Costs to provide information and promote the strategy,
- Costs required to support potential beneficiaries to develop potential projects and to prepare applications.

#### 8.2.10.3.4.6. Eligibility conditions

Not applicable

#### 8.2.10.3.4.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Not applicable

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8.2.10.3.4.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Grant aid will be provided at a 100% support rate.
Support for running costs and animation must not exceed 22% of the total public expenditure incurred within the Local Development Strategy.

8.2.10.3.4.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.10.3.4.9.1. *Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures*

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level
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8.2.10.3.4.9.2. *Mitigating actions*

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level
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8.2.10.3.4.9.3. *Overall assessment of the measure*

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level
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8.2.10.3.4.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level
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8.2.10.3.4.11. Information specific to the operation

Description of the obligatory community-led local development (hereafter "CLLD") elements of which the LEADER measure is composed: preparatory support, implementation of operations under the CLLD strategy, preparation and implementation of co-operation activities of the local action group (hereafter "LAG"), running costs and animation, referred to in Article 35(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level
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Description of the use of the LEADER start-up-kit referred to in Article 43 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 as specific type of preparatory support if relevant

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Description of the system for ongoing application for LEADER co-operation projects referred to in Article 44(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

The procedure and timetable to select the local development strategies

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Justification for selection of geographical areas for local development strategy implementation whose population falls outside the limits laid down in Article 33(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Co-ordination with the other European Structural and Investment (hereafter "ESI") Funds as regards CLLD, including possible solution applied with regard to the use of the lead fund option, and any global complementarities between the ESI Funds in financing the preparatory support

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Possibility or not of paying advances

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Definition of the tasks of the Managing Authority, the paying agency and the LAGs under LEADER, in particular with regard to a non-discriminatory and transparent selection procedure and objective criteria for the selection of operations referred to in Article 34(3)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

Description of co-ordination mechanisms foreseen and complementarities ensured with operations supported under other rural development measures especially as regards: investments in non-agricultural activities and business start-up aid under Article 19 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013; investments under Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013; and co-operation under Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, in particular implementation of local development strategies by public-private partnerships

This has been covered at Measure level not at Sub-Measure level

#### 8.2.10.4. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

##### 8.2.10.4.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

An assessment of the proposed activities for the measure identified the following potential main root causes of error as defined in the Commission Staff Working Document SWD(2013) 244 final.

1. Root Cause 9 - Deficiencies in procedures to process beneficiaries' payment request (administrative perspective). The risk is that LAG administration staff do not operate an organised administration system with the necessary checks and controls in place to ensure the accuracy of beneficiary claims processed for grant payments and eligibility for EU and National funding. There is also a risk in ensuring that the proposed expenditure is assessed for state aid compliance.
2. Root Cause 12 – incorrect system of checks and deficient administrative procedures. The risk is in relation to the broad range of activities that can be funded under the measures.
3. Root Cause 13 - Tendering procedures applied by private beneficiaries (beneficiary perspective). The risk is that the beneficiary does not implement the agreed tendering procedures and therefore fails to obtain value for money in the use of public funds and equality of opportunity for suppliers and service providers.
4. Root Cause 14 – Non-eligible expenditure and the system of reduction applied due to the diverse range of activities which are likely to be supported under the measure. The risk is that the beneficiary does not comply with the terms and conditions of the Letter of Offer or modifies the agreed project without prior approval of the administration unit resulting in ineligible expenditure.
5. Root Cause 15 - Handling of payment claims by beneficiaries (beneficiary perspective). The risk is that the beneficiary does not follow the guidance provided or understands the implications for inaccurate claims, resulting in ineligible expenditure claimed, reduced or nil grant payments due to penalties.

##### 8.2.10.4.2. Mitigating actions

###### Mitigating Actions:

The following mitigating actions will be implemented to address the risks identified:

1. A review of the results of management re-performance and on-the-spot checks from the 2007-2013 programming period and revision of the procedures to implement lessons learnt.
2. Completion of Fraud Risk Assessments on each scheme implemented.
3. The provision of clear operating rules for administration units including requirements for determining eligible expenditure, supporting evidence requirements for claims and procurement rules and project modification procedures in order to complete the administrative check.



4. The provision of training for administration staff on claim, procurement and state aid procedures and follow up support as necessary.
5. The Letter of Offer to the beneficiary to detail all eligible expenditure, procurement requirements and conditions for modification of projects.
6. The administration unit to discuss the Letter of Offer with the beneficiary and the completion of a statement (authorised by both parties) specifying the procurement, implementation and expenditure requirements specific to the project to be met.
7. The procedures for the beneficiaries to be simplified as much as possible, particularly for community groups and social economy enterprises.
8. Use of advance payments for community groups and social enterprises to improve cash flow.
9. To make available information and advice to beneficiaries specifying the documentation and level of detail required as evidence of project expenditure and reasonableness of costs.
10. Management re-performance checks and on the spot checks to be carried out on claims processed prior to release for payment to identify residual errors.

#### 8.2.10.4.3. Overall assessment of the measure

##### Overall Assessment

An analysis of the errors and non-compliances in the implementation of similar measures in the 2007-2013 Rural Development Programme indicates that procedures for both the beneficiary and administration units are generally sufficient to limit ineligible expenditure. However procedures will be subject to a full review prior to implementation to take account of lessons learnt from previous programming periods. The mitigating actions detailed above address the following recommended corrective and preventative actions:

- Corrective and preventative Action 1 – training for administration staff on the procedures to process payments to beneficiaries, systems for checking the reasonableness of costs and prices procurement rules and the handling of payment claims.
- Corrective and preventative Action 2 – information and advice for beneficiaries on public procurement rules, eligible investment expenditure under the measure and the completion of payment claims.
- Corrective and preventative Action 3 – information and guidance documents for administration units and beneficiaries on public procurement best practice, identification of non-eligible costs and one to one advice at Letter of Offer agreement stage.
- Corrective and preventative Action 4 – improvement of IT tools to improve the access and availability of information for beneficiaries and to prevent errors.
- Corrective and preventative Action 7 – improving internal control and coordination procedures through reviewing the results of management re-performance checks, on-the-spot checks, audit

recommendations and the review of procedures and forms.

Following consideration of the mitigating actions and the corrective and preventative actions the Managing Authority and Paying Agency have assessed the error rate for the measure as **low**.

#### *8.2.10.5. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant*

An established principle within Northern Ireland Government Accounting Guidance for grant support to the private sector is that Government/Public assistance should be matched equally by the private sector investment. The support to the private sector is therefore capped at 50% of the eligible costs.

Voluntary or community sectors are also expected to contribute according to their ability to do so. The maximum assistance of up to 75% of the eligible costs reflects an increased difficulty of project cash-flow and the ability of some voluntary or community sectors to access match funding

However, where a voluntary/community group proposes which would be competing with other private sector providers, the 50% maximum grant-aid rule will apply, even though the promoting organisation may be a voluntary/community group.

#### *8.2.10.6. Information specific to the measure*

Description of the obligatory community-led local development (hereafter "CLLD") elements of which the LEADER measure is composed: preparatory support, implementation of operations under the CLLD strategy, preparation and implementation of co-operation activities of the local action group (hereafter "LAG"), running costs and animation, referred to in Article 35(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

DAERA is proposing to use all of the various elements of support under LEADER.

Description of the use of the LEADER start-up-kit referred to in Article 43 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 as specific type of preparatory support if relevant

Not relevant

Description of the system for ongoing application for LEADER co-operation projects referred to in Article 44(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

This will be defined in the LEADER operational manual.

The procedure and timetable to select the local development strategies

Detailed in the general description of sub-measure 19.1.

Justification for selection of geographical areas for local development strategy implementation whose population falls outside the limits laid down in Article 33(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

Not relevant.

Co-ordination with the other European Structural and Investment (hereafter "ESI") Funds as regards CLLD, including possible solution applied with regard to the use of the lead fund option, and any global complementarities between the ESI Funds in financing the preparatory support

Not relevant.

Possibility or not of paying advances

Advances will only be used for Community, Voluntary and Social Economy Enterprises which are not engaged in an economic activity and who would not otherwise be able to access the capital to commence implementation of their project. The conditions for the use of advances are specified within the operating rules and will be in compliance with Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 and Article 63 of Regulation (EU) No. 1305/2013.

Definition of the tasks of the Managing Authority, the paying agency and the LAGs under LEADER, in particular with regard to a non-discriminatory and transparent selection procedure and objective criteria for the selection of operations referred to in Article 34(3)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

The specific role and functions of the LAG will include:

- building the capacity of local actors to develop and implement operations including fostering their project management capabilities;
- drawing up a transparent selection procedure which avoid conflicts of interest, and within which at least 51 % of the votes in selection decisions are cast by partners which are not public authorities;
- ensuring coherence with the local development strategy when selecting operations, by prioritising

those operations according to their contribution to meeting that strategy's objectives and targets;

- preparing and publishing calls for proposals or an ongoing project submission procedure, including defining selection criteria, and receiving and assessing applications for support;
- selecting operations and fixing the amount of support and, where relevant, presenting the proposals to the body responsible for final verification of eligibility before approval;
- monitoring the implementation of the local development strategy and the operations supported and carrying out specific evaluation activities linked to that strategy.

The Managing Authority will approve the LAGs and manage claims related to the delivery of their LDS's, and the Paying agency will ensure that payments are made in accordance with the relevant control framework.

Description of co-ordination mechanisms foreseen and complementarities ensured with operations supported under other rural development measures especially as regards: investments in non-agricultural activities and business start-up aid under Article 19 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013; investments under Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013; and co-operation under Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, in particular implementation of local development strategies by public-private partnerships

The Department in developing the LEADER schemes has ensured co-ordination and complementarity with other operations supported under other measures of the Rural Development Programme. Furthermore the LAG's under LEADER will be required to develop a Local Rural Development Strategy giving due cognisance to their areas over arching community plan.

*8.2.10.7. Other important remarks relevant to understand and implement the measure*

N/A

## 9. EVALUATION PLAN

### 9.1. Objectives and purpose

A statement of the objectives and purpose of the evaluation plan, based on ensuring that sufficient and appropriate evaluation activities are undertaken, in particular to provide information needed for programme steering, for the annual implementation reports in 2017 and 2019 and the ex-post evaluation, and to ensure that data needed for RDP evaluation are available.

The evaluation plan describes the strategy for conducting evaluation of the Rural Development Programme for Northern Ireland (RDP) 2014 – 2020.

The primary purpose of the evaluation plan is to ensure that monitoring and evaluation activities undertaken during the programming period provide a basis for demonstrating the impact of the RDP and enable the programme to be reviewed and, where appropriate, modified or changed to reflect lessons learned from delivery.

Evaluation activity needs to be both sufficient and appropriate. In particular, it is important that:

- Monitoring and reporting data is available to support interim and final assessments of the progress of the programme, in particular supporting the Annual Implementation Reports (AIRs), enhanced AIRs in 2017 and 2019 and ex-post evaluation.
- Data required for evaluation is provided at relevant intervals and in the most appropriate format.
- Sufficient evidence is collated to determine whether interventions funded through the programme are achieving their intended purpose.

The evidence resulting from evaluation activities is used to both steer the 2014-2020 programme and inform development of future programmes. Four main types of monitoring and evaluation activity will be undertaken to enable this:

- Monitoring of spend and achievement of outputs for each measure.
- Monitoring changes in context, result and impact indicators.
- Evaluation of the impact of RDP interventions to ensure they meet their intended socio-economic and environmental objectives.
- Evaluation of delivery processes to ensure resources are being used as efficiently as possible.

The RDP evaluation plan considers all elements of the system within which evaluation activities take place. These include:

- Describing the framework of governance necessary for oversight and ownership of programme evaluation;
- The roles and responsibilities of those involved;
- The mechanisms for capturing data within the operational databases and IT systems to enable

reporting on key evaluation metrics

- A high level summary of evaluation activities planned under each priority and focus area during the programming period;
- The mechanisms through which the results and conclusions of these activities will be communicated to relevant audiences.

The plan constitutes the activities the Managing Authority considers to be practically deliverable within the timeframe of programme delivery and the resources available.

## **9.2. Governance and coordination**

Brief description of the monitoring and evaluation arrangements for the RDP, identifying the main bodies involved and their responsibilities. Explanation of how evaluation activities are linked with RDP implementation in terms of content and timing.

### **Managing Authority**

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has overall responsibility for drawing up an effective and deliverable plan for monitoring and evaluation of the 2014-2020 programme. This includes:

- Ensuring that effective systems are in place for programme management and for use in reporting activity.
- Ensuring that IT systems capture requisite indicator data as required by the Commission in the AIRs, enhanced AIRs and ex-post evaluation.
- Ensuring the quality of programme implementation through the monitoring of indicators.
- Commissioning evaluations, including the ex-post evaluation of the programme and other regular evaluations aimed at understanding the impact of the programme as required by the Commission.
- Ensuring that the products of evaluation are disseminated in a timely manner to the appropriate stakeholders.
- Establishing a monitoring committee and providing a secretariat to it.
- Ensuring appropriate guidance, resources and support are available to support evaluation of the programme.
- Developing a performance framework on environment and climate change objectives to include how rural development measures have provided support for climate change adaptation and resilience.

### **Programme Monitoring Committee**

A programme Monitoring Committee will be established by the Department in accordance with Article 47 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1303/2013.

The 2014-2020 RDP Monitoring Committee will be responsible for overseeing the effective implementation of the programme in accordance with Article 49 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1303/2013.

The Monitoring Committee will:

- Provide high level oversight of programme delivery as determined by assessment of evaluation findings.
- Ensure programme evaluation activities are managed efficiently and effectively to provide the best value-for-money.
- Approve and provide feedback on the AIRs before they are sent to the Commission.
- Review progress on key output and result indicators.
- Monitor high level evaluation activities and outputs and provide recommendations to the Managing Authority on programme implementation and evaluation.
- Recommend potential evaluation activities to be undertaken during the programme period.

### **Delivery Bodies**

Delivery bodies will be responsible for collating data for their areas of responsibility. They will also have responsibility for ensuring the data are quality assured and consistent with the needs of the Managing Authority and the Commission. They will have a role in providing the Managing Authority with regular progress updates for discussion at the PMC. They will also provide advice and support on monitoring and evaluation activity

### **Local Action Groups**

The LAGS will have direct responsibility for collecting monitoring and evaluation data from beneficiaries. The LAGs will also be responsible for project monitoring and evaluation and operation of databases and reporting systems. These data will be reported to delivery bodies and managing authority in accordance with Commission guidelines.

The Managing Authority will work with LAGs to disseminate Commission guidelines on self-evaluation and promote a consistent approach for evaluating the impacts of LEADER. DAERA will consider how it evaluates the LEADER approach as part of the Enhanced AIRs submitted to the Commission in 2017 and 2019.

The Rural Network will have a key role in sharing and disseminating the results of monitoring and evaluation (and potentially in promoting engagement with M&E) as set out in the Rural Development Regulation. This function will therefore be reflected in the Communications Plan for the Programme and in the Action Plan(s) of the NRN.

### **Other data providers (including arms length bodies, academic research groups, other**

**governmental committees, governmental research groups, think tanks, special interest groups, etc.)**

These bodies will have no direct responsibility for monitoring and evaluating the 2014-2020 RDP. However they may be represented on the Monitoring Committee, and their research and data may be relevant to the overall evaluation aims and objectives of the programme. The Managing Authority will draw on a broad range of knowledge and expertise from both key external stakeholders, policy leads within DAERA, and the main delivery partners and will advise on the range of monitoring and evaluation activities planned for the programme. Much of the actual monitoring and evaluation activity will be undertaken by the programme evaluators, with DAERA overseeing and coordinating this activity.

Whilst resource has been put in place to ensure that monitoring needs will be well captured through the future IT systems, there may be a need to contract in specialist advice on certain elements of monitoring and evaluation. It is envisaged that contracted advice would be more likely to support the evaluation of impact indicators or wider evaluation activities more so than output or result indicators. The programme evaluators will assist in quality assurance of the work of external evaluations. The results from the monitoring and evaluation activities will be reported to the Monitoring Committee which will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the RDP. This information will help inform decisions by the Managing Authority over changes to the programme and/or the delivery of the programme.

In addition, the results from the monitoring and evaluation activities will be reported to the ESI Core Implementing Group (CIG) which will take a clear role in identifying and resolving issues which affect more than one ESI Fund in Northern Ireland.

### **Lessons learned from the 2007-2013 Rural Development Programme**

The operational databases used in the current programme have been expanded during the programme period, resulting in them becoming difficult to manage over time. Similarly, access to these databases has often been limited and the data contained in them has not always been aligned well with the reporting requirements of the Managing Authority and the evaluators.

The Department of Finance has commissioned a new EU Structural Funds Computer System with a revised Statement of Requirements. It is anticipated that the new system will be implemented in time for the new RDP. Policy teams have been engaging with the design of the system which will ensure that key metrics required by the Commission, for example for reporting on indicators in the AIRs, are automatically captured in the new operational databases aiming to reduce the burden of data collection on beneficiaries, whilst recognising the crucial role this data plays in informing the effectiveness of policy interventions.

In the previous programme DAERA established a contract for ongoing evaluation with the NI Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). NISRA is the principal source of official statistics and social research in Northern Ireland. Their statistics and research inform public policy and associated debate in the wider society. They are therefore ideally placed to act as programme evaluators with a breadth and depth of knowledge and experience of the programme and the wider European issues which enables them to provide ongoing support and advice to the Managing Authority. The contract with NISRA was reviewed on an annual basis and found to be a very positive element of the 2007-2013 programme and on that basis it is proposed to make the same arrangements for the 2014-2020 programme.

For the current programme a detailed monitoring and evaluation plan is being written in conjunction with NISRA which will be finished by the start of the new programme and will be distributed to everyone



involved in monitoring and evaluation. It will include information on data collection, the intervention logic, strategy, methodology, quality assurance and communication.

### **Link of evaluation activities with RDP implementation**

Whilst resource has been put in place to ensure that monitoring needs will be well captured through the future IT systems, there may be need to contract in specialist advice on certain elements of monitoring and evaluation. It is envisaged that contracted advice would be more likely to support the evaluation of impact indicators or wider “evaluation activities” more so than output or result indicators. The programme evaluators will assist in quality assurance of the work of external evaluations.

The results from the monitoring and evaluation activities will be reported to the Monitoring Committee which will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the RDP. This information will help inform recommendations by the Monitoring Committee to the Managing Authority over changes to the programme and/or the delivery of the programme.

In addition, the results from the monitoring and evaluation activities will be reported to the ESI European Union Steering Group (EUSG) which will take a clear role in identifying and resolving issues which affect more than one ESI Fund in Northern Ireland, and would help the Managing Authorities retain a focus on the results we hope these Funds can achieve. In addition to monitoring activity directly related to rural development, monitoring and evaluation work will also be undertaken across all European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds to demonstrate how the funds are collectively contributing towards meeting the targets set under the Partnership Agreement (PA), including EU 2020 targets.

A set of indicators that contribute to the thematic objectives for Europe 2020 have been included in the Partnership Agreement (PA) for Northern Ireland and the monitoring and evaluation activity will report on the small number of indicators relating specifically to RDP.

Once changes to the programme have been agreed, either operational decisions by the Managing Authority or strategic decisions from the EUSG they will be implemented by the relevant delivery partner. This will feed back to the Programme Evaluators where decisions will be taken over whether these changes require further monitoring and evaluation in the future.

### **9.3. Evaluation topics and activities**

Indicative description of evaluation topics and activities anticipated, including, but not limited to, fulfilment of evaluation requirements provided for in Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013. It shall cover: (a) activities needed to evaluate the contribution of each RDP Union priority as referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 to the rural development objectives laid down in Article 4 of that Regulation, assessment of result and impact indicator values, analysis of net effects, thematic issues, including sub-programmes, cross-cutting issues, national rural network, contribution of CLLD strategies; (b) planned support for evaluation at LAG level; (c) programme specific elements such as work needed to develop methodologies or to address specific policy areas.

### **The Programme Objectives**

The three main objectives for support within this programming period, as identified by the SWOT and

needs assessment are:

- Objective 1: The competitiveness of agriculture (Priorities 1, 2 and 3)
- Objective 2: The Sustainable Management of Resources and Climate Actions (Priorities 4 and 5)
- Objective 3 – Territorial Development of Rural Areas (Priority 6)

Three key cross-cutting themes have also been identified: 1) Climate change adaptation and mitigation, 2) innovation and 3) environmental performance.

### **Evaluation strategy**

The evaluation strategy has the following aims:

- Preparing and following suitable, efficient and robust process and impact evaluation methodologies.
- Assessment of changes in the context in which the programme takes place (using common and programme specific indicators).
- Assessment of the extent to which different interventions contribute towards change in impact indicators.
- Assessment of cross-cutting impacts and synergies between activities.
- Assessment of progress in integrating EAFRD to support territorial development in rural areas.
- Assessment of RDP impacts (net effects) to the CAP general objectives (impact indicators), the EU 2020 objectives and cross cutting issues (e.g. innovation, environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation).
- Assessment of efficiency in the programme's administration and management.
- Providing conclusions and recommendations in relation to programme steering.

### **Major evaluation topics**

#### **Common Evaluation Questions**

- P1A - To what extent have RDP interventions supported innovation, cooperation and the development of the knowledge base in rural areas?
- P1B - To what extent have RDP interventions supported the strengthening of links between agriculture, food production and forestry and research and innovation, including for the purpose of improved environmental management and performance?
- P1C - To what extent have RDP interventions supported lifelong learning and vocational training in the agriculture and forestry sectors?

- P2A - To what extent have RDP interventions contributed to improving the economic performance, restructuring and modernisation of supported farms in particular through increasing their market participation and agricultural diversification?
- P3A - To what extent have RDP interventions contributed to improving the competitiveness of supported primary producers by better integrating them into the agri-food chain through quality schemes, adding value to the agricultural products, promoting local markets and short supply circuits, producer groups and inter-branch organisation?
- P4 - To what extent have RDP interventions supported the restoration, preservation and enhancement of biodiversity including in Natura 2000 areas, areas facing natural or other specific constraints and HNV farming, and the state of European landscape?
- P4 - To what extent have RDP interventions supported the improvement of water management, including fertiliser and pesticide management?
- P4 - To what extent have RDP interventions supported the prevention of soil erosion and improvement of soil management?
- P5E To what extent have RDP interventions supported carbon conservation and sequestration in agriculture and forestry?
- P6B To what extent have RDP interventions supported local development in rural areas?
- P6C To what extent have RDP interventions enhanced the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies (ICT) in rural areas?
- Operational performance - To what extent have the synergies among priorities and focus areas enhanced the effectiveness of the RDP?
- Technical assistance - To what extent has technical assistance contributed to achieving the objectives laid down in Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, Art. 59?
- NRNs - To what extent has the national rural network contributed to achieving the objectives laid down in Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, Art 54(2)?
- EU2020 target headlines
  - To what extent has the RDP contributed to achieving the EU 2020 headline target of raising the employment rate of the population aged 20-64 to at least 75%?
  - To what extent has the RDP contributed to achieving the EU2020 headline target of investing 3% of EU's GDP in R&D and innovation?
  - To what extent has the RDP contributed to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to achieving the EU 2020 headline target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% compared to 1990 levels, or by 30% if the conditions are right, to increasing the share of renewable energy in final energy consumption to 20%, and achieving 20% increase in energy efficiency?

- To what extent has the RDP contributed to achieving the EU 2020 headline target of reducing the number of Europeans living below the national poverty line?
- To what extent has the RDP contributed to improving the environment and to achieving the EU Biodiversity strategy target of halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services, and to restore them?
- CAP objectives
  - To what extent has the RDP contributed to the CAP objective of fostering the competitiveness of agriculture?
  - To what extent has the RDP contributed to the CAP objective of ensuring sustainable management of natural resources and climate action?
  - To what extent has the RDP contributed to the CAP objective of achieving a balanced territorial development of rural economies and communities including the creation and maintenance of employment?
  - To what extent has the RDP contributed to fostering innovation?

#### **Additional topics specific to Northern Ireland**

- Analysis of uptake profile according to Section 75 Equality categories.
- Assessment of impact of targeting of underrepresented section 75 groups.

#### **Major evaluation activities**

- Ongoing analysis of uptake and management data.
- Targeted data collection to enable exploration of complex outcomes at different scales, in order to explore impacts on and behavioural changes (e.g. intentions/attitudes) of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries (to provide a counterfactual data set). Activities may include representative surveys of beneficiaries.
- Ad hoc evaluations may also be required at various stages of the programme. The Managing Authority and delivery bodies will, therefore, need to ensure there is flexibility to support such projects.

### **9.4. Data and information**

Brief description of the system to record, maintain, manage and report statistical information on RDP implementation and provision of monitoring data for evaluation. Identification of data sources to be used, data gaps, potential institutional issues related to data provision, and proposed solutions. This section should demonstrate that appropriate data management systems will be operational in due time.

## **Lessons learned from the previous programme**

The Managing Authority obtained management information by submitting requests to the delivery bodies, however at times data was not received in a timely manner.

### Current system

The current EU database system (called System 2007) is an inter-Departmental database used by DAERA, SEUPB, DEL & DETI for the recording, processing, monitoring and reporting of applicants seeking EU grant funding under EAFRD & SF for 2007-2013.

While the existing system for 2007-2013 is fit for purpose, there are additional requirements for the 2014–2020 round which have resulted in changes to the specification as set out below:

- E-cohesion interface with beneficiaries - Member States have to ensure that all exchanges of information between beneficiaries and Managing Authorities / Certifying Authorities / Audit Authorities / intermediate bodies can be carried out by means of data exchange systems.
- Thematic Objectives linked to Programme Priorities.
- Thematic Objectives are sub-divided into Investment Priorities and Investment Priorities are further divided into key actions. This structure will need to be represented in the database to allow reporting at these levels.
- Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI) Community-led local development (CLLD) Joint Action Plans (JAP) - possible structures which may be used by Managing Authority to organise programmes and which will require data capture and reporting.
- Multi-funded projects (projects benefitting from more than one Structural Fund)
- Simplified methodologies - Article 67 of Regulation (EU) No.1303/2013 Common Provisions Regulation encourages the use of simplified methodologies.
- Transparency Report - There is already an obligation to produce an annual report listing all beneficiaries of EU funding. The data to be published post 2014 is to be extended as outlined in Regulation (EU) No.1303/2013 Common Provisions Regulation, and the report is to be updated every three months.
- Indicators – Output, results, performance framework. There are additional ‘core’ indicators attached to the fund-specific regulations which must be reported on and linked to their Commission ID numbers, as well as the indicators chosen at OP level. The indicators chosen for the performance framework will need to be specifically identified in the database, with baseline figures and milestones for mid-term review as well as end-programme targets.

The support contract awarded to the suppliers for the 2007-13 system cannot be extended beyond 2018 and under the terms of procurement there is no possibility to adapt the existing system for new programmes. For the period 2014–2018 both systems will be operational with the 2007-2013 system retaining data for that programming period of Structural Funds for use in the closure process while the 2014-2020 system will capture data for the new set of programmes.

Some of the data requirements will remain the same, however, the Regulatory framework, structure and targets/indicators for the later system will be different – including audit and control activities being carried out under new Commission Regulations. There is therefore a requirement for a robust, secure, flexible, functioning computer system for the next programming period to ensure a user-friendly interface with the public while maintaining a reliable, upgradable system for Departmental users with sufficient flexibility to produce the necessary reports and indicator data to meet the Commission's regulatory requirements.

### New System

A User Group has been established by DFP (EUD) in its role as Member State. This Group has produced a detailed Statement of Requirements (SOR) based on their experience of the current system, identifying their needs for improvement in managing the future programmes in compliance with emerging Commission Regulations.

The Procurement process is underway and the contingency, should it be required, is that new programme data will initially be accommodated on the current Systems 2007 database with subsequent transfer to the new database on implementation as outlined in the Business Case and the Risk Potential Assessment document.

### **Quality assurance**

Within the 2007-2013 programme there were a number of ways where data has been quality assured throughout the life of schemes. The management team and the Agent have regular meetings monitoring progress, reporting of finances/funding, issues and concerns and individual schemes have specific monitoring assurance. Additionally the Education Training Inspectorate conducted a review of quality assurance of training measures under a few schemes and gave a positive report. A recent independent internal review has also been completed that has provided a quality assurance of scheme delivery.

Going forward the Managing Authority and programme evaluators will work with scheme managers to ensure the continued quality of the monitoring data. This will involve providing detailed monitoring guidance, including indicator definitions for scheme development and attending review meetings to discuss any queries. Furthermore, when producing monitoring reports, the Managing Authority and evaluators will check the data for any anomalies and audit teams will check the evidence supporting the indicators.

In addition to the data schemes are required to submit to the Managing Authority, they will also be encouraged to collect additional data that will assist with scheme management and evaluation, including sufficient baseline data to enable schemes to robustly track progress for their beneficiaries.

### **Data sources**

Information used to monitor and evaluate the RDP will be gathered from a mixture of data sources. In general, result and output indicators will be measured through information collected at the point of delivery, generally through administrative records though there will be occasions when information is better obtained by carrying out surveys. Application and claim forms will be designed for each scheme's operational needs with questions asked to satisfy monitoring and evaluation needs.

By contrast Impact indicators are more likely to be determined at the evaluation stage, using other tools and wider sources of data to build up a picture of the net impact of the programme on its wider strategic

objectives. However, evidence of some of the impacts will be collected through the ongoing evaluation activities where possible.

As outlined in the governance and coordination section, beneficiaries will be obliged to provide information for monitoring and evaluation and this will include information not only via the applications and claims process, but also via bespoke surveys as outlined above. In addition for the purpose of reporting for the AIRs, enhanced AIRs and ex-post evaluation, the fiches released by the Commission for the EU Common set of indicators sets out which European level databases contain the data required. The key databases identified in the fiches include:

- Eurostat
- Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN)
- European Environment Agency

Complementary databases used to provide additional information related to the indicators include:

- Statistics from the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAOSTAT)
- Land Use Statistics
- Commodity prices from World Bank statistics
- European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC)

Where information is available from more up-to-date national sources, however, Managing Authorities are able to use these instead.

## **9.5. Timeline**

Major milestones of the programming period, and indicative outline of the timing needed to ensure that results are available at the appropriate time.

In the previous programming periods the late start of funding meant insufficient progress on delivery had taken place by the time of the mid-term evaluation to produce meaningful evaluation results. This has, in turn, presented challenges to the design of the programme.

The timeline for evaluation of the programme's impacts must track the actual delivery of the programme itself, recognising the impact of any transitional years due to the delay in agreeing Multi Financial Framework and Common Agricultural Policy budgets. For example, it is likely that many agri-environment agreements under the new programme will not start until 1 January 2017. As a consequence the timeline for the new programme must be sufficiently flexible to allow the timing of evaluations to reflect progress in delivery.

The following specific aspects of evaluation will have to be accounted for in all cases:

- The schedule of delivering annual reports, in particular noting that the timing of the enhanced AIRs and ex-post evaluation report is fixed.
- Accounting for lag effects in evaluating the impacts of funding on outcomes.
- The balance of evaluation activities on existing programme commitments versus new programme commitments.
- Determining from previous evaluation activities the likely contribution of this programme's intervention, relative to previous programme interventions, e.g. we know some outcomes (e.g. habitat restoration) are delivered cumulatively over long periods and we need to continue to track their delivery through multiple delivery frameworks.

### **Timeline**

An indicative draft of the timeline for key evaluation activities and governance events in the programme is given below:

- Start 2014: Programme period begins.
- Start 2015: New programme rolled out.
- 2015: Ex-post evaluation of 2007-2013 programme specification to be agreed with programme evaluators.
- 2014-2016: Guidance and training required to support evaluation in the programme complete.
- Summer 2016: Evaluation of the EU common set of indicators begins.
- End 2016: Ex-post evaluation of 2007-2013 programme published.
- End 2016: Evaluation of the EU common set of indicators complete.
- 2017: Submit first enhanced AIR.
- Summer 2018: Evaluation of the EU common set of indicators begins.
- End 2018: Evaluation of the EU common set of indicators complete.
- 2019: Submit second enhanced AIRs.
- 2020: Programme period ends.
- Summer 2021: Ex-post evaluation of 2014-2020 programming period begins.
- End 2023: Ex-post evaluation complete.



## 9.6. Communication

Description of how evaluation findings will be disseminated to target recipients, including a description of the mechanisms established to follow-up on the use of evaluation results.

### Strategy and governance

The communication strategy will be written by DAERA RDP Management Branch and supported by the programme evaluators. The information needs of the target audience will be assessed through meetings with relevant parties and working with the Monitoring Committee to elicit their particular information needs incorporating feedback received into the strategy.

### Customers

The key customers and their expected evaluation needs/interests are discussed below:

**European Commission** The AIRs, enhanced AIRs and the ex-post evaluation of the programme will be submitted to the Commission by the Managing Authority via well-established standard channels.

Where the Managing Authority needs advice and guidance from the Commission this will be sought from the European Evaluation Helpdesk and various technical committees.

**Policy teams within DAERA** It has been noted that in the previous programme there was insufficient communication of evaluation results to policy teams. In order to improve communication with policy teams regular meetings and seminars with presentations of findings will be arranged.

Increasing the level of engagement of policymakers with evaluation will ensure that important evaluation results can influence the steering of the current programme and feed into future programmes.

**Within Managing Authority** The communication of results to senior management in the Managing Authority (e.g. Chief Accounting Officer, Chief Scientific Officer, Chief Economist, ministers and directors) will be managed using traditional routes (e.g. ministerial submissions, presentation of papers to boards, etc.).

**Delivery body staff** Where evaluation studies are commissioned externally by the Managing Authority, the results will be communicated using traditional channels (e.g. making reports available to delivery bodies, meetings, National Rural Network, etc.).

**Programme beneficiaries/stakeholders/general public** There are a range of approaches to communicating relevant evaluation results to beneficiaries, stakeholders and the wider public. Governmental websites will be used, and the Managing Authority regularly participates in seminars and other engagement events. Additionally, key evaluation reports will be published following successful review and quality assurance.

The Rural Network have a key role in sharing and disseminating (and potentially in promoting engagement with) the results of monitoring and evaluation as set out in the rural development regulation. This function will therefore be reflected in the communications plan for the programme and in the action plan of the Rural Network.

## 9.7. Resources

Description of the resources needed and foreseen to implement the plan, including an indication of administrative capacity, data, financial resources, IT needs. Description of capacity building activities foreseen to ensure that the evaluation plan can be fully implemented.

The total planned evaluation budget for the next programme is approximately £600,000 which has been allocated to pay for the costs of external programme evaluators who will be contracted for the period of the programme. It is anticipated that this will cover the costs of 1.7 FTE staff. In the Managing Authority there will be approximately 1.5 FTE staff engaged in monitoring and evaluation activities and they will be supported by the programme evaluators. Members of staff will receive training where required.

## 10. FINANCING PLAN

### 10.1. Annual EAFRD contributions in (€)

Types of regions and additional allocations	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Article 59(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Transition regions other than those referred to in Article 59(3)(b)	0.00	49,028,511.00	49,092,793.00	32,654,707.00	32,585,359.00	32,520,110.00	32,543,608.00	228,425,088.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>49,028,511.00</b>	<b>49,092,793.00</b>	<b>32,654,707.00</b>	<b>32,585,359.00</b>	<b>32,520,110.00</b>	<b>32,543,608.00</b>	<b>228,425,088.00</b>
Out of which performance reserve (Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	0.00	2,941,710.66	2,945,567.58	1,959,282.42	1,955,121.54	1,951,206.60	1,952,616.48	13,705,505.28

<b>Total indicative amount of support envisaged for climate change objectives</b>	<b>188,144,601.00</b>
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**10.2. Single EAFRD contribution rate for all measures broken down by type of region as referred to in Article 59(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013**

<b>Article establishing the maximum contribution rate.</b>	<b>Applicable EAFRD Contribution Rate</b>	<b>Min applicable EAFRD cont. rate 2014-2020 (%)</b>	<b>Max applicable EAFRD cont. rate 2014-2020 (%)</b>
Article 59(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Transition regions other than those referred to in Article 59(3)(b)	27%	20%	63%

### 10.3. Breakdown by measure or type of operation with a specific EAFRD contribution rate (in € total period 2014-2020)

#### 10.3.1. M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)

Types of regions and additional allocations		Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate 2014-2020 (%)	Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Financial Instruments Indicative EAFRD amount 2014-2020 (€)	Total Union Contribution planned 2014-2020 (€)
Article 59(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Transition regions other than those referred to in Article 59(3)(b)	Main	27%					7,682,927.00 (2A) 243,902.00 (P4)
Total						0.00	7,926,829.00

10.3.2. M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)

Types of regions and additional allocations		Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate 2014-2020 (%)	Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Financial Instruments Indicative EAFRD amount 2014-2020 (€)	Total Union Contribution planned 2014-2020 (€)
Article 59(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Transition regions other than those referred to in Article 59(3)(b)	Main	27%					292,683.00 (P4) 12,195.00 (5E)
Total						0.00	304,878.00

10.3.3. M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)

Types of regions and additional allocations		Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate 2014-2020 (%)	Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Financial Instruments Indicative EAFRD amount 2014-2020 (€)	Total Union Contribution planned 2014-2020 (€)
Article 59(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Transition regions other than those referred to in Article 59(3)(b)	Main	27%					9,399,438.00 (2A) 1,576,172.00 (3A) 0.00 (P4)
	Article 59(4)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Operations contributing to the objectives of environment and climate change mitigation and adaptation under Article 17, points (a) and (b) of Article 21(1), Articles 28, 29, 30, 31 and 34	75%					0.00 (2A) 0.00 (3A) 21,097,561.00 (P4)
Total						0.00	32,073,171.00

Total Union contribution reserved for operations falling within the scope of (EU) No 1305/2013 Article 59(6)

21,097,561.00

10.3.4. M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)

Types of regions and additional allocations		Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate 2014-2020 (%)	Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Financial Instruments Indicative EAFRD amount 2014-2020 (€)	Total Union Contribution planned 2014-2020 (€)
Article 59(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Transition regions other than those referred to in Article 59(3)(b)	Main	27%					243,903.00 (P4) 2,439,024.00 (6B)
Total						0.00	2,682,927.00



10.3.5. M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)

Types of regions and additional allocations		Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate 2014-2020 (%)	Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Financial Instruments Indicative EAFRD amount 2014-2020 (€)	Total Union Contribution planned 2014-2020 (€)
Article 59(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Transition regions other than those referred to in Article 59(3)(b)	Main	27%					117,072.00 (2A) 170,732.00 (P4) 0.00 (5E)
	Article 59(4)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Operations contributing to the objectives of environment and climate change mitigation and adaptation under Article 17, points (a) and (b) of Article 21(1), Articles 28, 29, 30, 31 and 34	75%					0.00 (2A) 4,375,610.00 (P4) 7,868,293.00 (5E)
Total						0.00	12,531,707.00

10.3.6. M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)

Types of regions and additional allocations		Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate 2014-2020 (%)	Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Financial Instruments Indicative EAFRD amount 2014-2020 (€)	Total Union Contribution planned 2014-2020 (€)
Article 59(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Transition regions other than those referred to in Article 59(3)(b)	Main	27%					0.00 (P4) 0.00 (5E)
	Article 59(4)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Operations contributing to the objectives of environment and climate change mitigation and adaptation under Article 17, points (a) and (b) of Article 21(1), Articles 28, 29, 30, 31 and 34	75%					96,383,625.00 (P4) 0.00 (5E)
Total						0.00	96,383,625.00

10.3.7. M11 - Organic farming (art 29)

Types of regions and additional allocations		Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate 2014-2020 (%)	Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Financial Instruments Indicative EAFRD amount 2014-2020 (€)	Total Union Contribution planned 2014-2020 (€)
Article 59(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Transition regions other than those referred to in Article 59(3)(b)	Main	27%					0.00 (P4)
	Article 59(4)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Operations contributing to the objectives of environment and climate change mitigation and adaptation under Article 17, points (a) and (b) of Article 21(1), Articles 28, 29, 30, 31 and 34	75%					2,041,463.00 (P4)
Total						0.00	2,041,463.00

10.3.8. M13 - Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints (art 31)

Types of regions and additional allocations		Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate 2014-2020 (%)	Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Financial Instruments Indicative EAFRD amount 2014-2020 (€)	Total Union Contribution planned 2014-2020 (€)
Article 59(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Transition regions other than those referred to in Article 59(3)(b)	Main	27%					0.00 (P4)
	Article 59(4)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Operations contributing to the objectives of environment and climate change mitigation and adaptation under Article 17, points (a) and (b) of Article 21(1), Articles 28, 29, 30, 31 and 34	75%					47,560,976.00 (P4)
Total						0.00	47,560,976.00

10.3.9. M16 - Co-operation (art 35)

Types of regions and additional allocations		Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate 2014-2020 (%)	Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Financial Instruments Indicative EAFRD amount 2014-2020 (€)	Total Union Contribution planned 2014-2020 (€)
Article 59(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Transition regions other than those referred to in Article 59(3)(b)	Main	27%					304,878.00 (2A) 712,195.00 (3A) 243,902.00 (P4) 0.00 (5E)
Total						0.00	1,260,975.00

10.3.10. M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development) (art 35 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Types of regions and additional allocations		Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate 2014-2020 (%)	Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Financial Instruments Indicative EAFRD amount 2014-2020 (€)	Total Union Contribution planned 2014-2020 (€)
Article 59(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Transition regions other than those referred to in Article 59(3)(b)	Main	27%					16,585,366.00 (6B)
Total						0.00	16,585,366.00

10.3.11. M20 - Technical assistance Member States (art 51-54)

Types of regions and additional allocations		Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate 2014-2020 (%)	Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Financial Instruments Indicative EAFRD amount 2014-2020 (€)	Total Union Contribution planned 2014-2020 (€)
Article 59(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Transition regions other than those referred to in Article 59(3)(b)	Main	27%					9,073,171.00
Total						0.00	9,073,171.00

#### 10.4. Indicative breakdown by measure for each sub-programme

Thematic sub-programme name	Measure	Total Union Contribution planned 2014-2020 (EUR)
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## 11. INDICATOR PLAN

### 11.1. Indicator Plan

11.1.1. P1: Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas

*11.1.1.1. 1A) Fostering innovation, cooperation, and the development of the knowledge base in rural areas*

Target indicator(s) 2014-2020

Target indicator name	Target value 2023
<b>T1: percentage of expenditure under Articles 14, 15 and 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 in relation to the total expenditure for the RDP (focus area 1A)</b>	<b>5.44</b>
Total RDP planned public expenditures	646,168,721.00
Public expenditures (focus area 1A)	35,158,085.00

Planned output indicator(s) 2014-2020

Measure name	Indicator name	Value
<b>M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)</b>	Total public expenditure € (trainings, farm exchanges, demonstration) (1.1 to 1.3)	29,358,627.00
<b>M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)</b>	Total public expenditure € (2.1 to 2.3)	1,129,178.00
<b>M16 - Co-operation (art 35)</b>	Total public expenditure € (16.1 to 16.9)	4,670,280.00

*11.1.1.2. 1B) Strengthening the links between agriculture, food production and forestry and research and innovation, including for the purpose of improved environmental management and performance*

Target indicator(s) 2014-2020

Target indicator name	Target value 2023
<b>T2: Total number of cooperation operations supported under the cooperation measure (Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013) (groups, networks/clusters, pilot projects...) (focus area 1B)</b>	<b>59.00</b>

Planned output indicator(s) 2014-2020

Measure name	Indicator name	Value
<b>M16 - Co-operation (art 35)</b>	Nr of EIP operational groups to be supported (establishment and operation) (16.1)	59.00
<b>M16 - Co-operation (art 35)</b>	Nr of other cooperation operations (groups, networks/clusters, pilot projects...) (16.2 to 16.9)	0.00

*11.1.1.3. 1C) Fostering lifelong learning and vocational training in the agricultural and forestry sectors*

Target indicator(s) 2014-2020

<b>Target indicator name</b>	<b>Target value 2023</b>
<b>T3: Total number of participants trained under Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 (focus area 1C)</b>	<b>29,500.00</b>

Planned output indicator(s) 2014-2020

<b>Measure name</b>	<b>Indicator name</b>	<b>Value</b>
<b>M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)</b>	Training/skills acquisition (1.1) - Nbr of participants in trainings	29,500.00

11.1.2. P2: Enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and the sustainable management of forests

*11.1.2.1. 2A) Improving the economic performance of all farms and facilitating farm restructuring and modernisation, notably with a view to increasing market participation and orientation as well as agricultural diversification*

Target indicator(s) 2014-2020

Target indicator name	Target value 2023
<b>T4: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investments in restructuring or modernisation (focus area 2A)</b>	<b>19.18</b>
Number of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investments in restructuring or modernisation (focus area 2A)	4,500.00

Context Indicator used as denominator for the target

Context Indicator name	Base year value
17 Agricultural holdings (farms) - total	23,460.00

Planned output indicator(s) 2014-2020

Measure name	Indicator name	Value
<b>M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)</b>	Training/skills acquisition (1.1) - Nbr of participants in trainings	18,500.00
<b>M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)</b>	Training/skills acquisition (1.1) - Total public for training/skills	25,293,586.00
<b>M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)</b>	Total public expenditure € (trainings, farm exchanges, demonstration) (1.1 to 1.3)	28,455,285.00
<b>M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)</b>	Nr of holdings supported for investment in agricultural holdings (4.1)	4,500.00
<b>M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)</b>	Total public expenditure for investments in infrastructure (4.3)	0
<b>M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)</b>	Total investment € (public + private)	565,690,370.00
<b>M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)</b>	Total public expenditure € (4.1)	226,276,148.00
<b>M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)</b>	Total public expenditure €	226,276,148.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.1)	0
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.2)	0
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.3)	0
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.4)	0
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.5)	0
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.6)	433,604.00
<b>M16 - Co-operation (art 35)</b>	Total public expenditure € (16.1 to 16.9)	1,129,178.00

*11.1.2.2. 2B) Facilitating the entry of adequately skilled farmers into the agricultural sector and, in particular, generational renewal*

No measures have been selected in the strategy for this focus area.

11.1.3. P3: Promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture

*11.1.3.1. 3A) Improving competitiveness of primary producers by better integrating them into the agri-food chain through quality schemes, adding value to agricultural products, promotion in local markets and short supply circuits, producer groups and inter-branch organisations*

Target indicator(s) 2014-2020

Target indicator name	Target value 2023
<b>T6: percentage of agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations (focus area 3A)</b>	<b>8.53</b>
Number agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations (focus area 3A)	2,000.00

Context Indicator used as denominator for the target

Context Indicator name	Base year value
17 Agricultural holdings (farms) - total	23,460.00

Planned output indicator(s) 2014-2020

Measure name	Indicator name	Value
<b>M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)</b>	Nr of operations supported for investment (e.g. in agricultural holdings, in processing and marketing of ag. products) (4.1 and 4.2)	125.00
<b>M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)</b>	Total investment € (public + private)	69,472,235.00
<b>M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)</b>	Total public expenditure €	27,788,894.00
<b>M16 - Co-operation (art 35)</b>	Nr of agricultural holdings participating in cooperation/local promotion among supply chain actors (16.4)	2,000.00
<b>M16 - Co-operation (art 35)</b>	Total public expenditure € (16.1 to 16.9)	2,637,760.00

*11.1.3.2. 3B) Supporting farm risk prevention and management*

No measures have been selected in the strategy for this focus area.

#### 11.1.4. P4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry

##### *Agriculture*

##### Planned output indicator(s) 2014-2020

Measure name	Indicator name	Value
<b>M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)</b>	Training/skills acquisition (1.1) - Nbr of participants in trainings	11,000.00
<b>M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)</b>	Training/skills acquisition (1.1) - Total public for training/skills	903,342.00
<b>M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)</b>	Total public expenditure € (trainings, farm exchanges, demonstration) (1.1 to 1.3)	903,342.00
<b>M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)</b>	Nr of beneficiaries advised (2.1)	975.00
<b>M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)</b>	Total public expenditure € (2.1 to 2.3)	1,084,011.00
<b>M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)</b>	Nr of operations of support for non productive investment (4.4)	6,000.00
<b>M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)</b>	Total investment € (public + private)	0.00
<b>M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)</b>	Total public expenditure €	28,130,081.00
<b>M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)</b>	Nr of operations supported for drawing up of village development and N2000/HNV area management plans (7.1)	20.00
<b>M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)</b>	Total public expenditure (€)	903,342.00
<b>M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)</b>	Area (ha) to be afforested (establishment - 8.1)	600.00
<b>M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)</b>	Total public expenditure (€) (8.1)	5,736,585.00
<b>M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)</b>	Area (ha) to be established in agro-forestry systems (8.2)	52.00
<b>M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)</b>	Total public expenditure (€) (8.2)	97,561.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.3)	0.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.4)	0.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.5)	0.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.6)	0
<b>M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)</b>	Area (ha) under agri-environment-climate (10.1)	121,996.50
<b>M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)</b>	Public expenditure for genetic resources conservation (10.2)	0
<b>M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)</b>	Total public expenditure (€)	128,480,372.00
<b>M11 - Organic farming (art 29)</b>	Area (ha) - conversion to organic farming (11.1)	700.00
<b>M11 - Organic farming (art 29)</b>	Area (ha) - maintenance of organic farming (11.2)	7,000.00
<b>M11 - Organic farming (art 29)</b>	Total public expenditure (€)	2,721,951.00
<b>M13 - Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints (art 31)</b>	Area (ha) - mountain areas (13.1)	0
<b>M13 - Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints (art 31)</b>	Area (ha) - other areas with significant NC (13.2)	340,000.00
<b>M13 - Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints (art 31)</b>	Area (ha) - areas with specific constraints (13.3)	0



<b>M13 - Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints (art 31)</b>	Total public expenditure (€)	72,814,634.00
<b>M16 - Co-operation (art 35)</b>	Total public expenditure € (16.1 to 16.9)	903,342.00

## ***Forest***

Planned output indicator(s) 2014-2020

<b>Measure name</b>	<b>Indicator name</b>	<b>Value</b>
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.1)	0
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.2)	0
<b>M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)</b>	Total public expenditure (€) (8.3)	31,617.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.4)	31,617.00
<b>M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)</b>	Nr of beneficiaries for preventive actions (8.3)	60.00
<b>M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)</b>	Total public expenditure (€) (8.5)	569,106.00
<b>M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)</b>	Nr of operations (investments improving resilience and value of forest ecosystems) (8.5)	150.00
<b>M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)</b>	Areas concerned by investments improving resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems (8.5)	720.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.6)	0

*11.1.4.1. 4A) Restoring, preserving and enhancing biodiversity, including in Natura 2000 areas, and in areas facing natural or other specific constraints and high nature value farming, as well as the state of European landscapes*

***Agriculture***

Target indicator(s) 2014-2020

Target indicator name	Target value 2023
<b>T9: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (focus area 4A)</b>	<b>12.18</b>
Agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (ha) (focus area 4A)	118,952.00

Context Indicator used as denominator for the target

Context Indicator name	Base year value
18 Agricultural Area - total UAA	976,820.00

***Forest***

Target indicator(s) 2014-2020

Target indicator name	Target value 2023
<b>T8: percentage of forest/other wooded area under management contracts supporting biodiversity (focus area 4A)</b>	<b>0.69</b>
Forest/other wooded area under management contracts supporting biodiversity (ha) (focus area 4A)	720.00

Context Indicator used as denominator for the target

Context Indicator name	Base year value
29 Forest and other wooded land (FOWL) (000) - total	105.00

11.1.4.2. 4B) Improving water management, including fertiliser and pesticide management

**Agriculture**

Target indicator(s) 2014-2020

Target indicator name	Target value 2023
<b>T10: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)</b>	<b>8.08</b>
Agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management (ha) (focus area 4B)	78,952.00

Context Indicator used as denominator for the target

Context Indicator name	Base year value
18 Agricultural Area - total UAA	976,820.00

**Forest**

Target indicator(s) 2014-2020

Target indicator name	Target value 2023
<b>T11: percentage of forestry land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)</b>	<b>0.03</b>
Forestry land under management contracts to improve water management (ha) (focus area 4B)	36.00

Context Indicator used as denominator for the target

Context Indicator name	Base year value
29 Forest and other wooded land (FOWL) (000) - total	105.00

### 11.1.4.3. 4C) Preventing soil erosion and improving soil management

#### *Agriculture*

Target indicator(s) 2014-2020

Target indicator name	Target value 2023
<b>T12: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)</b>	<b>3.99</b>
Agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (ha) (focus area 4C)	38,952.00

Context Indicator used as denominator for the target

Context Indicator name	Base year value
18 Agricultural Area - total UAA	976,820.00

#### *Forest*

Target indicator(s) 2014-2020

Target indicator name	Target value 2023
<b>T13: percentage of forestry land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)</b>	<b>0.03</b>
Forestry land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (ha) (focus area 4C)	36.00

Context Indicator used as denominator for the target

Context Indicator name	Base year value
29 Forest and other wooded land (FOWL) (000) - total	105.00

11.1.5. P5: Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors

*11.1.5.1. 5A) Increasing efficiency in water use by agriculture*

No measures have been selected in the strategy for this focus area.

*11.1.5.2. 5B) Increasing efficiency in energy use in agriculture and food processing*

No measures have been selected in the strategy for this focus area.

*11.1.5.3. 5C) Facilitating the supply and use of renewable sources of energy, of by products, wastes, residues and other non food raw material for the purposes of the bio-economy*

No measures have been selected in the strategy for this focus area.

*11.1.5.4. 5D) Reducing green house gas and ammonia emissions from agriculture*

No measures have been selected in the strategy for this focus area.



### 11.1.5.5. 5E) Fostering carbon conservation and sequestration in agriculture and forestry

#### Target indicator(s) 2014-2020

Target indicator name	Target value 2023
<b>T19: percentage of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration and conservation (focus area 5E)</b>	<b>1.74</b>
Agricultural and forest land under management to foster carbon sequestration/conservation (ha) (focus area 5E)	18,869.00

#### Context Indicator used as denominator for the target

Context Indicator name	Base year value
18 Agricultural Area - total UAA	976,820.00
29 Forest and other wooded land (FOWL) (000) - total	105.00

#### Planned output indicator(s) 2014-2020

Measure name	Indicator name	Value
<b>M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)</b>	Nr of beneficiaries advised (2.1)	250.00
<b>M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)</b>	Total public expenditure € (2.1 to 2.3)	45,167.00
<b>M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)</b>	Area (ha) to be afforested (establishment - 8.1)	1,200.00
<b>M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)</b>	Total public expenditure (€) (8.1)	10,491,057.00
<b>M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)</b>	Area (ha) to be established in agro-forestry systems (8.2)	0
<b>M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)</b>	Total public expenditure (€) (8.2)	0
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.3)	0
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.4)	0
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.5)	0
<b>M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)</b>	Nr of operations (investments improving resilience and value of forest ecosystems) (8.5)	0
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.6)	0
<b>M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)</b>	Area (ha) under agri-environment-climate for carbon sequestration	0
<b>M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)</b>	Total public expenditure (€)	0
<b>M16 - Co-operation (art 35)</b>	Total public expenditure € (16.1 to 16.9)	0.00

11.1.6. P6: Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas

*11.1.6.1. 6A) Facilitating diversification, creation and development of small enterprises, as well as job creation*

No measures have been selected in the strategy for this focus area.

### 11.1.6.2. 6B) Fostering local development in rural areas

#### Target indicator(s) 2014-2020

Target indicator name	Target value 2023
<b>T21: percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies (focus area 6B)</b>	<b>100.00</b>
Rural population covered by local development strategies (focus area 6B)	1,126,586.00
<b>T22: percentage of rural population benefiting from improved services/infrastructures (focus area 6B)</b>	<b>11.54</b>
<b>T23: Jobs created in supported projects (Leader) (focus area 6B)</b>	<b>700.00</b>
Net population benefiting from improved services	130,000.00

#### Context Indicator used as denominator for the target

Context Indicator name	Base year value
1 Population - rural	23.15
1 Population - intermediate	38.92
1 Population - total	1,814,842.00
1 Population - specific rural definition used for targets T21; T22 and T24 (if relevant)	0

#### Planned output indicator(s) 2014-2020

Measure name	Indicator name	Value
<b>M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)</b>	Nr of operations supported for drawing up of village development and N2000/HNV area management plans (7.1)	0.00
<b>M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)</b>	Nr of operations supported for investments of small scale infrastructure, including investments in renewable energy and energy saving (7.2)	0
<b>M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)</b>	Nr of operations supported for investments in local basic services for the rural population (7.4)	0.00
<b>M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)</b>	Nr of operations supported for investments in recreational/tourist infrastructure (7.5)	10.00
<b>M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)</b>	Nr of operations supported for studies/investments in rural cultural and natural heritage, incl HNV sites (7.6)	0
<b>M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)</b>	Nr of operations supported for investments in relocation of activities for environmental/quality of life reasons (7.7)	0
<b>M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)</b>	Nr of operations Others (7.8)	0
<b>M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)</b>	Population benefiting from improved services/infrastructures (7.1; 7.2; 7.4; 7.5.;7.6; 7.7)	130,000.00
<b>M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)</b>	Total public expenditure (€)	9,033,424.00
<b>M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development) (art 35 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)</b>	Number of LAGs selected	10.00
<b>M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development) (art 35 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)</b>	Population covered by LAG	1,126,586.00
<b>M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development) (art 35 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)</b>	Total public expenditure (€) - preparatory support (19.1)	451,671.00

<b>M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development) (art 35 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)</b>	Total public expenditure (€) - support for implementation of operations under the CLLD strategy (19.2)	47,606,142.00
<b>M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development) (art 35 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)</b>	Total public expenditure (€) - preparation and implementation of cooperation activities of the local action group (19.3)	3,613,369.00
<b>M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development) (art 35 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)</b>	Total public expenditure (€) - support for running costs and animation (19.4)	12,195,122.00

*11.1.6.3. 6C) Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies (ICT) in rural areas*

No measures have been selected in the strategy for this focus area.





	Total public expenditure (€) (8.5)					569,106								569,106
	Total public expenditure (€) (8.6)	433,604												433,604
M10	Area (ha) under agri-environment-climate (10.1)					121,997								121,997
	Total public expenditure (€)					128,480,372								128,480,372
M11	Area (ha) - conversion to organic farming (11.1)					700								700
	Area (ha) - maintenance of organic farming (11.2)					7,000								7,000
	Total public expenditure (€)					2,721,951								2,721,951
M13	Area (ha) - other areas with significant NC (13.2)					340,000								340,000
	Total public expenditure (€)					72,814,634								72,814,634
M16	Nr of agricultural holdings participating in cooperation/local promotion among supply chain actors (16.4)			2,000										2,000
	Total public expenditure € (16.1 to 16.9)	1,129,178		2,637,760		903,342				0				4,670,280
M19	Number of LAGs selected											10		10
	Population covered by LAG											1,126,586		1,126,586
	Total public expenditure (€) - preparatory support (19.1)											451,671		451,671
	Total public expenditure (€) -											47,606,142		47,606,142



	support for implementation of operations under the CLLD strategy (19.2)														
	Total public expenditure (€) - preparation and implementation of cooperation activities of the local action group (19.3)												3,613,369		3,613,369
	Total public expenditure (€) - support for running costs and animation (19.4)												12,195,122		12,195,122

**11.3. Secondary effects: identification of potential contributions of Rural Development measures/sub-measures programmed under a given focus area to other focus areas / targets**

FA from IP	Measure	P1			P2		P3		P4			P5					P6		
		1A	1B	1C	2A	2B	3A	3B	4A	4B	4C	5A	5B	5C	5D	5E	6A	6B	6C
2A	M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	X		X	P														
	M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)				P		X		X	X	X			X	X				
	M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)				P				X	X	X								
	M16 - Co-operation (art 35)	X	X		P		X		X	X	X					X			
3A	M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)				X		P		X	X	X			X	X				
	M16 - Co-operation (art 35)	X	X				P		X	X	X				X				
5E	M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)								X	X	X					P			
	M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)				X				X	X	X					P			
	M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)															P			
	M16 - Co-operation (art 35)	X	X		X		X		X	X	X					P			
6B	M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)								X	X	X							P	
	M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development) (art 35 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)																X	P	X
P4 (FOREST)	M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)				X				P	P	P					X			
P4 (AGRI)	M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	X		X	X				P	P	P								
	M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)								P	P	P					X			
	M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)				X		X		P	P	P			X	X				
	M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)								P	P	P							X	
	M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)				X				P	P	P					X			

M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)									P	P	P				X	X			
M11 - Organic farming (art 29)									P	P	P								
M13 - Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints (art 31)									P	P	P								
M16 - Co-operation (art 35)	X	X		X		X			P	P	P					X			

## 11.4. Support table to show how environmental measure/schemes are programmed to achieve one (or more) environment/climate targets

### 11.4.1. Agricultural Land

#### 11.4.1.1. M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)

Type of operation or group of type of operation	AECM typology	Total expenditure (EUR)	Total area (ha) by measure or type of operations	Biodiversity FA 4A	Water management FA 4B	Soil management FA 4C	Reducing GHG and ammonia emissions FA 5D	Carbon sequestration/conservation FA 5E
10.1 Agri-Environment-Climate	Maintenance of HNV arable and grassland systems (e.g. mowing techniques, hand labour, leaving of winter stubbles in arable areas), introduction of extensive grazing practices, conversion of arable land to grassland.	12,377,500.00	33,010.00	X	X	X	X	X
10.1 Agri-Environment-Climate	Animal feed regimes, manure management	1,732,500.00	10,780.00	X	X	X	X	X
10.1 Agri-environment Climate	Others	7,362,500.00	64,000.00	X	X	X	X	X
10.1 Agri-Environment-Climate	Creation, upkeep of ecological features (e.g. field margins, buffer areas, flower strips, hedgerows, trees)	17,748,500.00	14,206.50	X	X	X	X	X

#### 11.4.1.2. M11 - Organic farming (art 29)

Submeasure	Total	Total area	Biodiversity	Water	Soil	Reducing	Carbon
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	<b>expenditure (EUR)</b>	<b>(ha) by measure or type of operations</b>	<b>FA 4A</b>	<b>management FA 4B</b>	<b>management FA 4C</b>	<b>GHG and ammonia emissions FA 5D</b>	<b>sequestration/conservation FA 5E</b>
11.2 - payment to maintain organic farming practices and methods	3,048,780.00	7,000.00	X	X	X		
11.1 - payment to convert to organic farming practices and methods	363,659.00	700.00	X	X	X		

**11.4.1.3. M12 - Natura 2000 and Water Framework Directive payments (art 30)**

<b>Submeasure</b>	<b>Total expenditure (EUR)</b>	<b>Total area (ha) by measure or type of operations</b>	<b>Biodiversity FA 4A</b>	<b>Water management FA 4B</b>	<b>Soil management FA 4C</b>	<b>Reducing GHG and ammonia emissions FA 5D</b>	<b>Carbon sequestration/conservation FA 5E</b>
12.1 - compensation payment for Natura 2000 agricultural areas							
12.3 - compensation payment for agricultural areas included in river basin management plans							

**11.4.1.4. M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)**

<b>Submeasure</b>	<b>Total expenditure (EUR)</b>	<b>Total area (ha) by measure or type of operations</b>	<b>Biodiversity FA 4A</b>	<b>Water management FA 4B</b>	<b>Soil management FA 4C</b>	<b>Reducing GHG and ammonia emissions FA 5D</b>	<b>Carbon sequestration/conservation FA 5E</b>
8.2 - support for establishment and maintenance of agro-forestry systems							

8.1 - support for afforestation/creation of woodland	20,378,049.00	1,800.00	X	X	X		X
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11.4.2. Forest areas

*11.4.2.1. M15 - Forest environmental and climate services and forest conservation (art 34)*

Type of operation or group of type of operation	Total expenditure (EUR)	Total area (ha) by measure or type of operations	Biodiversity FA 4A	Water management FA 4B	Soil management FA 4C
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*11.4.2.2. M12 - Natura 2000 and Water Framework Directive payments (art 30)*

Submeasure	Total expenditure (EUR)	Total area (ha) by measure or type of operations	Biodiversity FA 4A	Water management FA 4B	Soil management FA 4C
12.2 - compensation payment for Natura 2000 forest areas					

*11.4.2.3. M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)*

Submeasure	Total expenditure (EUR)	Total area (ha) by measure or type of operations	Biodiversity FA 4A	Water management FA 4B	Soil management FA 4C
8.5 - support for investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems	768,293.00	720.00	X	X	X

## 11.5. Programme-Specific Target and Output

### Specific Target indicator(s)

Code	Target indicator name	Focus Area	Target value 2023	Unit
PSTI3A	% of Agri-Food enterprises supported	3A	25.00	%

### Specific Output indicator(s)

Code	Output Indicator Name	Measure	Focus Area	Planned output	Unit
	Area (ha) supported (8.6)	M08	2A	300.00	ha
	Number of Local Development Strategies	M19	6B	10.00	Number
	Number of Natura 2000 management plans to be funded	M07	P4	20.00	Number
	Number of operations (investments improving resilience and value of forest ecosystems) (16.8)	M16	5E	5.00	Number of operations



## 12. ADDITIONAL NATIONAL FINANCING

For measures and operations falling within the scope of Article 42 of the Treaty, a table on additional national financing per measure in accordance with Article 82 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, including the amounts per measure and indication of compliance with the criteria under RD regulation.

Measure	Additional National Financing during the period 2014-2020 (€)
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	0.00
M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)	0.00
M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)	208,074,635.00
M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)	0.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	0.00
M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)	0.00
M11 - Organic farming (art 29)	0.00
M13 - Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints (art 31)	9,400,000.00
M16 - Co-operation (art 35)	0.00
M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development) (art 35 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	0.00
M20 - Technical assistance Member States (art 51-54)	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>217,474,635.00</b>

### 12.1. M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)

#### Indication of compliance of the operations with the criteria under Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

N/A

### 12.2. M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)

#### Indication of compliance of the operations with the criteria under Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

N/A

**12.3. M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)**

**Indication of compliance of the operations with the criteria under Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013**

Additional top up for Business Investment Scheme and elements of the Food Processing Investment Scheme that fall within the scope of Article 42 of the Treaty.

**12.4. M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)**

**Indication of compliance of the operations with the criteria under Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013**

N/A

**12.5. M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)**

**Indication of compliance of the operations with the criteria under Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013**

N/A

**12.6. M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)**

**Indication of compliance of the operations with the criteria under Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013**

N/A

**12.7. M11 - Organic farming (art 29)**

**Indication of compliance of the operations with the criteria under Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013**

N/A

**12.8. M13 - Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints (art 31)**

**Indication of compliance of the operations with the criteria under Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013**

Additional top up for the Areas of Natural Constraint that fall within the scope of Article 42 of the Treaty.

**12.9. M16 - Co-operation (art 35)**

**Indication of compliance of the operations with the criteria under Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013**

N/A

**12.10. M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development) (art 35 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)**

**Indication of compliance of the operations with the criteria under Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013**

N/A

**12.11. M20 - Technical assistance Member States (art 51-54)**

**Indication of compliance of the operations with the criteria under Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013**

N/A

### 13. ELEMENTS NEEDED FOR STATE AID ASSESMENT

For the measures and operations which fall outside the scope of Article 42 of the Treaty, the table of aid schemes falling under Article 81(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 to be used for the implementation of the programmes, including the title of the aid scheme, as well as the EAFRD contribution, national cofinancing and additional national funding. Compatibility with Union State aid rules must be ensured over the entire duration of the programme.

The table shall be accompanied by a commitment from the Member State that, where required under State aid rules or under specific conditions in a State aid approval decision, such measures will be notified individually pursuant to Article 108(3) of the Treaty.

<b>Measure</b>	<b>Title of the aid scheme</b>	<b>EAFRD (€)</b>	<b>National Cofinancing (€)</b>	<b>Additional National Funding (€)</b>	<b>Total (€)</b>
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	Knowledge transfer and information actions	73,171.00	197,832.70		271,003.70
M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)	Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services	12,195.00	32,971.67		45,166.67
M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)	Investments in physical assets	219,512.00	593,495.41	5,340,000.00	6,153,007.41
M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)	Basic services and village renewal	2,439,024.00	6,594,398.22		9,033,422.22
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests	12,531,707.00	4,859,437.74		17,391,144.74
M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)	Agri-environment-climate				
M11 - Organic farming (art 29)	Organic Farming				
M13 - Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints (art 31)	Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints				
M16 - Co-operation (art 35)					
M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development) (art	Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development)	10,829,269.00	29,279,134.70	2,440,000.00	42,548,403.70

35 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)					
M20 - Technical assistance Member States (art 51-54)					
<b>Total (€)</b>		<b>26,104,878.00</b>	<b>41,557,270.44</b>	<b>7,780,000.00</b>	<b>75,442,148.44</b>

### **13.1. M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)**

Title of the aid scheme: Knowledge transfer and information actions

EAFRD (€): 73,171.00

National Cofinancing (€): 197,832.70

Additional National Funding (€):

Total (€): 271,003.70

*13.1.1.1. Indication\*:*

#### **Sub-Measure 1.1**

All aid under the Business Development through Knowledge Transfer, Farm Family Skills and General Training Schemes fall within the scope of Art 42 TFEU and do not constitute State aid.

#### **Sub-Measure 1.2**

##### Demonstration Activities (ITEDS)

Aid to the agricultural sector falls within Art 42 TFEU and is not State aid.

Aid to the forestry sector - Art 38 of Regulation (EU) 702/2014 or paid in accordance with de minimis Regulation (EU) 1407/2013 with the aid intensity limited to 100 % of the eligible costs.

Aid to SMEs in rural areas - Art 47 of Regulation (EU) 702/2014 with the aid intensities limited to 60% of the eligible costs for medium-sized companies and 70% for micro and small-sized companies or paid in accordance with de minimis Regulation (EU) 1407/2013 up to 100% of eligible costs

#### **Sub- Measure 1.3**

##### Farm and Forestry exchange visits

Aid to the agricultural sector falls within Art 42 TFEU and is not State aid.

Aid to the forestry sector - Art 38 of Regulation (EU) 702/2014 or paid in accordance with de minimis Regulation (EU) 1407/2013 with the aid intensity limited to 100 % of the eligible costs.

#### **All Sub-Measures**

In all cases where different State aid instruments are used to finance these sub-measures (e.g. de minimis aid and block-exempted aid) the aid intensity will not exceed the aid intensities stipulated by Art 14 of Regulation (EU) 1305/2013.

### **13.2. M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)**

Title of the aid scheme: Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services

EAFRD (€): 12,195.00

National Cofinancing (€): 32,971.67

Additional National Funding (€):

Total (€): 45,166.67

*13.2.1.1. Indication\*:*

#### **Sub-Measure 2.1**

Aid for advisory services to SMEs active in primary agricultural production falls within the scope of Art 42 TFEU and does not require State aid cover.

Aid for advisory services in the forestry sector – Art 39 of Regulation 39 of Regulation (EU) 702/2014. The aid shall be limited to €1,500 per advice.

### **13.3. M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)**

Title of the aid scheme: Investments in physical assets

EAFRD (€): 219,512.00

National Cofinancing (€): 593,495.41

Additional National Funding (€): 5,340,000.00

Total (€): 6,153,007.41

*13.3.1.1. Indication\*:*

#### **Sub-Measure 4.1**

##### Business Investment Scheme

This sub-measure falls within the scope of Art 42 TFEU and does not constitute State aid.

#### **Sub-Measure 4.2**

##### Agri-Food Processing Investment Scheme

Actions assisting primary agricultural production, the processing of agricultural products (where both inputs and outputs are Annex I products) and the marketing of agricultural products fall within the scope of Art 42

TFEU and do not constitute State aid.

Actions assisting SMEs processing agricultural products into non-agricultural products will comply with Art 44 of Regulation (EU) 702/2014 with the aid intensities limited to 20% of the eligible costs for medium-sized companies and 30% for micro-small companies or paid in accordance with de minimis Regulation (EU) 1407/2013 up to 40% of eligible costs.

Actions assisting large companies processing agricultural products into non-agricultural products will comply with Art 14 of Regulation (EU) 651/2014 with the aid intensity limited to 10% of the eligible costs or paid in accordance with de minimis Regulation (EU) 1407/2013 up to 40% of eligible costs.

#### **Sub-Measure 4.4**

Agri-environment non-productive investments fall within the scope of Art 42 TFEU and do not constitute State aid.

#### **All Sub-Measures**

In all cases where different State aid instruments are used to finance these sub-measures (e.g. de minimis aid and block-exempted aid) the aid intensity will not exceed aid intensities stipulated by Art 17 of Regulation (EU) 1305/2013

### **13.4. M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)**

Title of the aid scheme: Basic services and village renewal

EAFRD (€): 2,439,024.00

National Cofinancing (€): 6,594,398.22

Additional National Funding (€):

Total (€): 9,033,422.22

*13.4.1.1. Indication\*:*

#### **Sub-Measure 7.1**

Support for drawing up and updating of plans for the development of municipalities and villages and N2000/HNV area management plans does not constitute State aid.

#### **Sub Measure 7.5**

##### Rural Tourism

Some of the actions funded under this measure will not constitute State aid either because the activities funded will not be economic in nature or because one of the conditions stipulated in Art 107(1) of the



TFEU is not satisfied.

Aid constituting State aid will be paid in accordance with State aid case number SA 44849 as follows:

- Aid for culture and heritage conservation - Article 53 of Regulation (EU) 651/2014. The maximum grant will be £500,000 at 75% aid intensity against eligible costs.
- Aid for sport and multi - functional recreational infrastructure - Article 55 of Regulation (EU) 651/2014. The maximum grant will be £500,000 at 75% aid intensity against eligible costs.
- Aid for local infrastructure - Article 56 of 651/2014. The aid amount shall not exceed the difference between the eligible costs and the operating profit of the investment. The operating profit shall be deducted from the eligible costs *ex ante*, on the basis of reasonable projections, or through a claw-back mechanism. The maximum grant will be £500,000 at 75% aid intensity against eligible costs.

Alternatively, aid for all actions listed above (and other actions constituting State aid) will be paid in accordance with de minimis Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 and limited to a maximum of €200,000 (maximum aid intensity 75% against eligible costs).

In all cases where different State aid instruments are used to finance these sub-measures (e.g. de minimis aid and block-exempted aid) the aid intensity will not exceed aid intensities stipulated by Art 17 of Regulation (EU) 1305/2013.

### **13.5. M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)**

Title of the aid scheme: Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests

EAFRD (€): 12,531,707.00

National Cofinancing (€): 4,859,437.74

Additional National Funding (€):

Total (€): 17,391,144.74

*13.5.1.1. Indication\*:*

#### **Sub-Measure 8.1**

##### Woodland Expansion Scheme

Aid will comply with Art 32 of Regulation (EU) 702/2014. Alternatively aid will be paid in conformity with de minimis Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013. The aid intensity shall be limited to 100% of eligible costs.

### Forest Expansion Scheme (Northern Ireland) 2015

Aid will comply with Art 32 of Regulation (EU) 702/2014 – see State aid case number SA.43339. Alternatively aid will be paid in conformity with de minimis Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013. The aid intensity shall be limited to 100% of eligible costs.

#### **Sub-Measure 8.2**

##### Aid for Agroforestry Systems

Aid will comply with Art 33 of Regulation (EU) 702/2014. The maximum aid intensity shall be limited to: 80 % of the eligible costs for investment operations and of the establishment costs and (b) 100 % of the annual premium.

#### **Sub-Measure 8.3**

##### Forest Protection Scheme (Northern Ireland) 2015

Aid will comply with Art 34 of Regulation (EU) 702/2014 – see State aid case number SA.43340. Alternatively aid will be paid in conformity with de minimis Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013. The aid intensity shall be limited to 100% of eligible costs.

#### **Sub-Measure 8.4**

##### Forest Protection Scheme

Aid will comply with Art 34 of Regulation (EU) 702/2014. Alternatively aid will be paid in conformity with de minimis Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013. The aid intensity shall be limited to 100% of eligible costs.

#### **Sub-Measure 8.5**

##### Woodland Investment Grant (Northern Ireland) 2015

Aid will comply with Article 35 of Regulation (EU) 702/2014 - see State aid case number SA.43338. Alternatively aid will be paid in conformity with de minimis Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013. The aid intensity shall be limited to 100% of eligible costs.

#### **Sub-Measure 8.6**

Aid for investments related to the development, modernisation or adaption of the forestry sector will comply with Article 40 of Regulation (EU) 702/2014. The aid intensity for non-productive investments shall be limited to 100% of all eligible costs. Aid for investments which will improve the short or long term economic potential of forests will be limited to 40% of eligible costs.

Aid for investments in forestry technologies and in processing, mobilising and marketing of forestry products will comply with Article 41 of Regulation (EU) 702/2014. The aid intensity shall be limited to 40% of eligible costs.

Alternatively aid will be paid in conformity with de minimis Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013.

### **All Sub-Measures**

In all cases where different State aid instruments are used to finance these sub-measures (e.g. de minimis aid and block-exempted aid) the aid intensity will not exceed aid intensities stipulated by Art 17 of Regulation (EU) 1305/2013.

#### **13.6. M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)**

Title of the aid scheme: Agri-environment-climate

EAFRD (€):

National Cofinancing (€):

Additional National Funding (€):

Total (€):

*13.6.1.1. Indication\*:*

All actions under this measure fall within the scope of Art 42 TFEU and are not subject to State aid rules.

#### **13.7. M11 - Organic farming (art 29)**

Title of the aid scheme: Organic Farming

EAFRD (€):

National Cofinancing (€):

Additional National Funding (€):

Total (€):

*13.7.1.1. Indication\*:*

All actions under this measure fall within the scope of Art 42 TFEU and are not subject to State aid rules.

#### **13.8. M13 - Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints (art 31)**

Title of the aid scheme: Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints

EAFRD (€):

National Cofinancing (€):

Additional National Funding (€):

Total (€):

*13.8.1.1. Indication\*:*

All actions under this measure fall within the scope of Art 42 TFEU and are not subject to State aid rules.

### **13.9. M16 - Co-operation (art 35)**

Title of the aid scheme:

EAFRD (€):

National Cofinancing (€):

Additional National Funding (€):

Total (€):

*13.9.1.1. Indication\*:*

#### **Sub-Measures 16.1, 16.2 and 16.5**

All actions under these sub-measures fall within the scope of Art 42 TFEU and are not subject to State aid rules

**Sub-Measures 16.3 and 16.4** For actions falling outside the scope of Art 42 TFEU aid will comply with the following provisions:

Aid will be paid in accordance with de minimis Regulation (EC) No 1407/2013 at 100% of all eligible costs limited to a maximum of €200,000 or paid in accordance with the following block exemption regulations:

**Innovation Aid for SMEs** - Aid will comply with Article 28 of Regulation (EU) 651/2014. The aid intensity shall not exceed 50 % of the eligible costs. However, in the particular case of aid for innovation, advisory and support services, the aid intensity can be increased up to 100 % of the eligible costs provided that the total amount of aid for innovation advisory, and support services does not exceed €200 000 per undertaking within any three year period.

**Aid for Process and Organisational Innovation** - Aid will comply with Article 29 of Regulation (EU) 651/2014. The aid intensity shall not exceed 15 % of the eligible costs for large undertakings and 50 % of the eligible costs for SMEs.

Alternatively, and for other actions not listed above, aid will be paid in accordance with de minimis Regulation (EC) No 1407/2013

### **All Sub-Measures**

All investment aid will be compliant with Art 17 of Regulation (EU) 1305/2013 and will comply with the State aid rules as detailed under Measure 4.

In all cases where different State aid instruments are used to finance these sub-measures (e.g. de minimis aid and block-exempted aid) the aid intensity will not exceed aid intensities stipulated by Regulation (EU) 1305/2013.

### **13.10. M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development) (art 35 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)**

Title of the aid scheme: Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development)

EAFRD (€): 10,829,269.00

National Cofinancing (€): 29,279,134.70

Additional National Funding (€): 2,440,000.00

Total (€): 42,548,403.70

#### *13.10.1.1. Indication\*:*

Measure 19.1 - preparatory support to the LAG for the capacity building, training and networking required for preparing and implementing a local development strategy - does not constitute State aid.

Measure 19.2 – All State aid granted to operations under community-led local development will comply with de minimis Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 or in accordance with State aid case number SA.44835 as follows:

- Aid for broadband infrastructures - Article 52 of Regulation (EU) 651/2014 - including the requirement to put in place a monitoring and claw-back mechanism if the amount of aid granted to the project exceeds EUR 10 million
- Aid for culture and heritage conservation - Article 53 of Regulation (EU) 651/2014. The maximum grant will be £500,000 at 75% aid intensity against eligible costs
- Aid for sport and multi-functional recreational infrastructure - Article 55 of Regulation (EU) 651/2014. The maximum grant will be £500,000 at 75% aid intensity against eligible costs
- Investment Aid for local infrastructures - Article 56 of Regulation (EU) 651/2014. The aid amount shall not exceed the difference between the eligible costs and the operating profit of the investment. The operating profit shall be deducted from the eligible costs *ex ante*, on the basis of reasonable projections, or through a claw-back mechanism. The maximum grant will be £500,000 at 75% aid intensity against eligible

In all cases where different State aid instruments are used to finance these sub-measures (e.g. de minimis

aid and block-exempted aid) the aid intensity will not exceed aid intensities stipulated by Regulation (EU) 1305/2013.

Measure 19.3 – preparation and co-operation activities of the local action group- all State aid will comply with the State aid rules stipulated for Measure 19.2.

Measure 19.4 –the running costs and animation of costs of the LAGs – does not constitute State aid.

### **13.11. M20 - Technical assistance Member States (art 51-54)**

Title of the aid scheme:

EAFRD (€):

National Cofinancing (€):

Additional National Funding (€):

Total (€):

*13.11.1.1. Indication\*:*

This measure – technical assistance member states – does not constitute State aid.

## **14. INFORMATION ON COMPLEMENTARITY**

### **14.1. Description of means for the complementarity and coherence with:**

14.1.1. Other Union instruments and, in particular with ESI Funds and Pillar 1, including greening, and other instruments of the common agricultural policy

The UK Partnership Agreement sets out the approach adopted in Northern Ireland across all four European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds, in line with the Common Strategic Framework. The Managing Authorities for each of the ESI Funds have worked together over several years to ensure complementarity in the design, scope, implementation and governance of the Funds. The 2014-20 EAFRD Programme will coordinate with the other ESI funds, with other EU instruments and with national funding provision.

In terms of governance, co-ordination will be achieved through cross-representation for Managing Authorities (MA) on Programme Monitoring Committees (PMC) for EAFRD and ERDF/ESF.

At policy level, there are a number of areas where EAFRD, ERDF and ESF will work in a complementary manner to deliver the objectives of the Common Strategic Framework.

#### **European Regional Development Fund**

##### Invest NI

Invest NI is the regional economic development agency for Northern Ireland. It delivers a wide range of support measures to Northern Ireland businesses aimed at growing the local economy and helping local businesses compete in international markets. Examples of regional initiatives currently provided by Invest NI that will complement activity to be supported under the EAFRD programme include:

- Innovation vouchers enable businesses to team up with universities, colleges and research organisations to develop and test new products, processes and models
- Knowledge Transfer Programme that matches businesses with academic specialists and graduates
- Export advice through a Business Information Centre to identify new markets and workshops to develop export skills.

Where an agri-food processing SME has used Invest NI support to develop a new product or secure new export orders, support from EAFRD will enable the SME to make the physical investment required to take advantage of the new innovation/export opportunities.

The aims of the EAFRD Innovation and Knowledge Transfer Strategy are as follows:

- Improve the low level of awareness of new technologies among farmers and producers.
- Support technology transfer activity through peer group learning.
- Improve the awareness of recent and ongoing research within Northern Ireland across all sectors. Research suggests that less than one third of businesses in Northern Ireland are actively pursuing

new innovative practices.

- Provide structures for the two-way flow of innovative ideas between the industry and researchers.
- Improve and adapt knowledge transfer styles to the target group of agriculture and food production.

The Smart Specialisation Framework that informed the development of Priority 1 of the ERDF Programme identifies Agri-Food Technology as a key sector that offers Northern Ireland increased growth potential. As such it has been included as one of the key sectors that will be targeted for ERDF support. This will complement EAFRD Programme provision.

The various innovation and knowledge transfer supports provided to agri-businesses through EAFRD will also complement the suite of ERDF supports under Priority 2 which have been designed to enhance the competitiveness of SMEs in Northern Ireland.

### Renewable Energy

Capital support for Renewable Energy Technologies will not be supported under EAFRD due to the prohibitive costs connecting to the electricity grid and conflict with the introduction of a Feed-in-Tariff scheme within Northern Ireland. Renewable Energy remains an integral facet of DAERA policy on lowering the carbon footprint of local food production and the Rural Development Programme will continue to support the on-farm renewable sector through support for feasibility studies. After studies have been carried out under the RDP, stakeholders will be directed to the Feed-in Tariff scheme being administered by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment.

### Rural business

Leader Local Development Strategies will consider existing funding mechanisms already available to rural enterprises, for example, the NI Small Business Loan Fund and the Start-Up Loans Scheme run by Invest NI when considering support for rural businesses.

### European Social Fund

There will be no overlap between training actions under the EAFRD and ESF programmes. The training supported under EAFRD is aimed at providing sophisticated knowledge transfer schemes to ensure that farm businesses and individuals in a farm household are up-to-date and are able to maximise returns through employing the latest techniques. Training will also be supported at individual business level under EAFRD where is necessary to the development of a new business and is not available elsewhere. This is in contrast to the training provided under ESF which aims to help develop a skilled and adaptable workforce by improving the qualifications and skills of workers without essential (basic) skills and low or no qualifications. The Northern Ireland ESF Programme will not support specific sectoral activities for which other funding instruments are more appropriate.

### European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) Programme

The European  
Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) Programme will support the overall aim for fisheries management



in the UK which is to achieve a fishing sector that is sustainable, profitable and supports strong local communities, managed effectively as an integral part of coherent policies for the marine environment. It will focus on providing a long-term sustainable future for the fishing industry through promoting investment in innovation and technology, ensuring environmental best practice, developing efficient supply chains with strong links between fishermen, growers, processors and customers and improving port infrastructure and operations. It will also help to tackle social exclusion and promote long term prosperity in communities traditionally dependent on the fishing industry where this support cannot be provided elsewhere.

Demarcation between EMFF and EAFRD will be achieved by the concentration of the former on the fisheries sector, which will not be supported through the EAFRD. In the event that overlap exists between communities targeted by Measure 19 (Leader Local development), there will be clear separation of instruments at the local level to ensure no overlap between EMFF funds and EAFRD funds.

### **CAP Pillar I**

Northern Ireland's proposals for delivery of Pillar 1 from 2015 were developed along similar timescales to the proposals for the Rural Development Programme, allowing for complementarity between the two Pillars. This has ensured that Northern Ireland's proposals to support the farming industry, and wider rural development, have been designed in tandem to ensure the best package of support will be available to meet our unique needs, along with Government and EU priorities. Care has been taken to avoid double funding under the instruments of the two pillars.

Consultations on our proposals for both Pillar 1 and 2 were carried out in late 2013/early 2014 so our stakeholders could also consider the full CAP package when providing us with feedback.

Three compulsory measures will operate (the Basic Payment, Greening and Young Farmer's Scheme) under Pillar I Direct Payments in Northern Ireland. A single region model for the Basic Payment Scheme will be implemented and migration to a flat rate payment system will take place over 7 years. It will progress 71.4% of the way to a flat rate by 2019. Under greening only the compulsory elements of crop diversification, maintenance of permanent grassland and having ecological focus areas on the agricultural area have been implemented. No equivalent practices under Article 43 (3) of Regulation (EU) 1307/2013 were notified to the EU Commission. Where a feature is used as an ecological focus area under Pillar I, support under Article 28 of Regulation (EU) 1305/2013 will be adjusted to ensure no double funding. There will be no coupled payments and support for Areas of Natural Constraint will continue to be in Pillar 2 under Article 31 of Regulation (EU) 1305/2013 for the next two years.

Agricultural areas will need to meet the following characteristics which will mirror current eligibility rules in order to be deemed as being maintained in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation as defined under Article 4 (c) (ii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013.

- Land must be assessable for agricultural activity.
- Grass and other herbaceous produce is eligible provided it is not overgrown to an extent that would suggest no or an insignificant level of agricultural activity.
- Heather is eligible if it is maintained in a state suitable for grazing and therefore has significant forage value - a maximum height of 50cm is used as a guide.

- Rush eligibility depends on the height and density of the rush. If the height or density of the rush indicates that the area is not used for significant agricultural activity then it is ineligible.
- Vegetation with no forage value is ineligible

No agricultural land in Northern Ireland has been designated as being naturally maintained in a state suitable for grazing and cultivation as defined in Article 4(c)(iii) of Regulation (EU) 1307/2013. Hence, there is no need to define the minimum agricultural activity that must be carried out on such land.

Specific areas where there is complementarity between the two Pillars are:

- interim continuation of our current support for Less Favoured Areas (LFA) under Pillar 2
- the design of our targeted support for young farmers under Pillar 2, which complements Pillar 1 support;
- at this time we do not intend to use EU Regulation 1305/2013 Article 36 Risk Management; Article 37 Crop, animal, and plant insurance; Article 38 Mutual funds for adverse climatic events, animal and plant diseases, pest infestations and environmental incidents; or, Article 39 Income Stabilisation as it is more appropriate for Pillar 1 to provide basic levels of income protection. This will allow Pillar 2 to be targeted to the areas of need for rural development;
- ensuring maximal value is gained from greening payments under Pillar 1 by developing complementary commitments in the AEC scheme and ensuring there is no double funding; land managers and farmers are not paid for carrying out the same activity under the greening payment and under the AEC scheme;
- cross compliance will be applied and enforced for relevant land management actions in the same way across both Pillars, and will provide additional environmental benefits for Pillar 2 through ensuring any agri-environment agreements go beyond this baseline.
- Double-funding for current fruit and vegetable producer organisations is avoided through annual checks to cross reference funding available under Pillar 1 and any support available through Pillar 2. Additional checks are carried out for any new producers. The checks are carried out under the authority of the Rural Payments Agency and an Attestation Report and Certificate is completed in relation to the outcome of the checks.

14.1.2. Where a Member State has opted to submit a national programme and a set of regional programmes as referred to in Article 6(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, information on complementarity between them

Not applicable

14.2. Where relevant, information on the complementarity with other Union instruments, including LIFE

### **INTERREG V Programme**

The eligible area for the new programming period for INTERREG V includes Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and western Scotland. The Greater Belfast area and the Western Isles will also now be included within the eligible area for the programme. Projects must involve at least two Member States (UK and Ireland). All projects must clearly demonstrate cross-border co-operation in the development and implementation of their operations. In addition, all projects must demonstrate cross-border co-operation in staffing or financing, or alternatively both.

INTERREG V Programme will have four areas of focus:

- Research & Innovation
- Environment
- Health
- Sustainable Transport

The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) is responsible for preparing the 2014-20 Interreg V Programme. This programme is currently in draft format and subject to a public consultation. There are potential synergies with the rural development programme, particularly in the fields of environment and innovation, and DAERA will work closely with SEUPB to ensure optimal complementarities.

### **PEACE**

The eligible area for the PEACE Programme will include Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland. The Programme shall be funded from the ERDF as an ETC programme and therefore bilateral (North / South) projects will be funded. However, as in the current PEACE programme, there is to be a derogation that will facilitate projects implemented in one Member State which can demonstrate cross-community benefits.

The PEACE Programme will contribute towards the development of social and economic stability through the promotion of increased cohesion between communities. This is in line with the relevant national policies including the 'Together: Building a United Community' (TBUC) strategy published by the Office of the First and deputy First Minister of the Northern Ireland Executive.

Under the proposed programme support will be allocated to:

- shared education initiatives;
- support for children and young people;
- shared spaces and services;
- projects which can contribute towards a more inclusive and tolerant civil society.

The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) is responsible for preparing the PEACE Programme. This

programme is currently in draft format and subject to a public consultation. DAERA will engage with SEUPB to promote potential synergies.

### **LIFE**

LIFE is the EU's financial instrument to support environmental and nature conservation projects. For 2014-2020 it will have the added dimension of a new sub-programme on climate action.

DAERA contributed to the completion of the Northern Ireland Prioritised Action Framework in January 2013, which outlines the potential use of EU funds targeting NATURA 2000 sites and priority habitats and species in the next Multiannual Funding Round 2014-2020. This outlines the options for applying EU funding under the various programmes, including where appropriate Rural Development funds, to an integrated project proposal. DAERA are supportive of RDP funds being complementary to any proposed LIFE Integrated Project (IP) proposal or LIFE Traditional Project proposal which is appropriate to RDP programme objectives. This is not a commitment of RDP funds but an assurance of the use of RDP funded projects as complementary funding for such integrated proposals.

### **Horizon 2020**

Horizon 2020 will fund research and innovation (including in the agriculture/food security area) through a competitive process run by the Commission at a European level. There is the potential to support innovation in both EAFRD and H2020, but the latter requires EU added value which, in the main, necessitates a European collaborative approach (project consortia of at least 3 countries) so the different national/EU approaches will mean little overlap.

Standalone research is not eligible for support under the Rural Development Programme, so there is no overlap with H2020 in this respect. However, research activities linked to, and accompanying practical projects carried out by the EIP operational groups, are eligible. This may include analysing the success and failure of projects, adapting solutions to specific climatic and structural contexts etc.

In addition, development activities supported by EIP groups may well be connected to research which is itself being supported via other instruments such as Horizon 2020 or other research funding sources.

## 15. PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTING ARRANGEMENTS

### 15.1. The designation by the Member State of all authorities referred to in Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 Article 65(2) and a summary description of the management and control structure of the programme requested under Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 Article 55(3)(i) and arrangements under Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 Article 74(3)

#### 15.1.1. Authorities

Authority	Name of the authority	Name of the person responsible for the authority	Address	Email
Managing authority	DAERA – Rural Development Programme Management Branch	Director of CAP Policy, Economics and Statistics Division		ruralpolicy.branch@daera-ni.gov.uk
Certification body	The Northern Ireland Audit Office	Comptroller and Auditor General for Northern Ireland		info@niao.gov.uk
Accredited paying agency	DAERA	Senior Finance Director, (supported by European Services Branch)		esb@daera-ni.gov.uk
Coordination body	UK coordinating body	Michael Cooper	Room 100 North Gate House, 21-23 Valpy Street, Reading RG1 1AF	Michael.cooper-official@ukcb.gsi.gov.uk

#### 15.1.2. Summary description of the management and control structure of the programme and arrangements for the independent examination of complaints

##### 15.1.2.1. Management and control structure

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs is the Managing Authority designated by the Member State in accordance with Article 65(2)(a) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1305/2013 to be in charge of the management of the 2014-2020 RDP. These functions are fulfilled by Rural Development Programme Management Branch which is part of the Food and Farming Group.

The Managing Authority is responsible for the efficient, effective and correct management and implementation of the 2014-2020 RDP. In particular, the Managing Authority will:

- Ensure that there is an appropriate secure electronic system to record, maintain, manage and report statistical information on the programme and its implementation required for the purposes of monitoring and evaluation
- Provide the Commission, by 31 January and 31 October in each year of the programme, with relevant indicator data on operations selected for funding, including information on output and financial indicators;
- Ensure that beneficiaries and other bodies involved are aware of their obligations and maintain a separate accounting system or use adequate accounting codes for all transactions funded under this Programme;
- Ensure that the ex ante evaluation referred to in Article 55 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

- conforms to the evaluation and monitoring system and accept and submit it to the Commission;
- Ensure that the evaluation plan referred to in Article 56 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 is in place, that the ex post programme evaluation referred to in Article 57 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 is conducted within the time limits laid down in that Regulation, ensure that such evaluations conform to the monitoring and evaluation system and submit them to the Monitoring Committee and the Commission;
  - Provide the Monitoring Committee with the information and documents needed to monitor implementation of the programme in the light of its specific objectives and priorities;
  - Draw up the annual progress reports and, after approval by the Monitoring Committee, submit them to the Commission.
  - Ensure that the paying agency receives all necessary information, in particular on the procedures operated and any controls carried out in relation to operations selected for funding, before payments are authorised;
  - Ensure compliance with the Commission's publicity requirements.

The Managing Authority is responsible for chairing and providing secretariat functions for the Programme Monitoring Committee.

There will be a clear allocation and separation of functions between Departmental personnel undertaking the roles and responsibilities of the Managing Authority and those in the Paying Agency.

The Managing Authority will designate any intermediate bodies selected to carry out the management and implementation of the elements of the rural development specified. The Managing Authority will retain full responsibility for the management and implementation of the designated tasks and will ensure intermediate bodies have access to all the information and training required to implement these tasks.

With regard to fraud and irregularity prevention the Department has in place a Counter Fraud Strategy and in addition have published guidance on identifying irregularities.

Irregularity reports are requested on a quarterly basis from DAERA business areas. All new reports and updates are checked, collated and subsequently forwarded to the Department of Finance and Personnel, for onwards transmission to the UK Co-ordinating Body and the European Commission.

The Department has assessed the expected functions of the Managing Authority in comparison with those in the current programming period and assessed the human resources and administrative capacity currently available and likely to be available over the programming period. The Department is satisfied there is sufficient administrative capacity the management of the 2014-2020 RDP.

### **Paying Agency**

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs is the accredited Paying Agency (PA) designated by the Member State in accordance with Article 7 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1306/2013. The Paying Agency is responsible for making and accounting for EAFRD payments under the 2014-2020 RDP. □ DAERA's Senior Finance Director is the Head of the Paying Agency and will submit the annual Management Declaration. The Head of the DAERA Paying Agency is supported by European Services Branch which is part of the Central Services and Rural Affairs Group. The Head of the Paying Agency ensures that there are systems and controls in place for the authorisation, execution and accounting for payments and debt management. There is a clear allocation and separation of functions and responsibilities within DAERA between personnel undertaking the roles and responsibilities of the

Managing Authority and those of the Paying Agency and those in the other designated bodies. Personnel within the Managing Authority and the Paying Agency work in different DAERA Directorates to maintain their independence.

Overall responsibility for the legality and regularity of all rural development transactions will reside with the DAERA Paying Agency, even when these tasks are delegated to other bodies. Where paying agency tasks are delegated, detailed arrangements for managing this delegation will be established in formal agreements with the other bodies which will set out the responsibilities and obligations of the paying agency, other bodies, and Managing Authority.

The Accredited Paying Agency is responsible for making all payments of eligible expenditure under this Programme. In respect of these payments, it will ensure that:

- the eligibility of requests for and the procedures for allocating aid and their compliance with Community rules are checked before payment is authorised,
- accurate and exhaustive accounts are kept of payments made,
- checks laid down in EU legislation are made,
- documentation is presented in a timely manner and in the form requested,
- documentation is accessible, complete, valid and legible.

The Department will not make any advance payments to Local Action Groups or Arms Length Bodies. All administration costs associated with delivery will be verified by the Department prior to payment. The Department will develop an audit and verification strategy which is based on an assessment of risk to determine the frequency of inspections. The Department has assessed the expected functions of the Paying Agency, including those required for audit and verification, in comparison with those in the current programming period and assessed the human resources and administrative capacity currently available and likely to be available over the programming period. The Department is satisfied there is sufficient administrative capacity the financial management of the 2014-2020 RDP.

### **Certifying Body**

The Northern Ireland Audit Office is the Certification Body designated by the Member State in accordance with Article 9 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1306/2013 to certify the truthfulness, completeness and accuracy of the accounts of the Accredited Paying Agency.

### **Intermediate Body**

Invest NI is a regional business development agency which is part of the Department of Economy. It principally supports those businesses that can make a contribution to growing the Northern Ireland economy. It services the Northern Ireland business community by providing a range of services, programmes, financial support and expert advice.

Invest NI will act as an intermediate body for the delivery of Measure 4.2 (support for investments in processing/marketing and/or development of agricultural products). As an intermediate body it will act under the responsibility of the Managing Authority. The relevant arrangements between the Managing Authority and Invest NI as an intermediate body, including roles and responsibilities, will be documented and formally agreed with the certifying body.

### **Proposed delivery of Measure 19 LEADER Local Development**

The measure will involve partners at local level, including civil society and local economic actors (Local Action Groups), in designing and implementing local integrated strategies that help their area develop through smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The local development strategies (LDS) will be based on a comprehensive analysis of the development needs of each Local Action Group area and will detail how the needs of the area will be addressed using RDP funding. This ‘bottom-up’ approach provides added value by ensuring that:

- - The available resources are tailored and directed at the areas of most need within the area.
  - Solutions are adapted flexibly to meet the diverse needs and opportunities of the area.
  - The partnership approach of the Local Action Group provides a greater sense of ownership and mobilises the knowledge, energy and resources of local rural actors.
  - Innovation is generated through the development of new markets, new products, services, and ways of working and social innovation.
  - Local areas and communities learn from each other and linkages are strengthened between communities

#### *15.1.2.2. Arrangements for the examination of complaints*

Separate arrangements are in place for the handling and resolution of complaints from applicants for the area based schemes and non-area based schemes.

#### **Area Based Schemes**

The complaints procedure in place covers the area based schemes such as Areas of Natural Constraint, Agri-Environment-climate and forestry. The procedure is intended to provide applicants with a fair, impartial and transparent assessment of the decision against the framework of EU and National Regulations and Scheme Rules. The aim of the procedure is to ensure that the decision made is correct and in line with the EU and National Regulations and Scheme Rules. The Department has no scope to make decisions that do not comply with the rules of the schemes.

Applicants who feel that the correct decision was not made in respect of their application have access to a two stage procedure. This procedure is an opportunity for applicants to explain and demonstrate how they have met the requirements of the relevant scheme and why the Department’s initial decision should be changed. The Stage 1 review of the procedure is conducted by officials in the scheme processing branch who were not involved in making the decision in question. Applicants cannot proceed to Stage 2 until the Stage 1 review is complete. The Stage 2 review is a review by an External Panel. The final decision will be



made by the Head of DAERA Paying Agency.

#### Non-area Based Schemes

Applicants will have access to an independent review process through which the applicant will have the opportunity to demonstrate to the Review Panel that either the outcome was unreasonable or that the proper procedures were not followed. The review panel will consider whether the applicant has demonstrated sufficient grounds for the review to be upheld. No additional project information from that supplied for the original assessment should be considered during the review procedures. The final decision will be made by the Department.

If the response provided to the complaint is considered unsatisfactory by the complainant, then the complaint will be escalated within the responsible body for consideration by a senior official who has not been directly involved with the subject of the complaint, or to an independent third party or panel, who will provide a final response. If the complainant remains unsatisfied with that response, they are likely to have two potential courses of action depending on the situation: either the opportunity to a further appeal to the DAERA Permanent Secretary or to have recourse to the Assembly Ombudsman for Northern Ireland, via their elected Member of the Assembly (MLA).

#### 15.2. The envisaged composition of the Monitoring Committee

A programme Monitoring Committee will be established by the Department in accordance with Article 47 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1303/2013. The 2014-2020 RDP Monitoring Committee is chaired by a representative of the Department and will include representation from:

- Economic and social partners,
- Farming Unions
- Competent regional, local and other public authorities
- Other appropriate bodies representing civil society, non-governmental organisations (including environmental organisations and those responsible for promoting equality)
- Department for Agriculture and Rural Development, as Managing Authority and Paying Agency;

A representative from the Department of Finance and Personnel, who have responsibility for the Partnership Agreement, will also be formally invited to attend and a representative of the Commission will be invited to attend as an official observer

The 2014-2020 RDP Monitoring Committee will be responsible for overseeing the effective implementation of the programme in accordance with Article 49 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1303/2013.

Due to the overlap between rural development programmes there will be a requirement for the 2007–2013 NIRDP Monitoring Committee to continue to oversee the implementation of the current programme

until at least the end of 2016. The Monitoring Committee will be required to approve the final Annual Report which must be submitted to the EU Commission by 30th June 2016. It will also have a role in the Ex-Post Programme Evaluation report which must be submitted to the Commission by the 30th December 2016. This date will mark the formal closure of the 2007-2013 Programme.

The role of the reformed Monitoring Committee will be to monitor the implementation of both the 2007-2013 and the 2014-2020 programmes. A joint Monitoring Committee will ensure that the level of interest in the current programme is maintained throughout the closing stages of the 2007-2013 programme.

The Managing Authority will supplement the current membership with any additional organisations that are currently represented on the RDP Stakeholder Consultation Group.

15.3. Provisions to ensure that the programme is publicised, including through the national rural network, making reference to the information and publicity strategy referred to in Article 13 of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 808/2014

In line with Commission regulation 808/2014, an Information and Publications Strategy will be drawn up and submitted to the Monitoring Committee within six months of the adoption of the NI Rural Development Programme. The Monitoring Committee will be given yearly updates on progress made in implementing the Strategy.

The Strategy will aim to raise awareness of the programme among the general public, in particular, the benefits the RDP brings to rural communities, the rural economy and the environment, and the EU context of the programme. It will also encourage participation in the programme, providing potential beneficiaries with the information necessary to apply.

The target audience for RDP publicity will include current programme beneficiaries, potential applicants, DAERA staff and delivery partners, Local Action Groups, Local Councils, key farming, community, business and environmental stakeholders, voluntary sector, education sector, media, MLAs, MPs and MEPs, as well as the general public. These groups will require accessible, clear and accurate information, advice and guidance at varying levels of detail. It is essential that we have clear and consistent messaging about the RDP and the EAFRD, but tailor the information for these disparate needs.

The Strategy will ensure that relevant information is accessible to potential beneficiaries, including application procedures, eligibility and selection criteria, contact details and complaints procedures. It will also make clear the requirement for beneficiaries to acknowledge support from the EAFRD.

A web portal will be developed to promote the objectives of rural development and improve accessibility of information on funding opportunities. The Strategy will be available on this portal, as well as up to date information on project applications for potential beneficiaries. The portal will also provide information on the RDP's content and implementation for the general public.

The National Rural Network (NRN) will be an integral part of delivering the aims of the Strategy. The network will have a key role in communicating information about the Programme and wider rural development policy to stakeholders and members of the public, and a communications plan will be developed. This will lay down clear policy objectives, timelines and target groups and will include a section

on the dissemination of outcomes of networking activities. The NRN will also facilitate exchanges with the European Innovation Partnership Network and the European Network for Rural Development to help disseminate good practice and innovative approaches internationally.

15.4. Description of mechanisms to ensure coherence with regard to local development strategies implemented under LEADER, activities envisaged under the co-operation measure referred to in Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, the basic services and village renewal in rural areas measure referred to in Article 20 of that Regulation, and other ESI Funds

DAERA will complete a detailed Strategic Outline Business Case for LEADER which will set out the challenges for which the LEADER approach will deliver additional added value and benefit for rural areas.

The outcome of this Business Case process will ensure that interested rural actors and groups are provided with specific and detailed guidance from which they will be asked to develop Local Development Strategies and tailored to the needs of their particular areas. This also ensures that any overlap or duplication of funding with other government funding streams (including other ESI funds) will be avoided, audit and control findings and the reduction of the error rate can be taken into consideration and the RDP funds can be directed to areas of maximum benefit. The Business Case will also ensure there is coherence and complementary across all the RDP Measures and particularly in relation to M04 (Investments in Physical Assets) and M16 (Co-operation). The outcome of this process will determine a set of rules to ensure coherence which will be included in the LEADER operational manual.

One of the key tasks for each LAG will be to ensure that the funding allocated to them is fully integrated to the Council Community Plan to ensure there are no overlaps or duplication of funding. It will be up to each LAG to set its priorities and how they will address these whilst ensuring a good fit within the Council Community plan. The development of a Community Plan will be a requirement to demonstrate both need and priorities for Council's spending. The Community Plan will also ensure that there is coherence between the ESI funds. The Leader Local Development Strategies will be required to demonstrate coherence with the Council Community Plan.

LEADER cooperation will be co-ordinated by the Managing Authority, through the National Rural Network which will facilitate applications, help link together cooperation partners and provide funding and technical support to projects.

15.5. Description of actions to achieve a reduction of administrative burden for beneficiaries referred to in Article 27(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

The support available under Pillar 2 (Rural Development) will be consistent with the support provided under Pillar 1 (Direct Payments).

The objective of the Northern Ireland authorities is, where possible and consistent with financial propriety, to reduce the administrative burden associated with applying for and receiving funding.

Previous experience suggests that sources of difficulty are:

- Lengthy and complex application forms;
- Requirements to supply identical information on multiple occasions;
- Audit visits by multiple bodies to the same organisation;
- Complicated and sometimes inconsistent rules on the eligibility of items of expenditure for reimbursement and;
- Requirements for the retention of documentation long after completion of the project.

The Department of Finance will chair an ongoing European Core Implementation Group to ensure a synchronised approach to customer services and reduce the problems listed above. The group will have a challenge function to procedures and forms which will need justification for requiring information beyond standard templates. It should also support a one-stop shop for fielding European Funding enquiries and passing to an appropriate respondent. An updated IT system should enable documents and other information to be entered and verified just once and, subject to data protection rules, shared between multiple projects for the purpose of reducing unnecessary requests.

The ESI Core Implementation Group may also oversee eligibility rules for expenditure to ensure a concise and consistent application, together with encouragement for the adoption of simplified methodologies where appropriate. It will also look at the audit and on-the-spot-check processes, to ensure a common approach and to tailor the number of checks required to the size of the beneficiary organisation and the supported project.

Work has commenced to review the significant administrative burden which impacts on beneficiaries, implementing bodies, audit authorities and managing authorities.

The recent changes to the audit trail retention period stipulated by the EU have the potential to reduce the administrative burden in terms of data protection and storage.

There is also significant scope for the use of simplified costs to streamline administration and in particular procurement requirements for beneficiaries.

DAERA assessed the experience of simplified costs in current and previous grant funded schemes and the Commission guidance on the use of simplified costs for the new funding period. The following principles for simplification will be applied to each measure:

- Ability to simplify procedures for the beneficiary, including an increased use of IT for document exchange.
- Ability to reduce on-site vouching of claims.
- Proportionality of appraisal in relation to size of public investment.
- Ability to reduce non-compliance, particularly in relation to public procurement and use of

simplified costs.

- Procedures based on outcome rather than process, for example in managing external implementing bodies the achievement of the Key Performance Indicators and value for money will be achieved through the public procurement process.

The following measures will use simplified costs:

- Measure 1 – Knowledge transfer and information actions (Flat rate and lump sum)
- Measure 4 – Investments in physical assets (Standard costs)
- Measure 8 – Investments in forest development (Standard costs and income foregone)
- Measure 10 – Agri-environment-climate (Standard costs and income foregone)
- Measure 11 – Organic Farming (Standard costs and income foregone)
- Measure 13 – Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints (Standard costs)
- Measure 16 – Co-operation (Flat rate)

All applicants will be able to apply online or via a hardcopy application forms. Under the area-based schemes applicants can submit their claims and track the progress of their claims online. Claims can also be submitted via hardcopy forms. All scheme documentation will be available to download online as well as in hardcopy in the local DAERA offices.

Under the non-area based schemes, applicants can submit their claim online along with all supporting documentation. All scheme documentation will be available to download online and in hardcopy from the implementing body or local DAERA office.

15.6. Description of the use of technical assistance including actions related to the preparation, management, monitoring, evaluation, information and control of the programme and its implementation, as well as the activities concerning previous or subsequent programming periods as referred to in Article 59(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

DAERA, as Managing Authority, will utilise a proportion of Rural Development Programme funding for Technical Assistance activities, in accordance with Article 59 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 and Article 51 of Regulation (EU) 1305/2013. Technical Assistance funding will be used to fund a range of activities associated with the preparation, improved management, monitoring, evaluation, information and communication, networking, complaint resolution and control and audit of the Rural Development Programme.

Technical Assistance may cover costs associated with:

- The establishment and operation of the Programme Monitoring Committee
- Studies and implementation of actions to support the Programme
- Ongoing evaluation work throughout the lifetime of the Programme
- Publicity and information actions to raise public awareness of the programme and the role played by the European Union in the assistance concerned
- Control activities
- Support for the Northern Ireland Rural Network, and a proportion of the costs related to the UK National Rural Network.
- Administration and delivery of selected schemes/measures

The use of technical assistance must always be directly related to the effective and efficient management of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020.

Technical Assistance actions supported under the 2014 – 2020 Programme may relate to the preceding or subsequent Programme periods. In other words, the Technical Assistance budget in the 2014 – 2020 Programme may be used to fund, for example, the ex post evaluation of the 2007 – 2013 Rural Development Programme or preparation activities for the 2021 – 2027 Programme period. Expenditure related to preparatory activities for the 2021 – 2027 Programme period may be funded under the 2014 – 2020 Technical Assistance budget, provided that they are:

- Directly linked to the activities of the 2014 – 2020 Rural Development Programme, and
- Necessary to ensure continuity as regards the implementation of rural development policy and a smooth passage from one Programming period to the next one.

While Technical Assistance may be used to support capacity building, such actions should be aimed at increasing the capacity of the authorities and beneficiaries to manage and implement the Rural Development Programme as a whole. ‘Capacity building’ is to be understood as a process which includes increasing skills and knowledge as regards the ability to plan and implement practices and policies and increasing the quality, cost-effectiveness and/or sustainability of such implementation. Technical Assistance will not be used to support broad administrative reforms or general capacity building beyond the implementation of the EAFRD.

Costs related to preparatory work for the delimitation of areas facing natural or other specific constraints referred to in Article 32 of Regulation 1305/2013 may also be eligible

The beneficiary for support under Technical Assistance is the Managing Authority. The beneficiary may subcontract certain expenditure within the scope of Article 59 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 to other entities, public or private, provided that public procurement rules are respected.

The amount of eligible expenditure available for Technical Assistance at the initiative of the Member States is a maximum of 4% of the EAFRD amount of the Rural Development Programme.

The aid intensity is 100% i.e. the total amount is public expenditure.

## **16. LIST OF ACTIONS TO INVOLVE PARTNERS**

### **16.1. 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme Stakeholder Consultation Group**

#### 16.1.1. Subject of the corresponding consultation

DARD established the Rural Development Programme Stakeholder Consultation Group to provide a forum for key stakeholders to formally discuss and influence the development of the draft 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme. The Group included a wide range of stakeholders, including the farming unions, environmental non-governmental organisations, local government, local action groups, universities, business groups and representatives from the rural social economy.

The group met 9 times over a two year period of programme development. The following is a list of some of the issues that have been discussed:

- European Union proposals for Rural Development.
- The Partnership Agreement.
- Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis.
- Update on the Ex ante Evaluation / SEA / EQIA of the 2014 – 2020 Rural Development Programme.
- Public Consultation & Draft Summary of Stakeholder Comments and Proposed DARD response.
- Rural Development Budget.
- Individual Measure Fiches.
- The draft Programme documentation including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Impact Assessment and Ex-ante Evaluation summary.

#### 16.1.2. Summary of the results

Valuable input and evidence was received from stakeholders throughout the two year period. This fed into the development of the rural development programme. This included the following:

- Feedback on the draft SWOT and Needs assessment.
- Priority 1 – Stakeholders requested training to deliver agri-environment and forestry commitments. Where existing research and innovation structures were in place the group commented that these should be adapted to deliver the EIP.
- Priority 2 – Funding for capital investment should be linked to business objectives, skills



acquisition and a commitment to business benchmarking.

- Priority 3 - There should be prioritisation for smaller food companies and broader support for co-operation among food producers. There was no support for risk management measures.
- Priority 4 – Limited support for an organic farming scheme as this was not an efficient use of EU Pillar 2 support. A targeted level for the agri-environment scheme at designated sites was welcomed.
- Priority 5 – Support for the continuation of the Manure Efficiency Technology Scheme and for investment in on-farm renewable energy.
- Priority 6 – The Group suggested that schemes should be focussed on addressing poverty, exclusion and economic under-development. Tourism should have a strategic focus in line with national tourism priorities.

## 16.2. Equality Impact Assessment

### 16.2.1. Subject of the corresponding consultation

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act (1998) requires public authorities in carrying out their functions to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity and regard to promoting good relations across nine equality groups. An Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) was carried out by the Ex-Ante Evaluators on the DARD proposals for the Rural Development Programme. DARD held a public consultation to gather views from the public and stakeholders on its Equality Impact Assessment at the same time as the consultation on the draft programme.

### 16.2.2. Summary of the results

The consultation received 4 written submissions from the following organisations:

- Community Relations Council
- Equality Commission
- Rural Community Network
- Age NI

Overall the respondents were in agreement that although the assessment contained a comprehensive amount of information it would have benefitted from consideration of the more up-to-date research available. It was also highlighted that there is a need for more research into the ageing rural demographic.

The respondents felt that the EQIA would have been strengthened by including the good relations activities supported by Peace III and the District Council's Good Relations Programme and further by

considering the specific issue of sectarianism.

With regard to the assessment of the equality impacts of the RDP they felt that the links between the data gathered and the assessment conclusions drawn could be strengthened.

There was a positive response to the mitigation strategies identified although again it was felt that these could have been more specifically linked to the actions proposed in the RDP. There was a suggestion that further mitigation may be provided by the establishment of equality monitoring steering groups at LAG level.

Of more concern was the issue of gaps in the Section 75 monitoring information with the respondents keen to stress that actions should be taken to address this issue for the new RDP.

The issue of the ageing population gave rise to a few suggestions for the promotion of certain schemes such as Farm Family Key Skills in ICT and Farm Exchange Visits to older farmers as they would benefit more and also contribute more respectively to these schemes.

The EQIA was revised following the consultation responses.

### 16.3. Inter-Government Consultation

#### 16.3.1. Subject of the corresponding consultation

Between 1st July and 21st October 2013, DARD carried out a public consultation on proposals for the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020. As part of the consultation process, DARD also sought views from Northern Ireland Executive Ministers and their respective departments on the proposals for the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme, including the funding aspects.

#### 16.3.2. Summary of the results

Responses were received from five Departments. These were broadly supportive of DARD's proposals.

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) underlined that the NI Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) was applicable to farmhouses and urged DARD to consider ways of complementing this activity rather than providing funding for renewable heat systems. In addition, DETI questioned the use of rural development funding to grant support renewable electricity generation as incentives were already in place through the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation (NIRO) to subsidise the higher cost of this type of generation. DETI also highlighted its intention to incentivise small scale renewable electricity generation through a Feed-In Tariff (FIT) mechanism. This mechanism would not be available to projects that would be receiving other forms of grant support.

The Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) felt that a partnership approach by DARD, DETI and NITB was required to set direction, to achieve alignment between tourism priority projects and DARD priority

projects, and to shape appropriate and co-ordinated delivery mechanisms at local level. NITB felt there was scope to work with other key Government departments, including the Department for Social Development (DSD), given the social and community aspects to supporting rural development, and to foster rural based social economy enterprises.

The Department of the Environment (DOE) was supportive of the funding proposals for measures which would secure the best environmental outcomes and considered the agri-environment scheme to be the main delivery mechanism for Northern Ireland's contribution to the EU Biodiversity Strategy. They felt that the new agri-environment scheme should deliver a range of ecosystem services such as management of biodiversity, clean water and air, protection of built heritage and landscape along with climate change mitigation. They also supported the increase of woodland cover within Northern Ireland under the principle of having the right species of trees planted in the right place and felt that expansion of existing native broadleaved woodland should be a priority, particularly favouring the expansion of ancient woodlands.

DARD took these considerations into account in its programming.

#### 16.4. Public Consultation on the Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014 – 2020.

##### 16.4.1. Subject of the corresponding consultation

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) held a consultation on the Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014 – 2020 from 1st July 2013 – 21st October 2013. The consultation proposals were developed in conjunction with the RDP Stakeholder Consultation Group. The consultation was launched at the same time and in the same format as the consultations on the ERDF and ESF programmes.

The consultation set out the political and regulatory context of the new programme and posed 41 questions on DARD's initial proposals for the programme. The proposals were grouped in the consultation document according to the 6 European priorities. DARD set out the reasons behind the inclusion of the proposed schemes and asked questions about the proposals in each of the European Priority areas. DARD also asked questions about how the Programme should be delivered and about the financing of the Programme, including whether funds should be transferred from Pillar 1 to Pillar 2. To accompany the consultation document, indicative costs of each of the proposed schemes were also published.

The inclusion of an Areas of Natural Constraint Scheme in Pillar 1 or Pillar 2 was included in the public consultation on the options for Pillar 1 support.

##### 16.4.2. Summary of the results

A total of 175 responses to the RDP public consultation were received from both individuals (8%) and organisations (92%). A total of 48 (27%) responses were from farming, food and forestry organisations. Community and rural organisations submitted 41 (23%) responses. Environment, nature and conservation organisations submitted 16 (9%) responses. The consultation questions were structured by EU Priority Area.

The largest number of responses (80%) was received for Priority 6 and this reflected the well developed community and voluntary sector within Northern Ireland. The second highest number of responses received was for Priority 4 (51%) and this included responses from all the key environmental organisations within Northern Ireland. There was a significant detailed response from the majority of those that responded; however, key organisations such as the Environmental NGOs and Farming Unions submitted the most detailed responses for all six of the programme priorities. DARD analysed the responses for each question and assessed whether the suggested amendments could be supported by the EU legislative framework and the balance of responses across the main stakeholder groupings.

The responses to the consultation were broadly supportive of the plans for the future programme and did not identify any new gaps. The needs that were identified during development of the draft Programme did not change as a result of the consultation. Many of the comments received helped DARD to make further improvements to the detail of the proposed schemes.

A more detailed summary of the responses received along with the DARD responses can be found via the following link:

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/dard/rdp-2014-2020-consultation-responses-and-dard-response-2-14.pdf>

## 16.5. Public meetings

### 16.5.1. Subject of the corresponding consultation

Six public consultation events were organised on a county basis across Northern Ireland to provide information about DARD's proposals for the next programme and give stakeholders the opportunity to ask questions of DARD officials.

There was good uptake of these events, with approximately 450 stakeholders attending. The events were structured to provide the public with an overview presentation on the DARD proposals for rural development followed by a question and answer session to enable clarification to be provided on areas of interest. Each event had a discussion which was facilitated by rural sector organisations which focused on four key areas:

- What did you think of the proposed programme, what did you agree with, what needs changed and are there any gaps?
- What are the lessons which need to be learned from the last Rural Development Programme?
- If there are sufficient funds should the available funds be distributed across all six priorities?
- If there are insufficient funds to support the proposed programme which schemes do you consider to be the highest priority?

The events ended with a further question and answer session to provide further clarification from the discussion session.

### 16.5.2. Summary of the results

The feedback provided during the discussion sessions at each public event was used by the facilitating rural groups to provide a consultation response to DARD on the proposals for rural development. This supplemented the formal consultation responses received as many individuals present at the public events did not feel they were able to, or had the time to provide a formal written response.

## 16.6. Strategic Environmental Assessment

### 16.6.1. Subject of the corresponding consultation

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) contracted the Ex-Ante evaluators to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the rural development programme proposals. The environmental report was part of the public consultation launched in July 2013 to gather views from the public and stakeholders on the potential environmental impact of the programme.

### 16.6.2. Summary of the results

The consultation received 1 written submission from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

NIEA were of the opinion that some issues and associated effects, including cumulative effects, could be given further consideration. They included:

- Nitrogen deposits and ammonia
- Priority habitat loss
- Species loss in the case of permitted development
- Landscape
- Pollinator loss
- Carbon storage within our peat-lands and permanent grasslands.

They also felt that additional mitigation measures could be considered. The SEA was revised following the consultation responses.

### 16.7. (Optional) explanations or additional information to complement the list of actions

N/A



## **17. NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK**

### **17.1. The procedure and the timetable for establishing the National Rural Network (hereinafter NRN)**

The Rural Development Programme for Northern Ireland will have a dedicated National Rural Network (NRN). The NRN will help support the implementation and delivery of the programme by identifying and sharing good practice from across the Programme and by working with those involved in implementing and benefiting from the Rural Development Programme to identify their learning needs, promote and support the development of cooperation projects and provide training. This will build on lessons learned from delivering the 2007-2013 NRN, and consultation with internal and external stakeholders. The Managing Authority will establish a Network Steering Group, which will include relevant stakeholders, to develop and monitor the work programme for the Rural Network. The National Rural Network will be supported by a Network Support Unit (NSU). The Managing Authority aims to establish the Network, the Network Steering Group and the NSU as soon as possible after the approval of the RDP, and at the latest before the end of 2015.

### **17.2. The planned organisation of the network, namely the way organisations and administrations involved in rural development, including the partners, as referred to in Article 54(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 will be involved and how the networking activities will be facilitated**

The Network will be a partnership of member organisations and administrations open to all parties with an interest in rural development. The NSU will use the existing network to build on (e.g. website members, newsletter subscribers, contacts from previous events and social media contacts). As a minimum, it is expected that NRN partners will include: organisations signed up to the 'Partnership Agreement'; NIRDP Delivery Partners; NIRDP Monitoring Committee Members and LEADER Local Action Groups. A wide membership of the NRN will be encouraged through promotion and publicising of the network through various social and more traditional media.

The NRN will have the following structure: -

- The Managing Authority will have overall management responsibility for the NRN, the Network Steering Group and Network Support Unit.
- The Network Steering Group will include members of the RDP Monitoring Committee, representatives of the Managing Authority, representatives of NRN members and managers of the various programme schemes. This group will be responsible for directing and co-ordinating network activities, and will draw up and review annually a rolling action plan for the Rural Network. The action plan will take account of the issues identified in the programme SWOT and needs analysis.
- The NSU is the permanent secretariat set up to implement the Network Action Plan and will be responsible for establishing the structures needed to run the network.
- Thematic Groups or subcommittees will be formed in order to address specific issues. It is intended that these issues will be reflective of the themes and challenges which emerged in the

design of the RDP and also of issues which may arise over the course of the programming period. All three programme objectives will be included as well as the cross cutting themes of innovation, the environment and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

- It is also envisaged that the NRN will provide a networking outlet for EIP operational groups.

The NSUs of Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England will also undertake a shared programme of activity to collaborate on UK level networking priorities and participation in the ENRD.

### **17.3. A summary description of the main categories of activity to be undertaken by the NRN in accordance with the objectives of the programme**

The activities of the Rural Network will aim to increase the involvement of stakeholders in the implementation of rural development, improve the quality of implementation of the RDP, inform the broader public and potential beneficiaries on rural development policy and funding opportunities, and foster innovation in agriculture, food production, forestry and rural areas.

The regulatory obligations of the NRN will be set out in the Action Plan, which will aim to ensure continuity of the activities while allowing flexibility to respond to changing needs throughout the whole programming period. It is envisaged that the Action Plan will include the following activities:

- Collation and dissemination of examples of best practice projects covering all priorities of the RDP to help in identifying and analysing good transferable practices.
- Facilitation of thematic and analytical exchanges between stakeholders to support the sharing and dissemination of findings.
- Training and networking for LAGs and in particular technical assistance for inter-territorial and transnational co-operation, facilitating co-operation among LAGs and the search of partners for the co-operation measure (M16) including the European Innovation Partnership Operational groups and other cooperation groups.
- Networking for advisors and innovation support services
- Sharing and disseminating of monitoring and evaluation findings.
- Drawing up a communication plan including publicity and information concerning the RDP in agreement with the Managing Authority.
- Cooperating with the ENRD and EIP by participating at meetings and exchanges at EU level and engaging with the EIP network at EU level.

A communication plan will be drawn up as part of the action plan. This will lay down clear policy objectives, timelines and target groups and will include a section on the dissemination of outcomes of networking activities.



#### **17.4. Resources available for establishing and operating the NRN**

The setting up and operation of the NRN will be financed from the technical assistance budget. Appropriate budgetary resources will be available to the NRN, in line with the requirements in the regulations, split between running, administrative and capital costs.

The NRN budget will be in the region of £1m and will cover 3 full-time equivalent staff in the Network Support Unit. Additional staff resources from the Managing Authority will manage the Network Steering Group.

Other resource requirements include a strong ICT capacity in order to ensure the development and operation of a suitable website and online project database. It is important for the NSU to have sufficient permanent staff complemented with non-permanent experts to be able to perform the tasks set for the network. They must have capacity for international liaison and flexibility to adjust to arising needs and ongoing developments during the implementation of the RDP.

The Network Support Unit will be appointed following a review of the existing contract and may involve public procurement. The Terms of Reference for the appointment of the Support Unit will set out the resource requirements, skills and administrative capacity required and the expected activities. The Network Support Unit will be required to demonstrate how it will ensure that the Network membership will be as wide and inclusive as possible. Once appointed the Network Steering Group will work with the Network Support Unit and the Managing Authority to develop the Network Action Plan including the communication and publicity plan.

## **18. EX-ANTE ASSESSMENT OF VERIFIABILITY, CONTROLLABILITY AND ERROR RISK**

### **18.1. Statement by the Managing Authority and the Paying Agency on the verifiability and controllability of the measures supported under the RDP**

DAERA as both the Managing Authority and Paying Agency responsible for the 2014 – 2020 RDP have made an ex-ante assessment of verifiability, controllability and error risk of the measures included in the RDP. DAERA are committed to regularly review and assess verification and control arrangements during the 2014 – 2020 period.

The proposed controls for the new RDP have been developed based on an assessment of the root causes for error and potential corrective actions identified by the Commission in its working document SWD(2013) 244 final and reiterated in the Error Rates and AECM technical guidance fiches. In addition account has been taken of the root causes of error identified in DARD's Error Rates Reduction Plan and of the audit findings relevant to the Rural Development Programme 2007-2013. DAERA has established a Working Group with responsibility for monitoring error rates and reporting accurate control statistics.

#### Area-based measures

DAERA has made an internal assessment of the verifiability, controllability and error risk of each of the options set out under the new area-based schemes, and against the prescriptions and eligibility requirements within these options.

DAERA is generally satisfied that each of the options and prescriptions can be effectively controlled and verified through a combination of manual and automated computer based administrative checks and on-the-spot inspection in accordance with EU Regulations 1303/2013, 1305/2013 and 1306/2013. The combination of controls proposed throughout the life of the agreement provides assurance on compliance, not any individual control in isolation.

#### Mitigating actions

- Scheme Requirements. DAERA have simplified requirements, ensuring we avoid adding eligibility criteria unless absolutely necessary so we avoid gold-plating European requirements with unnecessary demands.
- Provision of advice and guidance. DAERA will aim to provide beneficiaries with sufficient and appropriate advice required to carry out scheme measures.
- Staff and applicants will be issued with clear guidance, with staff being trained in advance of schemes being launched. We will use simplified language to ensure requirements that we are placing on beneficiaries are clear to them and clear to staff conducting assessment and inspections.
- Quality of inspection function and staff training. On-going training for administration staff will remain in place, and will particularly focus on the provision of high quality advice and guidance to applicants and staff to ensure adherence to compliance requirements.
- New CAP IT system. A new IT system is being put in place which is designed to improve the quality of the land parcel identification system and IACS controls and reduce administrative and

beneficiary error.

#### Non-area based measures

A verifiability assessment has been made against the non-area based measures in the RDP delivered via the competitiveness measures and via the LEADER approach. In particular, the focus has been on ensuring that checks and procedures are in place to ensure that services are procured according to national and EU public procurement rules.

The potential risks and their mitigating actions are noted under the individual measures. A review of the results of administrative checks and on-the-spot checks from the 2007-2013 programming period has been carried out. Procedures will be subject to a full review prior to implementation to take account of lessons learnt from previous programming periods. Corrective and preventative actions are listed under each measure.

Further additional controls have also been assessed for the LEADER Local Action Groups and other delivery agents to ensure appropriate controls are in place.

DAERA is satisfied that each of the options and prescriptions can be effectively controlled and verified through a combination of manual administrative checks, computer based checks and on-the-spot inspection in accordance with EU Regulations 1303/2013, 1305/2013 and 1306/2013. As per para 4.3 of the Verifiability guidance, the combination of controls proposed throughout the life of the agreement provides assurance on compliance, not any individual control in isolation.

Taking account of DAERA's error rate resulting from controls in the previous and current programming period the overall assessment of risk following mitigating actions is **medium**. This reflects both the level of new activities to be supported and the individual risk assessments carried out on each measure.

#### **18.2. Statement by the functionally independent body from the authorities responsible for the programme implementation confirming the adequacy and accuracy of the calculations of standard costs, additional costs and income forgone**

The Department of Finance carried out an independent verification of costs for the following schemes:

- M01 Business Development Groups (lump sum payment)
- M08 Forestry
- M10 Environmental Farming Scheme
- M11 Organic Farming
- M13 Areas of Natural Constraint
- M16 European Innovation Partnerships

A copy of the statement for each scheme is attached below.

## Economic Appraisal Branch

Room S21, Rathgael House  
Bangor, BT19 7NA  
Tel: 028 9127 7663 (Internal 69063)  
E-mail: [michael.houston@dfpni.gov.uk](mailto:michael.houston@dfpni.gov.uk)



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**To:** Tom Rodgers **CC:** Lorraine Lynas  
Rosemary Agnew  
Ken McConville

**From:** Michael Houston

**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015 **DFP TRIM Ref:** DF1-07-12005

**Subject:** Cost Verification of Areas of Natural Constraint Scheme

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1. You recently requested independent verification from DFP in regard to the use of simplified costs in the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme.
2. Many thanks for sending through DARD's response to the DFP queries dated 19<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> May 2015 on the Areas of Natural Constraint Scheme.
3. Taking into account the information provided in your responses of 20<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> May, I can now confirm that DFP are content that the proposed per hectare rates for the Areas of Natural Constraint Scheme are reasonable and accurate.
4. Should you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Michael Houston**  
Economic Appraisal Branch

## Economic Appraisal Branch

Room S21, Rathgael House  
Bangor, BT19 7NA  
Tel: 028 9127 7663 (Internal 69063)  
E-mail: [michael.houston@dfpni.gov.uk](mailto:michael.houston@dfpni.gov.uk)



Department of  
**Finance and  
Personnel**  
[www.dfpni.gov.uk](http://www.dfpni.gov.uk)

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**To:** Tom Rodgers  
**From:** Michael Houston  
**Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> May 2015  
**Subject:** Cost Verification of Forestry Schemes

**CC:** Lorraine Lynas  
Ben Searle  
Ken McConville

**DFP TRIM Ref:** DF1-07-12005

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1. You recently requested independent verification from DFP in regard to the use of simplified costs in the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme.
2. Many thanks for sending through DARD's response to the DFP queries dated 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2015 on the Forestry Schemes.
3. Having considered your response I can now confirm that DFP are content that the proposed per hectare rates for the Small Woodland Creation Model, the Restock Planting Standard Cost Model and the Farm Woodland Premium Scheme are reasonable and accurate.
4. Should you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Michael Houston**  
Economic Appraisal Branch

## Economic Appraisal Branch

Carleton House, 1 Cromac Avenue  
Belfast, BT7 2JA  
Tel: 028 9090 9352 (Internal 81352)  
E-mail: [michael.houston@dfpni.gov.uk](mailto:michael.houston@dfpni.gov.uk)



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<b>To:</b>	Lorraine Lynas	<b>CC:</b>	Tom Rodgers Ken McConville David Garrett
<b>From:</b>	Michael Houston		
<b>Date:</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> August 2015	<b>DFP TRIM Ref:</b>	DF1-07-12005
<b>Subject:</b>	Cost Verification of Calculation of Income Foregone Values for the Environmental Farming Scheme - Updated		

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1. Earlier in the year you requested independent verification from DFP in regard to the use of simplified costs in the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme.
2. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> August you sent through some revised costs for the Environmental Farming Scheme as well as calculations for the new organic payment rate measure.
3. Having considered these, and your response to my queries, I can now confirm that DFP are content that the proposed annual per hectare payments are reasonable and accurate.
4. Should you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Michael Houston**  
Economic Appraisal Branch

**Economic Appraisal Branch**

Carleton House, 1 Cromac Avenue  
Belfast, BT7 2JA  
Tel: 028 9090 9352 (Internal 81352)  
E-mail: [michael.houston@dfni.gov.uk](mailto:michael.houston@dfni.gov.uk)



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**Finance and  
Personnel**  
[www.dfpni.gov.uk](http://www.dfpni.gov.uk)

<b>To:</b>	Lorraine Lynas	<b>CC:</b>	Tom Rodgers Ken McConville
<b>From:</b>	Michael Houston		
<b>Date:</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> November 2015	<b>DFP TRIM Ref:</b>	DF1-07-12005
<b>Subject:</b>	DFP Cost Verification - Business Development Groups lump sum payment - Modification		

1. Earlier in the year you requested independent verification from DFP in regard to the use of simplified costs in the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme.
2. On the 7<sup>th</sup> August you sent through a request for an additional cost verification on a business development groups lump sum payment. On the 9<sup>th</sup> November you informed us that the European Commission advised a formal modification to the document to revise the payment rate and provided us with a short document setting out the rationale.
3. Having considered this, and your response to my query, I can now confirm that DFP are content that the calculations for the payment are reasonable and accurate.
4. Should you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Michael Houston**  
Economic Appraisal Branch

DFP Cost Verification - Business Development Groups lump sum payment

DFP Cost Verification - Business Development Group lump sum payments

**Economic Appraisal Branch**

FinTru House  
Gasworks Business Park  
1 Cromac Avenue  
BELFAST, BT7 2JA

**Tel No:** 028 9090 9352  
**email:** michael.houston@finance-ni.gov.uk



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[www.finance-ni.gov.uk](http://www.finance-ni.gov.uk)

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**To:** Lorraine Lynas  
**CC:** Tom Rodgers  
Tony Simpson  
Noel McNally  
Christine Finlay  
**From:** Michael Houston  
**Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016  
**DoF TRIM Ref:** DF1-07-12005  
**Subject:** DoF Cost Verification Note - EIP lump sum payment and revised fencing EFS costs

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1. In January 2015 you requested independent verification from DoF in regard to the use of simplified costs in the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme.
2. On the 31<sup>st</sup> October and 6<sup>th</sup> December this year you sent through requests for additional cost verifications on a European Innovation Partnership lump sum payment and revised costs for fencing under the Environmental Farming Scheme.
3. Having considered these documents, and your responses to my queries on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2016, I can now confirm that DoF are content that the calculations for the payments are accurate.
4. If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Michael Houston**  
**Economic Appraisal Branch**

Cost Verification - EIP



**Economic Appraisal Branch**

FinTru House  
Gasworks Business Park  
1 Cromac Avenue  
BELFAST, BT7 2JA

Tel No: 028 9090 9351  
email: [danielle.stone@finance-ni.gov.uk](mailto:danielle.stone@finance-ni.gov.uk)



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**To:** Lorraine Lynas  
**From:** Danielle Stone  
**Date:** 24<sup>th</sup> May 2017  
**Subject:** DoF Cost Verification Note - DAERA Rural Development Programme Independent cost verification – Measure 8.3 and 8.4 - Forestry Protection Scheme

**CC:** Tony Simpson  
Noel McNally  
Christine Finlay  
Catherine Powell

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1. You recently requested independent verification from DoF in regard to the costs within the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme.
2. Having considered these documents and your responses to my queries on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2017, I can now confirm that DoF are content that the calculations for the payments are accurate.
3. If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Danielle Stone**  
Economic Appraisal Branch

Cost Verification - Forestry May 2017

## 19. TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

### 19.1. Description of the transitional conditions by measure

The NI Rural Development Programme 2007 – 2013 included a number of land-based schemes aimed at protecting and enhancing the natural environment.

These schemes are:

- M212 – LFA other than mountain areas
- M214 – Agri Environment Payments
- M221 – First Afforestation of Agricultural Land

For M214 and M221 schemes, commitments with ongoing payments were entered into before 31 December 2013 under the NIRDP 2007-13. For M212, Article 31 of 1305/2013 states that ‘ Member States may grant payments under this measure between 2014 and 2020 to beneficiaries in areas which were eligible under Article 36(a)(ii) of Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 during the 2007-2013 programming period’.

In order to ensure that the environmental benefits accrued through these schemes are not lost due to a funding gap between Programming periods, these measures have continued to be funded under transitional arrangements.

Funding for measures 214 and 221 was exhausted on 1 September 2014 and they were subsequently funded under Article 2 of the Transitional Regulation 1310/2013. For measure 212, funding was exhausted on 31 December 2014 and it was subsequently funded under Article 31 of 1305/2013.

The NI Rural Development Programme 2007 – 2013 included schemes aimed at increasing the competitiveness of our agri food and forestry sectors.

One of these schemes is M123 - Adding Value to Agricultural and Forestry Products. A successor to this scheme has been programmed into the 2014 – 2020 Programme under measure 4.2, entitled Food Processing Scheme.

Funding for measure 123 was exhausted on 31 December 2014 and it was subsequently funded under Article 2 of the Transitional Regulation 1310/2013.

### 19.2. Indicative carry-over table

Measures	Total Union Contribution planned 2014-2020 (€)
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	0.00

M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)	0.00
M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)	1,315,000.00
M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)	0.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	1,920,000.00
M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)	18,050,000.00
M11 - Organic farming (art 29)	0.00
M13 - Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints (art 31)	13,855,000.00
M16 - Co-operation (art 35)	0.00
M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development) (art 35 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	0.00
M20 - Technical assistance Member States (art 51-54)	0.00
Total	35,140,000.00

## **20. THEMATIC SUB-PROGRAMMES**

Thematic sub-programme name

## Documents

<b>Document title</b>	<b>Document type</b>	<b>Document date</b>	<b>Local reference</b>	<b>Commission reference</b>	<b>Checksum</b>	<b>Files</b>	<b>Sent date</b>	<b>Sent By</b>
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