

Agriculture and Fisheries Grant Scheme

Agri-Environment

Handbook

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CONTENTS

• LEGAL DISCLAIMER	3
• INTRODUCTION	4
• KEY OBJECTIVES	4
• FURTHER INFORMATION	4
• WHO CAN APPLY	4
• THE APPLICATION PROCESS	5
• HOW APPLICATIONS WILL BE ASSESSED	5
• HOW WILL I KNOW IF MY APPLICATION HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL	5
• ONCE APPROVED, HOW DO I CLAIM?	5
• PAYMENT.....	6
• PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PAID	6
• RIGHT TO APPEAL.....	6
• COSTS OF AN APPEAL.....	7
5/01a: CREATION OF DESIRABLE PERMANENT HABITATS	8
Woodland, Tree and Shelterbelt Planting	8
Dubs, Scrapes and Wetlands	9
New Hedgerow Planting and Enhancement	10
Farmer Initiatives	11
5/01b: CREATION OF DESIRABLE TRANSIENT HABITATS (ARABLE OPTIONS).....	11
Winter Stubble	11
Winter Fodder Crops	12
Traditional Spring Cropping	13
Cereal Conservation Headlands	14
Unharvested Arable Crops	15
Wild Bird / Pollinator / Wildflower Plots on Arable Land	16
Supplementary Winter Feeding of Farmland Birds	17
Grass Buffer or In-field Strips on Cultivated Land	18
5/02: THE ENHANCEMENT OF EXISTING HABITATS	19
Hedge Management	19
Dry-stone Walling	20
Manx Sod Hedges and Earth Banks	21
5/03: PROTECTION OF EXISTING HABITATS	22
Control of Invasive Non-Native Species	22
5/04: CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT	23
Wide Water Buffer Zones	23
5/06: AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL INITIATIVES	24

Winter Cover Crops between Arable Rotations	24
Pest, Disease, Nutrient monitoring or sampling for animals, soils, and crops	25
Manx & Imported Agricultural Lime	26
Legumes for Combining or Harvesting as Forage	27
Legumes Rich Swards (e.g. Clover Reseeds)	27
Organic Farming	28
Vermin Control	29
Farm Carbon Calculator	30
Soil Health Initiative	31
Herbal and Mixed Species Leys	32
Management of Priority Habitats	33
Poultry Productivity KPIs	34
Pig Industry Efficiency Schedule	35
Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) Management Agreement	35
5/07: NEST & WILDLIFE BOXES.....	36
Nest & Wildlife Boxes	36
5/08: EDUCATIONAL VISITS.....	37
Educational Visits (School/Youth Groups)	37
5/09: UPLAND STEWARDSHIP	38
Upland Stewardship	38
Upland Farmland Initiative	38
Appendix 1 – Soil Health Initiatives.....	39

- **LEGAL DISCLAIMER**

The information contained in these guidelines is intended to assist applicants in assessing their eligibility when completing an application for financial assistance. Completion of an application does not contractually bind the Department to grant assistance. The scheme is discretionary and any decision to provide assistance for a specific application will be based on its merits. The Department, in consultation with the industry, will undertake regular reviews of this guidance.

- **INTRODUCTION**

The Agri-Environment section of the Agriculture and Fisheries Grant Scheme (AFGS) is a scheme to provide targeted support for active farmers towards protecting and enhancing the environment and improving the efficiency and sustainability of their farming business.

This Handbook provides information on the Scheme for potential applicants and covers the types of work eligible for support, the range of initiatives for which financial assistance is available and the rates of the grants. Information is also provided on the application and claim processes.

- **KEY OBJECTIVES**



- **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Further information and application forms can be found at: www.gov.im/afgs/aes

- **WHO CAN APPLY**

Applications will be accepted from agricultural and horticultural production businesses which are individuals, partnerships, companies or limited companies who meet the criteria of being:

- an individual resident on the Island for tax purposes
- who undertakes agricultural or horticultural activity on the Island
- who meets the Agricultural Development Scheme Active Farmer criteria, the definition of which can be found on our website here: www.gov.im/activefarmer

Agricultural and Horticultural production businesses are defined as:

- **Agricultural production business:** Agriculture is currently defined by GC 65/08 as the production, rearing or growing of agricultural products including harvesting, milking, breeding animals and keeping animals for farming purposes or maintaining land in good agricultural and environmental condition. These activities should represent the core business activity;

- **Horticultural production business** is defined as a commercial business involved in the primary growing of horticultural produce and its storage and preparation for market and occupies an area of at least two acres of land which has been used for the purposes of horticultural production for at least two years (areas under glasshouses may be multiplied by 20 for determining the size of the area). It must not be involved in selling by retail such that it forms a major part of the business, unless such business has an annual turnover lower than £100,000.
- The maximum grant available under the AFGS is £200,000 per applicant in any rolling 5 year period.

- **THE APPLICATION PROCESS**

The Department must have received a fully completed Agri-Environment application before the stated deadlines and before any capital works have commenced. The Delivery Partner can assist you in this regard.

Some initiatives are applied for using the application form which is sent to registered agricultural businesses as part of the annual Agricultural Development Scheme application.

Application deadlines are the 11th of May, 12th of November or 'open all year' (an example of open all year would be for habitat creation e.g. tree planting) unless otherwise stated.

Capital projects and some other initiatives each have their own specific application form, available from the AES website or by contacting the department by email agriculture.policy@gov.im and requesting an electronic or paper copy.

By signing the application form you are declaring your agreement to the full terms and conditions of the Scheme. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure forms are completed accurately.

- **HOW APPLICATIONS WILL BE ASSESSED**

DEFA reserves the right to approve applications on the basis that they meet the application criteria and meet the agreed Management Conditions as discussed with the Delivery Partner, agreed with DEFA and indicated in this document.

The available budget may determine the number of applications that are approved.

- **HOW WILL I KNOW IF MY APPLICATION HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL**

The Department will endeavour to notify applicants within 4 weeks of the receipt of the application for capital projects. For the majority of initiatives (those included within the ADS annual application), a request for further information may be made to facilitate in-field inspections, and a claim form will be subsequently sent to you at an appropriate time in the farming calendar.

- Successful applicants will receive an approval notification and a Claim Form which will detail the agreed timescale for support from the Department.
- Unsuccessful applicants will be informed of the reasons for that decision by email or letter (please see the 'Right of Appeal' section).

- **ONCE APPROVED, HOW DO I CLAIM?**

To streamline the administration of the Scheme, email will be the primary method of communication used by the Department and Claim Forms will be sent to the applicants at

the time they are notified of their approval. However, paper copies will be made available by contacting DEFA.

Claim forms will be delivered with a specified expiry date, this will be clearly marked on the form. Claim forms returned after the expiry date will be rejected.

For applications (e.g. tree planting) that are open all year round the claim deadlines will be individually listed, this would normally be for 12 months unless agreed otherwise.

You will need to provide all the relevant supporting documentation as outlined in the Claim Form when you submit it. This must be before the expiry date as detailed on your Claim Form which is your responsibility to be aware of.

If you wish to extend the deadline of your approval, you must contact DEFA before the stated expiry date on the Claim Form. No reminders will be issued.

- **PAYMENT**

Once you return your Claim Form, payment will be arranged, subject to DEFA and the Delivery Partner confirming that you have met the required management conditions.

- **PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PAID**

The applicant should be aware that the details of all financial assistance paid out under the AFGS may be published in an annual report prepared by the DEFA or under Freedom of Information legislation. They are, therefore, not confidential to the company concerned. Applicants should also be aware that parliamentary questions may be raised on applicants.

- **RIGHT TO APPEAL**

1. A person may, within 28 days of the date of notification of a decision under this Scheme, request in writing that the Department review the decision, stating the grounds on which the review is requested.
2. In the first instance, the application shall be reviewed by an officer of the Department who has had no involvement in the original application; this is known as a Stage 1 appeal.
3. Stage 1 appeal decisions are to be made and notified to the applicant within 30 days of the date the review request was received.
4. Following notification of the outcome of the review, if an applicant considers that the grounds for appeal have not been addressed, he or she may apply in writing to the Department requesting that the matter be referred to the Appeals Committee ("the Committee"). This is known as a Stage 2 appeal.
5. A stage 2 appeal shall be heard and a recommendation made by the Committee within 90 days from the date a request for a Stage 2 appeal is received.
6. Applicants may opt to have either a written or oral Stage 2 appeal.
7. In the case of a written appeal, the appeal request document and all other relevant paperwork, including the review paperwork, shall be considered by the Committee in advance of the meeting without the appellant present.
8. In the case of an oral appeal the appellant shall receive all the paperwork which is to be considered by the Committee in advance of the appeal hearing and he or she will be invited to attend part of the meeting.
9. During the oral hearing the appellant shall be extended the opportunity to present his or her case and respond to the Committee's questions. Appellants may be accompanied and may wish to appoint someone to represent them.

10. Once the appeal hearing is complete, the appellant and anyone accompanying him or her shall leave the meeting and the Committee shall deliberate on the matter.
11. The Committee must send a recommendation to the Minister of the Department for consideration and final decision. The Minister must make the decision within 28 days from receipt of the Committee's recommendation, however, where an appeal is particularly complex, a further period of consideration may be required and the appellant shall be notified of this in writing.
12. The Department shall provide the appellant with written notification of the Minister's decision within 28 days of the date of the decision being made.
13. For the purposes of this Scheme, the Committee shall be convened by the Department as required and shall consist of an industry representative, a Department representative who has not been involved in the original decision or the review and an independent person who has appropriate knowledge of the subject area.
14. The Department shall seek nominees to the Committee and maintain a list of those nominees along with a reference to their particular area of expertise. This list shall be available for inspection upon request.
15. The Committee when dealing with a Stage 2 appeal must —
 - a) work within the parameters of the Scheme;
 - b) not award compensation; and
 - c) make objective and evidenced recommendations in line with the Scheme specifications.

- **COSTS OF AN APPEAL**

1. An application for a Stage 2 appeal shall incur a cost of £300, payable when the appeal is submitted.
2. Any charge for an appeal under paragraph (1) shall be refunded where that appeal is successful.

5/01a: CREATION OF DESIRABLE PERMANENT HABITATS

Woodland, Tree and Shelterbelt Planting	
Purpose: To extend and create new woodland. A diverse range of tree species will have greatest value to native birds, moths and other insects and are capable of developing a diverse natural ground flora. Tree planting also delivers carbon capture and storage, reduced flooding, maintenance of soils and soil fauna, shade and shelter for livestock and crops.	
Schedule / Number 5/01a(i)	Payment Rate: Up-to 100%of agreed costs. Maximum area per block – 1.24ac (without planning permission), acreages above this will be considered on a case-by-case basis with approved planning permission. Application Deadline: Open all year
Eligible Land: Improved, semi-improved and unimproved land ideally but not exclusively adjacent to existing woodland. The eligibility of the project will be assessed on a site by site basis and desired habitat outcomes for the project to be agreed with DEFA following recommendation by the Delivery Partner. Where the land has previously been included as eligible land in an Agriculture Development Scheme (ADS) application, the area payment will be retained for 10 years - this is dependent on the woodland being actively managed to the satisfaction of the Department. ADS payments are paid on the basis of the eligible area which has been fenced. Management Conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where necessary, a stock proof fence should be erected to exclude all stock at least until successful tree establishment.• If necessary, protect from rabbits and hares.• Trees from the list in the Appendices should be prioritised unless agreed with DEFA and the Delivery Partner.• DEFA tree biosecurity guidelines should be adhered too.• The minimum density of trees planted should be 450 per acre, unless a reduced density is agreed with DEFA.• Tree planting should be a mix of at least six species; mix to be agreed with DEFA and the Delivery Partner prior to planting.• Upon either successful establishment or a maximum of 10 years, all non-biodegradable shelters and ties must be removed and disposed of responsibly.• Planting more than 1.24ac requires planning permission.• Where necessary an ecological assessment may be required.• Tenants must demonstrate permission from any landlord for habitat creation projects. Items Eligible for Capital Payment: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trees and shrubs - see Appendix.• Planting labour to a maximum £1,000/ac.• Stakes, ties and eco-friendly tree shelters, including subsequent replacements if required.• Rabbit or stock proof fencing and gates as agreed with DEFA.• Subject to an ecological assessment, scrub clearance where necessary.	

Dubs, Scrapes and Wetlands

Purpose: To create or restore dubs, scrapes and wetland habitats. Benefits biodiversity, as well as water storage to alleviate the effects of summer droughts and in-field and downstream flooding.

Schedule / Number
5/01a(ii)

Payment Rate: Up-to 100% of agreed costs to a maximum of feature.

Application Deadline: Open all year

Eligible Land: Subject to an ecological assessment and planning permission, where required (i.e. for permanent change of use or engineering works), where wetland creation improves biodiversity; reduces downstream flooding; extends existing wetland habitats or restores wetland habitats lost through drainage or natural succession.

The eligibility of the project will be assessed on a site by site basis and desired habitat outcomes for the project to be agreed with DEFA with recommendation from the Delivery Partner.

Please note that creation of larger, permanent waterbodies will require planning permission, which must be secured and evidenced prior to an Agri-Environment application receiving approval.

Management Conditions:

- Owing to the potential presence of protected and rare species, dredging work of existing wetlands is subject to an ecological impact assessment and agreement with DEFA and the recommendation from the Delivery Partner. Best practice would see no more than 1/3rd of a dub dredged in any calendar year.
- The location of excavated material must be agreed as part of the ecological assessment and must not leave the farm.
- New waterbodies and wetland habitats should not connect to adjacent watercourses without fisheries and flood risk assessment and approval.
- Tenants must demonstrate permission from any landlord for habitat creation projects.

Items Eligible for Capital Payment: (by agreement)

- Mechanical digger work, including trailer use where necessary.
- Scrub control (e.g. to prevent encroachment of sallows where appropriate).
- Fencing and gates.

New Hedgerow Planting and Enhancement

Purpose: To plant new and enhance existing hedgerows to join other hedgerows and habitats, especially where historic field boundaries have been lost, fragmented or replaced by fences. This benefits biodiversity, carbon capture and storage, reduces flooding, improves soils and soil fauna, and provides shade and shelter for livestock and crops. Standard tree planting within the hedgerow has additional benefits for biodiversity and the environment and should be considered.

Schedule / Number
5/01a(iii)

Payment Rates:

Up to £20m or up to 75% of actual costs as agreed with DEFA and the Delivery Partner prior to planting.

DEFA Standard costs for new stock-proof fencing, gates and water troughs.

Application Deadline: Open all year

Eligibility: For new hedgerows: on a bank or at ground level. For established hedgerows: where there are gaps in excess of 5m. The eligibility of the project will be assessed on a site-by-site basis and desired habitat outcomes for the project should be agreed with DEFA with the recommendation from the Delivery Partner.

Management Conditions:

- The shrubs must be planted in a double row at a minimum of 6 per metre.
- Planting should be undertaken, ideally, between 1 November and 31 March.
- Plants must be at least 2-year-old transplants, at least 450 millimetres (mm) to 600mm high. Plants must be species listed in the Appendices with no one species making up more than 70% of the total planted in a staggered double row 400 millimetres (mm) apart with a minimum of 6 plants per meter.
- Allow some tree saplings to develop into trees, aiming at least one per 50 meters.
- Tenants must demonstrate permission from any landlord for habitat creation projects.
- All trees/shrubs, stakes, ties, shelters/spirals, and planting are included in the above rate.

Items eligible for additional capital payment: (by agreement)

- Stock proof fencing.
- One gate per new hedgerow, if appropriate.
- Where required (only where existing fields are subdivided): a single water trough and connections.

Farmer Initiatives	
Purpose: Any project not already covered in this Handbook or any other Government Scheme that delivers demonstrable agricultural, wildlife, landscape, environmental or climate benefits.	
Schedule / Number 5/01a(iv)	Payment rates to be confirmed on approval A payment rate will be established accordingly up to a maximum of 100% of costs. This will be discussed with DEFA and the Delivery Partner. The payment rate will be calculated and agreed prior to approval. Application Deadline: Open all year
Eligibility: The eligibility of the project will be assessed on a site-by-site basis and desired outcomes for the project must be agreed with the Delivery Partner. Your application must be accompanied with quotes for items of expenditure where applicable. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenants must demonstrate permission from any landlord for habitat creation projects. • Management conditions will be agreed between the applicant and DEFA with recommendation from the Delivery Partner. 	

5/01b: CREATION OF DESIRABLE TRANSIENT HABITATS (ARABLE OPTIONS)

Winter Stubble	
Purpose: To provide foraging and feeding areas for birds such as skylark, flocks of finches, tree sparrows and any other target species.	
Schedule Number 5/01b(i)	Payment Rate: Up to £40/ac for the first 10 acres Up to £20/ac for the next 10 to 20 acres Up to £10/ac for over 20 acres Application Deadline: 12th November Final Claim date: 28th February
Eligible land: Any land which was in an arable crop in the year of application and was left as winter stubble. Maize stubble is ineligible.	
Management Conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You MUST NOT use any herbicides to desiccate the crop before harvest. • Undersown cereals are not eligible in order to maximise benefits to farmland birds. • Straw must be removed in a timely manner after harvest. • Do not burn residues. • After the arable crop has been harvested, the stubble must be kept until at least the 15th of February the following year. • Do not graze the stubbles between harvest and 15th February. • Do not use herbicides, pesticides or fungicides between harvest and 15th February. • Do not spread farmyard manure or slurry between harvest and before 15th February. • It is acceptable to store manure on the field, but "middens" must be more than 10m from ditches, waterbodies and watercourses and 50m from boreholes. • The above restrictions on FYM/slurry are in place to prevent large influxes of corvids to the detriment of smaller red-listed farmland birds and follows good agricultural practice in relation to FYM and slurry – see Protecting our Soil and Water: A Code for Good Agricultural Practice. 	

Winter Fodder Crops

Purpose: Payment for growing either a single or diverse, multi-species winter fodder crop to protect the soil surface and provide root growth that benefits soil structure, supports soil biology and minimises nutrient leaching, soil erosion and runoff. A good mix of species can also provide cover and feeding areas for birds such as lapwing, skylark, tree sparrow and flocks of finches including linnet.

Schedule / Number 5/01b(ii)

Payment Rate:

Single species £20 per acre

Multi species £45 per acre

Minimum area 1ac

Up to 100% of £/ac rate for first 20 acres

Up to 50% of £/ac rate for the next 20 to 40 acres

Up to 25% of £/ac rate for over 40 acres

Application Deadline: 12th November

Final Claim date: 28th February

Eligible Land: Any land in grass/crop rotation or where crops have been grown continuously. Can be combined with Traditional Spring Cropping 5/01b(iii).

Management Conditions:

- Field margins must have at least 1m uncultivated strip between the crop and the base of the boundary.
- Grazing is permissible once the fodder crop is established, throughout the winter, but it still needs to be well established through the winter months to serve its purpose.
- A Fodder crop mix must comprise a minimum of **THREE** types of crop, ideally including a mix of brassicas, legumes, grass, cereals or herbs.
- No ploughing, cultivations and spreading of fertiliser and lime before mid-February.
- No insecticides can be used.
- No herbicide except pre-emergence herbicide which is acceptable.
- Copies of seed invoices (which clearly show the type and proportions of mixed crop sown) and photographs, (with proof of date) of the established crop must be provided with your claim.
- Crops must be of reasonable establishment and sufficiently well grown so the cover crop is well-established to protect the soil surface for the duration of the winter months. Poor or unviable crops will not receive payment.
- Note: Permanent pasture may be eligible for a payment under Schedule 5/01a (iv) Farmer Initiative or 5/06p Management of Priority Habitats. Please consult with the delivery partner prior to undertaking cultivations.

Traditional Spring Cropping

Purpose: Payment for growing cereal crops: spring wheat, spring barley, triticale, oats or rye, with low inputs of fertiliser and no herbicides or insecticides to encourage seed eating birds and scarce arable weeds, and provide a diversity of cultivation practices which leads to a greater variety of associated wildlife and plants.

Schedule / Number
5/01b(iii)

Payment Rate:

Up to £120/ac

Up to £40/ac - if undersown, then it must include a legume.

- Up to 20ac - 100% of the payment rate.
- 20 up to 40ac - 50% of the payment rate.
- Over 40ac - 20% of the payment rate.

Application Deadline: 11th May

Final Claim date: 28th February

Eligible Land: Any land which is in a cereal crop in the year of application. Can be combined with the Winter Stubble 5/01b(i), Unharvested Arable Crops 5/01b(v) and Organic 5/06f.

Management Conditions:

- Field margins must have at least 1m uncultivated strip between crop and the base of the boundary.
- Ploughing, cultivations and the spreading of fertiliser must take place from mid-February and 1st May.
- Fertiliser application must not exceed 40 units of nitrogen, 20 units of phosphate and 20 units of potash per ac, equivalent to a total application of 2 cwt per acre of 20:10:10.
- Farmyard manure and slurry applications can be made prior to sowing.
- A maximum of 15kg/ac of legumes can be sown with the spring cereal to help provide nitrogen, reduce lodging and weed pressure. Undersown crops must contain a grass mix with at least 1.5kg/ac of clover.
- If fields are undersown with grass/clover, option 5/06e Legume Rich Swards (e.g. Clover) cannot be claimed in conjunction with this initiative.
- Fungicides are permitted.
- Wild oats must be removed by hand roguing or with a selective herbicide (with prior written consent from DEFA before spraying).
- Fields with significant number of wild oats which have not been controlled will not receive payment.

Note: Permanent pasture may be eligible for a payment under Schedule 5/01a (iv) Farmer Initiative or 5/06p Management of Priority Habitats. Please consult with the delivery partner prior to undertaking cultivations.

Cereal Conservation Headlands

Purpose: To encourage growth of a number of broadleaved weeds and hence the insects which feed on them. The weed seeds and insects are a vital food source for game birds, yellowhammers and skylarks and encourage predators of aphids and other crop pests (such as ground beetles). Conservation headlands can be a refuge for rare and declining arable plants. This option is best suited to crops on light lowland soils. Avoid creating these headlands where there are difficult weeds.

Schedule / Number
5/01b(iv)

Payment Rate:

Up to £120/ac
Minimum area 1ac
Maximum area 20ac

Application Deadline: 11th May

Final Claim date: 28th February

Eligible Land: Any land which is in a cereal crop in the year of application. Headlands may be along one or all sides of a field. Can be combined with Organic schedule 5/06f and Unharvested Arable Crops 5/01b(v). Cannot be claimed in conjunction with Traditional Spring Cropping 5/01b(iii).

Management Conditions:

- Width - between 6m and 24m margin (conservation headland) on which:
- Crop on the headland receives no fertiliser, FYM, slurry, herbicides, fungicides, insecticides between after the harvest of the previous crop and the harvest of the crop being claimed.
- Field margins must have at least 1m uncultivated strip between crop and the base of the boundary.
- Fungicides may be permissible, however prior written approval from DEFA must be sought prior to application.
- Lime may be applied.
- Headland may be harvested with crop in the usual way or left unharvested.
- Crops other than cereals (e.g. oil seed rape) will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Crop input records may be required to help verify inputs.

Unharvested Arable Crops	
Purpose: To provide an important food source for farmland birds and insects in the winter.	
Schedule / Number 5/01b(v)	<p>Payment Rate: Up to £290/ac Minimum area 1acre to a maximum 5 acres in any one parcel Maximum total area of 20 ac across the holding</p> <p>Application Deadline: 11th May Final Claim date: 28th February</p>
<p>Eligible Land: Any land which is in an arable crop in the year of application. Can be combined with Traditional Spring Cropping 5/01b(iii) and Organic 5/06f.</p> <p>Management Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field margins must have at least 1m uncultivated strip between crop and the base of the boundary. • Field numbers must be provided at the time of application. • Establish an arable crop (not maize) between February and May. • If claiming for a headland – the minimum width must be 12m. • Minimum seed rate is 75kg/ac – you must maintain a record for your claim. • The crop must be grown to commercial standards using viable seed. You must manage the crop to deliver between 450 and 700 fertile tillers per square metre. • Leave the arable crop unharvested/ungrazed until 15th February in the year following seed head production. • Do not apply any artificial fertilisers, herbicides, fungicides or insecticides. • Wild oats must be removed by hand roguing or with a selective herbicide (with prior written consent from DEFA). • This initiative does not include fodder crops. • All applicants will be contacted during the growing season to provide details of the crop type, field numbers and acreages to be left unharvested. • Only those applicants who have provided the preceding information by the deadline stated in the request will be sent a Claim Form. • Ideally the land parcels should be spread across the whole holding in should not be whole fields or in contiguous blocks. Further guidance can be sought from the Delivery Partner. <p>Note: Permanent pasture may be eligible for a payment under Schedule 5/01a (iv) Farmer Initiative or 5/06p Management of Priority Habitats. Please consult with the delivery partner prior to undertaking cultivations.</p>	

Wild Bird / Pollinator / Wildflower Plots on Arable Land

Purpose: To provide a year-round habitat for wildlife such as pollinators and birds.

Schedule / Number**5/01b(vi)****Payment Rate:**

Up to £220/ac

Minimum area 1acre to a maximum 5 acres in any one parcel

Maximum total area of 20 ac across the holding

Application Deadline: 11th May**Final Claim date: 28th February**

Eligible Land: Any land in grass/crop rotation or where crops have been grown continuously.

Management Conditions:

- Field margins must have at least 1m uncultivated strip between crop and the base of the boundary.
- Must be a recognised Wild Bird / Pollinator / Wildflower mix.
- Copies of seed invoices (which clearly show the type of crop sown) and dated photographs of the established crop must be provided with your claim.
- A single-species plot may be considered with prior written agreement with DEFA and recommendation from the Delivery Partner.
- No harvesting, ploughing, cultivation and spreading of fertiliser from sowing until 15th February in the following year.
- No insecticides can be used.
- No herbicide except pre-emergence herbicide if required.
- Plots can be claimed in any year when sowing has taken place.
- Ideally, areas should be across multiple sites or wildlife corridors and not in one large block – further advice can be sought from the Delivery Partner with agreement from DEFA.

Supplementary Winter Feeding of Farmland Birds

Purpose: Supplementary feeding for seed-eating small farmland birds from December to April through the period known as the 'hungry gap' when seed sources are depleted.

Schedule/ Number
5/01b(vii)

Payment Rate:

Up to £1,100 per tonne of feed

(1 tonne will cater for 2 feeding stations for 20 weeks)

Application Deadline: 12th November

Final Claim date: 28th February

Eligible Land: The eligibility of the project will be assessed on a site-by-site basis and desired habitat outcomes for the project must be agreed with DEFA with approval from the Delivery Partner.

Management conditions:

- Seed mixture, feeding locations and methods must be agreed in writing with DEFA with recommendation from the Delivery Partner prior to undertaking this initiative.
- Potential seeds include white millet, red millet, linseed, oil seed rape, canary seed, nyjer seed, sunflower hearts. Barley, wheat and maize should be avoided as these can encourage rodents and generalist farmland birds like Grey-back (Hooded Crow) and Woodpigeon.
- Feed continuously via a specialist feeding hopper or at least once a week via hand spreading from 1st December to 30th April (more often in freezing conditions).
- Select feeding areas that are firm and free-draining, such as farm tracks or hard standing areas, or in close proximity to the 'transient habitats' and hedgerows.
- You must keep and supply records with your claim including details of the mixture used (weight of components and cost), dates of feeding, methods (hopper or hand spreading), amount of feed and the location of the feeding areas.
- Do not use tailings (small seeds and chaff removed from the harvested crop) as supplementary feed.
- Any hoppers used should be specifically designed for small farmland birds (i.e. finches) and not non-native game birds such as Pheasants.
- The feeding areas will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the agreed Management Conditions have been met and feeding evidence (log of feeding times and amounts) will be required.
- Where it is felt that supplementary feeding is designed to benefit game shooting, this initiative will not be supported.

Grass Buffer or In-field Strips on Cultivated Land

Purpose: A grass buffer strip may provide new habitat, link existing habitats, prevent soil erosion, protect existing landscape/cultural features, and improve water quality in waterbodies and watercourses. An in-field grass strip on steeply sloping ground helps reduce soil erosion and run-off.

Schedule/ Number	Payment Rate Up to £80.00/ac – where an existing grass sward is kept. Up to £325.00/ac – for establishing in-field grass strips only on steeply sloping land. Application Deadlines: 11th May & 12th November Final Claim date: 28th February
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5/01b(viii-a)

Eligible land: Any field on which cultivation has taken place within the year of claim. The eligibility of the project will be assessed on a site by site basis and desired habitat outcomes for the project must be agreed with DEFA with recommendation from the Delivery Partner.

Management Conditions:

- Buffer Strips - You must leave the existing grass sward intact during cultivation to form a buffer between a boundary/cultural feature, habitat or waterbody/watercourse.
- In-field Strips – either leave existing grass sward or (where none exists) sow a new dense grass sward as an in-field strip on steeply sloping cultivated ground.
- The Buffer Strip must be a minimum of 6m and a maximum of 24m wide.
- Other than during initial establishment, the Buffer Strip must not have any applications of artificial fertilisers or organic manures.
- No herbicides, fungicides or insecticides to be used.
- Land may be lightly grazed (once established, where applicable).
- The Buffer Strip **MUST** be maintained until Mid-February.
- Do not use the grassed area as an access route for vehicles, stock or commercial activities.

Note: Permanent pasture may be eligible for a payment under Schedule 5/01a (iv) Farmer Initiative or 5/06p Management of Priority Habitats. Please consult with the delivery partner prior to undertaking cultivations.

5/02: THE ENHANCEMENT OF EXISTING HABITATS

Hedge Management	
Purpose: To provide enhanced hedge management to the benefit of wildlife and stock.	
Schedule / Number 5/02b	Payment Rate: Up to £8.00/100m for 1 side of a hedge Application Deadline: Open all year round Final Claim date: 28th February
<p>Eligibility: Any established hedgerow, composed largely of woody plants (i.e. Hawthorn or Blackthorn) with less than 2m between the ground and the base of the leafy layer (i.e. not a line of trees), over 20m long, less than 5m wide gaps between major woody stems at the base and composed of at least 50% native shrubs (i.e. not European Gorse).</p> <p>Management Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You MUST submit an updated farm map highlighting all eligible hedges which meet the criteria of the scheme with your application.• You MUST also maintain comprehensive records of your hedge management to allow us to identify the specific dates of hedgerow management for any given field claimed.• Maintain a hedge at least 2m tall and 1.5m wide, except for sections recently planted, gapped up, laid or coppiced.• Cut hedgerows either:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ No more than one year in three between 1 September and 28 February annually, i.e. leave at least two-thirds of hedgerows untrimmed each year.▪ No more than one year in two between 1 January and 28 February annually, i.e. leave at least one-half of hedgerows untrimmed each year.▪ Exceptionally, only trim sides of hedgerow to allow a tall boundary to develop.▪ Alternative maintenance regimes will be considered on a case-by-case basis.	

Dry-stone Walling

Purpose: To create, maintain and restore dry stone walls. Walls provide a nesting habitat for birds, give warmth and shelter to lizards, small mammals and butterflies and shelter livestock.

Schedule / Number
5/02c

Payment Rate:

Up to £60/m (walls 1.0m high above ground).

Up to £90/m (walls 1.5m high above ground).

Up to £120/m (walls 2.0m high above ground).

If only one side is being built/restored (i.e. a stone-faced Manx sod hedge), half the above rates.

Additional £6.50/m if materials need to be brought to the site.

Additional £1.00/m if top/scare wire required (only for repaired sections or new walls).

Maximum length 100m/year (by exception, longer lengths may be considered).

Application Deadline: Open all year

Eligibility: Any agricultural field, not immediately adjacent to a dwelling, where a new wall can successfully be built or an existing wall maintained or restored. Maintenance refers to gaps/slips of over 1m. You must include photographs with your application.

Management Conditions:

- Application must be submitted before any work commences.
- Build/maintain/restore in the style/height/width found in the nearest adjacent walls.
- Use material traditional to the locality (i.e. limestone in the southeast, sandstone in the west, granite in the south-central, shore stones in the north and Manx slate elsewhere.
- Where necessary, protect with scare/top wire (2 lines of wire with posts at intervals of not more than 6 metres).
- Tenants must demonstrate permission from any landlord for new walling projects.
- Applications must be approved prior to any work commencing, please speak with the Delivery Partner for more information.

Manx Sod Hedges and Earth Banks	
Purpose: To create, maintain and restore Manx sod hedges (stone faced earth banks) or new earth banks. Such banks provide a nesting habitat for many birds, give warmth and shelter to lizards, small mammals and butterflies, supports particular wildflower species such as harebell, primroses and sheep's bit scabious and provides good shelter for livestock.	
Schedule / Number 5/02d	Capital payment: Up to 100% of agreed costs. Application Deadline: Open all year
<p>Eligibility: Any agricultural field, not immediately adjacent to a dwelling, where a new sod hedge or earth bank can successfully be built or an existing sod hedge sensitively maintained or restored. Maintenance refers to gaps/slips of over 1m. You must include photographs with your application.</p> <p>The eligibility of the project will be assessed on a site by site basis and desired habitat outcomes for the project must be agreed with DEFA with the recommendation of the Delivery Partner.</p> <p>Management Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All restoration of existing sod hedges will be subject to a detailed ecological and cultural assessment by the Delivery Partner to ensure that restoration does not damage existing habitats or cultural features. • Build/maintain/restore in the style/height/width found in the nearest adjacent sod hedges using stone type of that locality and using soil from the farm, not brought in. • Tenants must demonstrate permission from any landlord for new sod/earth bank projects. 	

5/03: PROTECTION OF EXISTING HABITATS

Control of Invasive Non-Native Species	
Purpose: To protect native biodiversity via active management and eradication of any invasive non-native species listed on Schedule 8 of the Wildlife Act 1990.	
Schedule / Number 5/03a	Payment Rate: Up to 100% of agreed costs. Application Deadline: Open all year
Eligible Land: All land that is currently in your ADS-declared landholding. The eligibility of the project will be assessed on a site-by-site basis and desired habitat outcomes for the project must be agreed with DEFA with recommendation from the Delivery Partner. Management Conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Control the invasive species as agreed with the Delivery Partner via a Method Statement.• Abide by all necessary legal requirements and best practice to protect waterbodies and watercourses.• Cannot be used:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ To control agricultural Injurious Weeds (see Weeds Act 1957).▪ To comply with ADS Cross Compliance or other legal requirements.▪ To control bracken (which is native) or European gorse (which is naturalised) – in exceptional circumstances, on priority habitats, this may be considered under a Farmer Initiative.	

5/04: CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

Wide Water Buffer Zones	
Purpose: To protect watercourses and waterbodies from adjacent cultivation and/or fertiliser/manure runoff.	
Schedule/Number 5/04a	Payment Rate: Up-to 100% of initial capital costs Up to £80/ac Permanent grassland Up to £120/ac Improved grassland (temporary ley) or arable Minimum area 1.5 ac Application Deadline: Open all year
Eligible land: Any land beside a watercourse or waterbody where there is a potential risk. The eligibility of the project will be assessed on a site by site basis, including a review of DEFA watercourse monitoring data, and desired outcomes for the project must be agreed with DEFA with recommendation from the Delivery Partner.	
Management Conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Buffer Zones must be 10-50m wide. Land must be delineated and placed in either permanent grass or suitable planting with no further cultivations, chemical use or drainage.• Land must not be used as an access track or the soils compacted.• Land may be mown (between August 1st and September 15th) provided grass is removed within a month of cutting (as hay or silage), unless trees and shrubs have been planted. Cutting should be in wildlife friendly pattern.• Land may in certain circumstances be grazed lightly (September only), if there would be wildlife benefits from this as agreed with DEFA with recommendation from the Delivery Partner.• Any Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam or Giant Hogweed must be controlled.• Where there are problems with injurious weeds spot treatment of these species is permitted, with prior DEFA approval.• The applicant will need to comply with the desired habitat outcomes as agreed with DEFA and recommendations from the Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.• No trees or shrubs within 10m of a 'designated watercourse' should be planted unless DEFA and DOI Flood Risk Management approval.• Tenants must demonstrate permission from any landlord for such projects.	
Items Eligible for Capital Payment (by approval) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fencing and gates/stiles.• Troughs as alternative water supplies where access by stock to water is prevented by water protection measures.• Grassland establishment where there has been an arable crop.• Native tree and shrub planting may be appropriate.	

5/06: AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL INITIATIVES

Winter Cover Crops between Arable Rotations	
Purpose: Minimise soil erosion and nutrient leaching.	
Schedule / Number 5/06a	Payment Rate: Up to £100/ac (excludes AML) Minimum of 1 eligible acre <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Up to 20ac - 100% payment.• 20 up to 40ac - 50% payment.• Over 40ac - 20% payment. Application Deadline: 12th November Final Claim date: 28th February
<p>Eligible Land: Any land that was in an arable crop in the year of application. This initiative cannot be used on existing grass swards.</p> <p>Management Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cover crops must be sown at the appropriate time and conditions to serve the purpose as intended, ideally by the end of August.• Winter cover crops must be destroyed or incorporated before spring cultivations, early light grazing can form part of this process.• Field margins must have at least 1m uncultivated strip between crop and the base of the boundary.• Crops can be a specialist single species (i.e. mustard to assist with the control of PCN in potatoes) or a mix, which can be a proprietary winter cover crop mix or a DEFA-approved mix.• Straight Ryegrass is not permitted without prior written approval.• A Fodder crop mix must comprise a minimum of THREE different types of crop, ideally including a mix of brassicas, legumes, grass, cereals or herbs.• A diverse mixture of seeds such as rye, vetch, phacelia, barley, mustard etc. can be sown, or other crops such as ryegrass or tillage radish with at least 3 different species in the mix sown to equal proportions. The mix should ideally complement each other.• Winter cover crops must not be destroyed before 15th February.• Summer cover crops between arable rotations will be considered on a case by case basis.• Copies of seed mix and invoices which clearly show the type and proportions of mixed crop sown, along with photographic evidence of the established crop must be provided with your claim.	

Pest, Disease, Nutrient monitoring or sampling for animals, soils, and crops	
Purpose: Optimising production, whilst maximising returns.	
Schedule / Number 5/06b	Payment Rate: 80% of actual analysis costs Maximum of 10 samples per annum or higher by prior agreement Application Deadline: Open all year
Eligibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any ADS applicant with a clearly definable need can apply for analysis under this initiative. Items of Expenditure Eligible: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laboratory analysis and sampling costs. Faecal egg counting Plant nutrient sampling Soil borne pest sampling (i.e. nematodes) Water quality sampling Others by agreement with DEFA Forage nutrient sampling Management Conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results and invoices must be provided with the claim. Soil sampling should ideally be no more than a quarter of total number of fields on the holding. Further sampling should be agreed with DEFA. 	

Manx & Imported Agricultural Lime	
Purpose: Optimising the use of nutrients whilst maximising returns to the farmer.	
Schedule / Number 5/06c	<p>Payment Rate: MANX/QUARRIED LIME: 50% of the cost of the purchase and spreading of the lime. Or 50% of the cost plus 50% of £9/tonne for spreading if self-spread.</p> <p>IMPORTED LIME: £0.25 per percentage Effective Neutralising Value (ENV) per tonne (£14.25/t for lime of 57% ENV)</p> <p>Application Deadline: Open all year</p>
<p>Eligible Land: Any grass fodder / cereal growing land in grass/crop rotation or where crops have been grown continuously.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online applications can be completed here: https://www.gov.im/agandfishgrantscheme • Applications for support must be made before any activities under this initiative are carried out. • If you do not provide a quote with your application, an Effective Neutralising Value (ENV) of 57.7% will be applied to calculate your grant rate. For bulk product this information will be available from the supplier and for bagged product this information will be printed on the bag. Especially but not exclusively for bulk material the Department reserves the right to analyse the product for chemical composition and particle size to enable the actual ENV to be calculated. • A copy of the original invoice must be supplied with the lime grant claim form. Payment will be calculated using the ENV stated on this invoice. On receipt of your invoices, if the ENV percentage quoted is lower than 57.7%, grant will be recalculated based on the lower amount. • Crushed shells may be eligible upon approval by DEFA. 	

Legumes for Combining or Harvesting as Forage**Payment for growing legumes for combining – peas, beans and lupins or for harvest as winter fodder - peas, beans, lucerne, clover and vetches.****Purpose:** To encourage the cultivation of nitrogen fixing crops.

Schedule / Number 5/06d	Payment Rate: Up to £80/ac (excludes AML) Application Deadline: 11th May Final Claim date: 28th February
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Eligible Land: Any arable land in grass/crop rotation or where crops have been grown continuously.

Management Conditions:

- Field margins must have at least 1m uncultivated strip between crop and the base of the boundary.
- Ploughing, cultivations and sowing should take place between mid-February and 1st May. A later sowing date may be permitted for Lucerne in certain weather situations with prior approval.
- Multi species crops i.e.(barley and pea sown together) will be accepted and considered on a pro rata basis.
- Copies of seed invoices and photographs of the established crop should be provided with your claim.
- Poor crops will be assessed on a case by case basis.

Note: Permanent pasture may be eligible for a payment under Schedule 5/01a (iv) Farmer Initiative or 5/06p Management of Priority Habitats. Please consult with the delivery partner prior to undertaking cultivations.

Legumes Rich Swards (e.g. Clover Reseeds)**Payment for creating legume/clover rich swards or using legumes/clover to supplement existing swards in the grazing situation.****Purpose:** To encourage the cultivation of nitrogen fixing crops.

Schedule / Number 5/06e	Payment Rate: Up to £80/ac (excludes AML) Maximum of 20% of the forage acreage in any one year Any one field can only be claimed once in every 4 years Application Deadline: 11th May Final Claim date: 28th February
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Eligible Land: Any land in grass/crop rotation or where crops have been grown continuously.

Management Conditions:

- Legume/clover leys established by undersowing of cereals or other crops are not eligible – please see the traditional spring cropping initiative for options.
- Legume/clover leys should ideally be sown between 15th March and 15th September.
- The sown seed mix must contain a minimum of 1.5kg/acre of clover.
- If adding legume/clover to an existing ley a minimum of 2kg/acre is required.
- Copies of seed invoices (which clearly show the type of crop sown) and photographs of the established crop must be provided with your claim.

Note: Permanent pasture may be eligible for a payment under Schedule 5/01a (iv) Farmer Initiative or 5/06p Management of Priority Habitats. Please consult with the delivery partner prior to undertaking cultivations.

Organic Farming

Schedule/ Number 5/06f	Payment Rate: See table below (excludes AML). Application Deadline: Open all year round Final Claim date: 28th February
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To apply for the management grant, producers must be registered OR be in the process of registering during the scheme year with an organic certification body, such as the Soil Association. Conversion payments - 3 years for top fruit 2 years for everything else. The total area for payment to be agreed with DEFA.

Total payment per ac per year		
	Conversion	Management
Rotational land	£71	£26
Improved Grassland	£30	£16
Unimproved Grassland	£20	£8
Horticultural land	£162	£81
Top Fruit	-	£121
Enclosed rough grazing	-	£3

If the applicant is applying for a grant to **convert** the land to organic, they need to complete an Organic Viability Plan and send it in with their application.

Where an application is received and approved during a Scheme year, conversion payments will be calculated on a pro rata basis from the date of approval.

If the applicant is applying for a grant to **manage** their organic land, then the land must be registered with an organic certification body before applying. The applicant **must** supply a copy of their organic certificate and once this has been received the payment will be processed.

Vermin Control

Purpose: To control predators and Vermin on farm that maybe detrimental to nature, biodiversity, livestock performance and human health.

Schedule / Number
5/06g

Payment Rate: £200 per business plus up to £1 per BML acre.

Application Deadline: Open all year

Eligibility: - all applicants must:

- Be an active farmer
- BML land classification only

Management Conditions:

- A vermin control plan must be developed for best practice targeting problematic vermin and mitigating the risk of non-target species being adversely affected.
- The plan must be approved by DEFA.
- Actions are managed or undertaken in-house by a competent person or by an external contractor.
- Ideally, where appropriate, licensed persons must be qualified and/or experienced with the relevant licenses in place.
- An Environmental Risk Assessment is undertaken before bait is laid.
- Prior to treatment with baits the use of non-chemical control methods should be considered first followed by the least toxic alternatives.
- Ensure non target animals do not have access to bait.
- Permanent baiting is not routinely undertaken and toxic bait is removed when treatment is finished.
- Any affected vermin are removed and disposed of humanely and not left visibly or where other non-target specie may come into contact.
- Granular bait is not used in areas where any produce is stored or packed.
- All pest monitoring points are recorded on a site plan and regular checks are completed and documented.
- Where corvids or similar are controlled, appropriate licenses must be in place and conditions followed. i.e. where a game or general license is required, the necessary reporting is evidence.

Farm Carbon Calculator

Purpose: To reduce agricultural emissions and monitor carbon footprint

Schedule / Number	Payment Rate:
5/06h	£250 per farm business plus up to £6/acre
	BML up to £6/acre
	AML up to £1/acre
	Final Claim date: 28th February

Eligibility: - all applicants must:

- be an active farmer;

Management Conditions:

- Ideally, work in partnership with the Department's Agricultural Farm Carbon Engagement Officer.
- Undertake a whole farm carbon review utilising the DEFA approved calculator.
- Produce a whole farm carbon report highlighting the farms total climate change emissions and sequestered carbon
- Assess the extent of uptake of low-emission practices and understand the barriers to implementation
- Identify opportunities for increasing carbon sequestering and reducing climate change emissions.

Soil Health Initiative

Purpose: To support farmers to promote healthy soils and flourishing biodiversity on the farm

Schedule / Number	Payment Rate:
5/06i	£250 per farm business plus
	Lower rate: up to £4/acre
	Higher rate: up to £6/acre
	Final Claim date: 28th February

Eligibility: - all applicants must:

- ADS applicant;
- BML land classification only

Management Conditions:

- **Lower Rate – per 50 acres**
- Recording at least 4 easy soil tests per annum on a minimum 2 fields (across the holding) with photos.
- Tests to include 2 regen indicators, 1 grazing test and 1 compaction test plus a chemical analysis for each field.
- Record general observations & actions every quarter/season across the farm to document the changes
- Create a simple report with plan to improve the results using tips from the Regen Dashboard

- **Higher Rate – per 50 acres**
- Recording at least 6 easy soil tests plus biodiversity twice a year on a minimum of 3 fields.
- Tests to include 4 regen indicators, 1 grazing, 1 compaction, 1 soil test and biodiversity plus a chemical analysis and soil carbon content analysis for each field.
- Record general observations & actions every quarter/season across the farm to document the changes
- Create a simple report with plan to improve the results using tips from the Regen Dashboard

Management Conditions:

- The Department's approved app (Soilmentor) must be used for recording.
- A full list of tests can be seen in appendix.
- The Soil Mentor app allows for photographs to be saved on the app
- Sample sites must be representative across the holding ideally taking account of different blocks of ground and management practices.
- Paper options are available on request but these may incur an administration charge.

Herbal and Mixed Species Leys	
Purpose: To encourage the creation and use of diverse herb-rich swards which deliver enhanced animal performance and improve biodiversity.	
Schedule / Number 5/06n	Payment Rate: Up to £120/ac (excludes AML) Maximum of 20% of the forage acreage in any one year Any one field can only be claimed once in every 4 years Application Deadline: 11th May & 12th November Final Claim date: 28th February
<p>Eligible Land: Any land in grass/crop rotation or where crops have been grown continuously.</p> <p>Management Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field margins must have at least 1m uncultivated strip between crop and the base of the boundary. • Straight herbal leys may be sown, i.e. one species only. • A Mixed species ley must contain at least three grass species and at least three legume species one of which can be white clover along with herbs and/or wildflowers • No pesticides can be used, except herbicides to spot treat or weed-wipe injurious weeds or invasive non-native species, soft and hard rush, nettles or bracken. • Over sowing into an existing sward is permitted but the resulting sward must include at least 50% of the sown mix. • Sowing should be completed by 31st August. • Copies of seed invoices and seed mixes (which clearly show the type and proportions of mixed crop sown) and photographic evidence of the established crop must be provided with your claim. <p>Note: Permanent pasture may be eligible for a payment under Schedule 5/01a (iv) Farmer Initiative or 5/06p Management of Priority Habitats. Please consult with the delivery partner prior to undertaking cultivations.</p>	

Management of Priority Habitats

Purpose: To support those who are delivering the effective environmental management of priority habitats through current farming practices.

Schedule / Number
5/06p

Payment Rate:

Up to £60/ac (excludes AML)

Minimum area 0.25ac

Maximum area 200ac per habitat

The following payment rate will be applied to the relevant acres of each farm:

- Up to 10ac 100% of the rate.
- Over 10 acres will be paid at 10% of the rate.

Application Deadline: 12th November

Final Claim date: 28th February

Eligibility:

- Any area of land that has been identified as delivering a unique or sought-after priority habitat through current farming practices. Land must be within the ADS.

Eligible Land:

- Land eligible for this initiative under the ADS as agreed with the Delivery Partner and DEFA.
- A list of priority habitats can be found on the DEFA website.

Ineligible Land:

- Any land already in receipt of payments under a Section 27 or Section 30 Wildlife Act Management Agreement.
- Any land that has been abandoned or land not considered to be in Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition by the Department.

Management Conditions:

- To maintain the conditions as agreed.
- Once approved for this initiative, the application will renew annually thereafter.
- You must inform DEFA if your management practices change or any fields included are to be removed from the initiative.

Poultry Productivity KPIs

Purpose: To recognise the environmental benefit that physical performance recording and the efficiencies that this can deliver for the poultry industry

If successful there will be:

- Monthly physical performance recording
- Industry recognised humane end-of-life treatment

Schedule / Number	Payment Rate:
5/06r	Purchase payment: 25% of the cost of initial purchase cost End-of-life payment: 25% of the cost of initial purchase cost Application Deadline: Open all year

Eligibility – to receive purchase payment, all applicants must:

- Be an ADS claimant.
- Be registered with Environmental Health as a food production business.
- Be producing eggs or poultry for sale for human consumption.

Management Conditions:

- Provide a current Flock Health Plan in place, signed by a Veterinarian professional.
- Provide a current Manure Management Plan.

Eligibility – to receive end-of-life payment – all applicants must:

- Provide evidence of humane end-of-life slaughter.
- For laying birds:
 - Record eggs laid per 100 birds per month and per batch.
 - Mortality (number of birds per month and per batch and as a percentage of original batch number).
 - Feed use per 100 birds per month.
 - Margin over feed per 100 birds per month and per batch.
- For table birds:
 - Live weight at slaughter – per bird.
 - Mortality (number of birds per month and per batch and as a percentage of original batch number).
 - Feed use per batch.
 - Margin over feed per batch.

Management Conditions:

- As per purchase payment. Payment will be based on point of lay pullets, other ages will be by agreement with DEFA.

<p>Pig Industry Efficiency Schedule</p> <p>Purpose: To support the Pig Industry to deliver locally produced Pork and data capture to support future efficiency improvement plans to be made on farm.</p> <p>Capped at £120,000 annually</p>	
<p>Schedule / Number 5/06s</p>	<p>Payment Rate: Up to £40 per eligible pig (equivalent) based on weight tickets supplied to the Department by the applicant.</p> <p>Application Deadline: Open all year</p>
<p>Eligibility – all applicants must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be an ADS claimant • be registered with the Department as a pig holding <p>Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must comply with the guidance set out in the Pig Industry Support Scheme Guidance document. 	

<p>Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) Management Agreement</p> <p>Purpose: Payment mechanism for complying with an ASSI management agreement on agricultural land.</p> <p>This initiative is the payment mechanism for active farmers in receipt of Wildlife Act Section 27 or Section 30 ASSI management agreement payments agreed with the Departments Ecosystem Policy team.</p>	
<p>Schedule / Number 5/06s</p>	<p>Payment Rate: At the rate agreed by the Ecosystems Policy Team.</p>
<p>Eligibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be an ADS claimant. • Any area of ASSI on agricultural land under a management agreement with the Department. <p>Ineligible Land:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any land in receipt of any other AES payments unless with prior agreement of DEFA. <p>Management Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per the individual agreement. • Tenants must demonstrate permission from any landlord for any agreed works or to be in receipt of a management agreement. 	

5/07: NEST & WILDLIFE BOXES

Nest & Wildlife Boxes	
Purpose: Provides nesting and roosting sites for key mammal, bird and invertebrate species.	
Schedule/ Number 5/07	Payment Rate: Up to 100% of actual costs up to a maximum of £500 per year, per farmstead (acknowledging some farms have more than one farmstead). Application Deadline: Open all year
Eligible Land: Any land within your ADS-declared landholding, including farm buildings.	
Items of Eligible Expenditure: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Generic bird boxes• Specialist bird boxes/platforms (e.g. Tree Sparrow, Chough)• Barn Owl boxes (internal or external)• Bat boxes• Hedgehog houses• Bee bricks or boxes• Bug hotels	
Management Conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To prevent overheating, no boxes should face south (except bat boxes).• Each box must be kept in its original location for a minimum of 5 years.• Occupied boxes may not be inspected, maintained or moved without contacting DEFA.• For homemade boxes a maximum rate of £40.00/box shall be paid to cover materials and time (£250.00/box for an internal Barn Owl box and £500.00/box for an external Barn Owl box).• Homemade boxes must meet minimum specifications recommended by the RSPB• DEFA sawmill wood is ideal and encouraged to help a circular economy.	

5/08: EDUCATIONAL VISITS

Educational Visits (School/Youth Groups)	
Purpose: To Encourage farms to engage with schools/youth groups to visit farms for educational experiences.	
Schedule / Number 5/08	Payment Rate: £300 per class/group, per visit Application Deadline: Open all year
<p><u>Eligibility:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applicants must meet the active farmer criteria <p>Management Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must carry out a health and safety check and prepare a risk assessment for the farm in conjunction with the youth group/school leader.• Must provide hand washing and toilet facilities.• Make sure the tour of the farm lasts at least 2 hours and is conducted by a member of farm staff or volunteer who suits the visitors' needs.• Make sure the tour explains (relevant to the age group) the links between farming, food production, wildlife conservation, climate change and water protection using the farm as a classroom.• Any visit should demonstrate farming and countryside/rural activities as naturally as possible and reflect a true representation of reality where possible.• Must provide a feedback form completed by the lead of the visiting party and host farm (returned to the Department).• Do not charge for visits or receive any other direct income from Government funds relating to the educational visit.• Ensure you have appropriate insurance for such visits.• DEFA may attend visits to ensure that the visit is educational and that the conditions are met.	

5/09: UPLAND STEWARDSHIP

Upland Stewardship	
Purpose: To create a sustainable upland land management plan. The uplands are an iconic landscape of Isle of Man; they perform many functions including carbon storage, water storage and purification, maintain several rare and vulnerable plants and animals, provide a recreational resource and attract visitors to the Island.	
Schedule / Number 5/09	Maximum Payment Rate: £5.33 per eligible acre (AML only) Application Deadline: Open all year round Final Claim date: 28th February
Eligible Land: Uncultivated Above Mountain Line (AML) land.	
Management Conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Habitat Management Plans must be underpinned by the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• broad description of existing ecology (fauna and flora)• appropriate management on sensitive areas• support the delivery of agreed catchment management plans• Habitat Management Plans must demonstrate the existing management on the landholding• The plan must be reviewed and agreed annually• Habitat management plans must include any agreed habitat creation and ecological enhancement measures. The cost of such agreed works will be financed from elsewhere and are not included in the Upland Stewardship Scheme Payment• Only land classified as AML is eligible for the Upland Stewardship Scheme payment.	

Upland Farmland Initiative	
Purpose: Any project not already covered in this Handbook or any other Government Scheme) that delivers demonstrable agricultural, wildlife, landscape, environmental or climate benefits.	
Schedule / Number 5/10	Payment rates to be confirmed on approval A payment rate will be established accordingly up to a maximum of 100% of costs. This will be discussed with DEFA and the Delivery Partner, and a payment will be calculated and agreed prior to approval. Application Deadline: Open all year
Eligibility: <p>The eligibility of the project will be assessed on a site-by-site basis and desired outcomes for the project must be agreed with the Delivery Partner. Your application must be accompanied with quotes for items of expenditure where applicable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tenants must demonstrate permission from any landlord for habitat creation projects.	

Appendix 1 – Soil Health initiatives.

Category: Observation / Notes	
1	Observation
Category: Regen Indicators	
1	Basal ground cover transect
2	Brix of grass or crop
3	Brix of weed
4	Bulk density (0-30cm) g/cm ³
5	Earthworms
6	Infiltration (1st inch) mins
7	Infiltration (2nd inch) mins
8	Nodulation of legumes
9	Rhizosheaths
10	Rooting depth 80% (cm)
11	Rooting depth total (cm)
12	Slake test
13	Soil insect score
14	Soil organic carbon (0-30cm) %
Category: Soil tests	
1	Topsoil Depth (cm)
2	VESS Bottom
3	VESS Bottom Depth (cm)
4	VESS Top
5	VESS Top Depth (cm)
Category: Ground cover tests	
1	No. Broadleaf Species
2	No. Grass Species
3	No. Undesirable Species
4	Sward Density
Category: Compaction tests	
1	Fence Post Insertion
2	Penetrometer (PSI)
3	Probe Depth (cm)
4	Spading Ease
Category: Grazing tests	
1	Dung Beetle Count
2	Dung quality
3	Plate Meter (Total)
4	Sward Stick (DM/ha)
5	Time taken for dung to break down
Category: Biodiversity	
1	Birds (see dropdown >)
2	Butterflies / Moths (see dropdown >)
3	Invertebrates (see dropdown >)
4	Mammals (see dropdown >)
5	Plants (see dropdown >)
6	Fungi

Indicative Tree Planting List (other species could be included if agreed with DEFA)

MANX NATIVES		HABITAT TYPE	Tree (T) Shrub (S)
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Wet ground	T
Aspen	<i>Poplar tremula</i>	Woodland creation	T
Birch Downy	<i>Betula pubescens</i>	Woodland creation	T
Birch Silver	<i>Betula pendula</i>	Woodland creation	T
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Woodland and hedge creation	S
Common sallow	<i>Salix cinerea ssp. oleifolia</i>	Wet ground	S
Eared willow	<i>Salix aurita</i>	Wet ground	S
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Woodland and hedge creation	S
Goat willow	<i>Salix caprea spp. caprea</i>	Wet ground	S
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Woodland and hedge creation	S
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Woodland and hedge creation	S
Sessile Oak*	<i>Quercus petraea</i>	Woodland creation, standards in hedgerows	T
Scots pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Woodland creation	T
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Woodland and hedge creation	T/S
ESTABLISHED IN THE WILD AND FUTURE PROOF SPECIES			
Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Woodland creation, standards in hedgerows	T
Cherry Bird	<i>Prunus padus</i>	Woodland and hedge creation	T
Cherry Wild	<i>Prunus avium</i>	Woodland and hedge creation	T
Crab Apple	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	Woodland and hedge creation	T
Holm Oak	<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Woodland	T
Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	Woodland and hedge creation	T
Guelder rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Woodland and hedge creation	S
Hawthorn	<i>Crateagus monogyna</i>	Woodland and hedge creation	S
Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Woodland	T
Lime Broad Leaved	<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>	Woodland	T
Lime Small Leaved	<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Woodland	T
Purple willow	<i>Salix purpurea</i>	Wet ground	T
Spindle	<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Woodland and hedge creation	S
Sweet Chestnut*	<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Woodland creation	T
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Woodland	T
Walnut	<i>Juglans regia</i>	Woodland creation in the lowlands not frost tolerant	T
Whitebeam	<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Woodland creation	T
Wild Pear	<i>Pyrus communis</i>	Woodland creation	T
Wild Plum/Bullace	<i>Prunus domestica subsp. insititia</i>	Woodland and hedgerow creation	T
Yew	<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Woodland creation	T

*Biosecurity restrictions (see DEFA guidance)