




Agriculture and Fisheries Grant Scheme

Agri – Environment Initiatives

Handbook

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The Creation of Desirable Permanent Habitats (5/01a)

Woodland Planting Scheme

Purpose: To extend and create new woodland composed of species listed in Appendix 1. Due to climate change and tree diseases and pests a broad range of tree species is listed in Appendix 1. Monoculture woodlands must be avoided as these have a higher risk of failure in the future due to climate change and tree pests and diseases. 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	Payment Rate:
5/01a(i)	50 - 100% Minimum area in any block - 0.5 acre Maximum area per year - 5 acres

Eligible Land: Subject to an ecological assessment, improved, semi-improved and unimproved land ideally but not exclusively adjacent to existing woodland. Locations adjacent to an Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) or an area of high ecological importance may be restricted to using native tree species only.

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 the Agri-Environment 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.

Management Conditions:

- Fence and exclude all stock.
- Rabbit proofing or individual tree guards used if rabbits or hares are present at the site.
- Only trees from Appendix 1 are to be used unless otherwise agreed with DEFA and the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner.
- Undertake effective weed control of new planting (only non-chemical control such as mulch mats should be used within 10 m of watercourses).
- Planting may be spread over 2 or 3 years, but minimum number of trees finally planted must be 450 per acre - replacing dead trees to keep this density.
- ADS payments are paid on the basis of the area which has been fenced.
- Woodland may contain up to 30% un-planted ground and up to 15% shrubs. 75% of shrubs should be planted at the edge of the block with tree species forming the core area.
- Tree planting must be a mix of at least six species; mix to be agreed with DEFA and the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner pre planting.
- DEFA tree biosecurity guidelines must be adhered too.

Items Eligible for Capital Payment:

- Trees species Appendix 1
- Planting labour £1,000/acre
- Tree shelters where necessary
- Rabbit proof and stock proof fencing
- Subject to an ecological assessment, scrub clearance where necessary
- Mulch mats for weed control

Dubs, Ponds, Scrapes and Wetland Habitats	
Purpose: To create new dubs, ponds, scrapes and wetland habitats. Benefits to biodiversity, as well as water storage to elevate the effects of summer droughts and downstream flooding.	
Schedule / Number 5/01a(ii)	Payment Rate: 50 - 100%
<p>Eligible Land: Subject to an ecological assessment, planning permission, MUA consents and impacts on adjacent land; improved, semi-improved and unimproved land in catchments where wetland creation reduces downstream flooding; extending existing wetland habitats or restoring wetland habitats lost through drainage.</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 the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner.</p> <p>Where the land has previously been included as eligible land in an ADS application, the area payment will be retained for 10 years - this is dependent on the area of habitat being actively managed to the satisfaction of the Department.</p> <p>Items Eligible for Capital Payment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payment for dredging work (to keep water area open) • Payment for scrub control (to prevent willow encroachment where appropriate) • Fencing and gates (including fencing off part of water margin) • Sluices • Payment for the work to divert the water • Mechanical digger work (where essential) • Payment of the removal of drains or blocking of ditches 	

New Hedge Planting	
Purpose: To join other hedges and areas of habitat in localities where the network of field boundaries is fragmented and has been replaced by fences. This benefits biodiversity, carbon capture and storage, reduced flooding, maintenance of soils and soil fauna, 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: £15/m for first year and £5/m in second year or 75% of actual costs agreed with DEFA and the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner prior to planting Maximum of 300m/year inspection required if any application is for a greater amount Top wiring or scare wire £1/m (only for sod hedges built or repaired under the Scheme)
<p>Eligibility: For new hedges on a bank or at ground level.</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 the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner.</p> <p>Management Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply any herbicide to the 1.5m strip in the August or September prior to planting only • The shrubs must be planted in a double row at a minimum of 6 shrubs per metre. • Planting should be undertaken between 1 November and 31 March • Plants must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-year-old transplants 	

- at least 450 millimetres (mm) to 600mm high
- Plants must be species listed in Appendix 1 with no one species making up more than 70% of the total
- planted in a staggered double row 40 centimetres apart with a minimum of 6 plants per metre
- kept clear of weeds until they are established
- remove individual guards and tree shelters once the plants are established
- replace all failures in the following planting season
- trim newly planted hedge in at least the first 2 years to encourage bushy growth, allowing the hedge to become taller and wider at each cut
- prevent livestock and grazing animals from damaging the hedge by setting fencing at least 1.2m from the centre of the hedge, or, if there is a bank, as close to the base of the bank as possible

Note: rabbit-proof fencing is preferable to the use of individual plant protectors.

Items eligible for Capital payment:

- Shrub species from Appendix 1
- Top wire or scare wire

Farmer Initiatives

Purpose: Any other habitat enhancement or creation options will be looked at with a view to paying for wildlife and landscape benefits. Where a particular species requires a particular management this option may be recommended.

Schedule / Number
5/01a(iv)

Payment rates to be confirmed on application

Any proposal will be compared with equivalent options from other agri-environment schemes in the British Isles, and a payment rate established accordingly. This will be discussed with DEFA and the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner, a payment will be calculated and agreed prior to application. Evidence of any associated capital expenses will be required.

Eligibility: This will be assessed on a site by site basis.

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 the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner.

Examples:

- a) Planting replacement trees in existing tree top heronry.
- b) Opening up old farm track which is overgrown and impassable to allow un-improved grassland, ferns and other wildflower species on track margins to thrive
- c) Planting new orchards or extending existing orchards (for example, managed for migrant birds and establishing species rich grassland beneath)
- d) New or replacement parkland trees if there are fewer than 50 being planted.

The Creation of Desirable Transient Habitats (5/01b)

Arable Options

Why is arable land important?

Some Manx bird species that have declined in recent years benefit from the cultivation of land, which exposes soil invertebrates and leaves some fallen crop and weed seeds. Certain crops, such as winter fodder beets, provide shelter as well as seeds. Certain arable weeds have become very rare or extinct and may be conserved in conservation headlands. Today the balance between predators of crop pests and the pests themselves is better understood and headlands and field margins left unsprayed by insecticides can harbour beneficial beetles and spiders that eat crop pests.

Rotations

Payments are made on a minimum area which can be moved from field to field with rotations. Please note that no payment will be made on winter stubbles which have been under sown.

Winter Stubbles	
Purpose: To provide foraging and feeding areas for birds such as yellowhammer, skylark, flocks of finches and tree and house sparrows.	
Schedule / Number 5/01b(i)	Payment Rate: £58/acre Minimum area 2.5 acres per farm The following payment rate will be applied to the following cereal acres of each farm: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Up to 10 acres - 100% of the land is eligible to receive payment• 10 up to 20 acres - 50% of this additional land is eligible to receive payment• Over 20 acres - 20% of this additional land is eligible to receive payment
Eligible land: Any cereal growing land in grass/crop rotation or where crops have been grown continuously. The area can be moved from field to field with rotations but not under sown. It may be necessary to exclude a field from the winter stubble option for a year if under sowing is essential. Forage Maize stubble is ineligible.	
Management Conditions: <ol style="list-style-type: none">After cereal crop has been harvested the stubble must be kept until 15th February the following year;Straw must be removed in a timely manner after harvest;Do not burn residues;Do not under sow;Do not use herbicides, pesticides or fungicides between harvest and ploughing (i.e. while in stubble);Spread no more than 10 tonnes/ac of Farm Yard Manure (FYM), if necessary, but only from 15th February onwards;No slurry to be applied from harvest until after 15th February;FYM and Slurry (unless injected) MUST be incorporated into the soil within one day of spreading;It is acceptable to store manure on the field, but such middens must be more than 10m from ditches and watercourses and 50m from bore holes	

<p>Winter Fodder Crops</p> <p>Payment for growing winter fodder crops e.g. forage rape, kale or turnips</p> <p>Purpose: To provide cover and feeding areas for birds such as yellowhammer, skylark, and flocks of finches, including linnet.</p>	
<p>Schedule / Number</p> <p>5/01b(ii)</p>	<p>Payment Rate:</p> <p>£10/acre</p> <p>Minimum area 1.25 acres</p>
<p>Eligible Land: Any fodder growing land in grass/crop rotation or where crops have been grown continuously. Can be combined with traditional cropping. Winter fodder payment areas can be moved from field to field with rotations.</p> <p>Management Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No ploughing, cultivations and spreading of fertiliser and lime before 15th February; • No insecticides can be used; • No herbicide except pre-emergence herbicide which is acceptable; • Field margins must have at least 1m uncultivated or rough grass strip between crop edge and fence/hedge/base of sod hedge; if the hedge is very wide and/or overgrown, and hence more than 3m wide in total, the 1m strip can include part of the hedge overhang. 	

<p>Traditional Spring Cropping</p> <p>Payment for growing cereal crops: spring wheat, spring barley, oats or rye, with low inputs of fertiliser and no herbicides or insecticides.</p> <p>Purpose: To encourage seed eating birds and scarce arable weeds, and provide a diversity of cultivation practice which leads to greater variety of associated wildlife and plants.</p>	
<p>Schedule / Number</p> <p>5/01b(iii)</p>	<p>Payment Rate:</p> <p>£100/acre</p> <p>Maximum acreage per applicant 20 acres</p>
<p>Eligible Land: Any cereal growing land in grass/crop rotation or where crops have been grown continuously. Can be combined with the Winter Stubble option 5/01b(i). Area can be moved from field to field with rotations.</p> <p>Management Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ploughing, cultivations and the spreading of fertiliser must take place between 1st March and 1st May. • No insecticides or herbicides may be used, except where there is a serious problem when use must have prior consent from DEFA; • Fertiliser application must not exceed 40 units of nitrate, 20 units of phosphate and 20 units of potash per ac, equivalent to a total application of 2 cwt per acre of a 20:10:10 compound; and • Field margins must have at least 1m uncultivated or rough grass strip between crop edge and fence/hedge/base of sod hedge; if the hedge is very wide and/or overgrown, and therefore more than 3m wide in total, the 1m strip can include part of the hedge overhang. • Optional introduction of arable weed seeds (e.g. poppies, field pansy). 	

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 in turn are vital food items for game birds, yellowhammers and skylarks as well as encouraging 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:
£100/acre
Minimum area 1 acre

Eligible Land: Any cereal-growing land in grass/crop rotation or where arable crops have been grown continuously. Headlands may be along one or all sides of a field.

Management Conditions:

- Width - between 6 m and 12 m margin (conservation headland) on which:-
- Crop on the headland receives no insecticides between 15th March and harvest (insecticides used on adjacent land must not be allowed to drift onto headland);
- No fertiliser (slurry and FYM) following the harvest of the previous crop on headland, (fertiliser used on adjacent land must not affect or encroach onto headland);
- No herbicides applied between 15th March and harvest, (herbicides applied to adjacent land must not affect or encroach onto headland);
- Field margins must have at least 1m uncultivated or rough grass strip between crop edge and fence/base of sod hedge; if the boundary consists of a hedge that is very wide and/or overgrown, and hence more than 3m wide in total, the 1m strip can include part of the hedge overhang.
- Fungicides (unless they have known insecticidal qualities or are mixed with an insecticide) and lime may be applied; and
- Headland may be harvested with crop in the usual way or left un-harvested.

Unharvested Cereal Headlands

Purpose: To provide an important food source for farmland birds throughout the year and insects in the summer, and provide both grain and seeding arable plants in winter.

If successful there will be:

- Areas of open crop growth, allowing access for foraging farmland birds
- A crop structure supporting a range of declining arable plants and other broad-leaved plants
- plants providing summer and winter foraging for declining and localised farmland birds (especially grey partridge), mammals and important farmland pollinator species, such as bees and other beneficial insects
- Strips or areas of weedy unharvested cereals providing over-wintering habitat for insects and food for seed-eating farmland birds

Schedule / Number
5/01b(v)

Payment Rate:
£260/acre
Minimum area 1 acre

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

Management Conditions:

- Establish a cereal crop (not maize) between February and April in strips between 6m and 24m wide or on a part-field or field scale
- Create an open crop structure by managing the crop to deliver between 450 and 700 fertile tillers per square metre
- Leave the option area unharvested until 1st February in the year following grain head production before returning to normal rotational management

Do not:

- Apply any fertilisers or manures
- Apply any lime
- Use any herbicides except those on the list of permitted active ingredients available from DEFA
- Apply any insecticides after 15th March

Biennial Wild Bird Seed Mix Strips

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

Schedule / Number
5/01b(vi)

Payment Rate:
£110 per acre
Minimum area 1 acre

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

Management Conditions:

- Seed mix of at least 3 small-seed bearing plant chosen from, barley, triticale, kale, quinoa, linseed, millet, mustard, fodder radish and sunflower, other plants may be allowed following consultation with DEFA and the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner
- No ploughing, cultivations and spreading of fertiliser before 15th February;
- No insecticides can be used;
- No herbicide except pre-emergence herbicide which is acceptable;
- If the chosen mix fails to establish, re-establish with seeds from the above list
- Re-establish the mixture every 2 years to maintain seed production
- Create blocks with an average width of at least 6m, at least 1 acre and at most 10 acres in area
- Fertiliser application must not exceed 40 units of nitrate, 20 units of phosphate and 20 units of potash per acre

- Field margins must have at least 1m uncultivated or rough grass strip between crop edge and fence/hedge/base of sod hedge; if the hedge is very wide and/or overgrown, and hence more than 3m wide in total, the 1m strip can include part of the hedge overhang.

Supplementary Winter Feeding for Farmland Birds

Purpose: Supplementary feeding seed-eating farmland birds from December to April on arable and mixed farms through a period known as the 'hungry gap' when natural seed sources are depleted. For additional information see AB12 of the UK Countryside Stewardship Scheme. <https://bit.ly/2BDyJAg>

Schedule/ Number

5/01b(vii)

Payment Rate:

£650 per tonne of feed for every 5 acres of 'transient habitats'
(1 tonne will cater for 2 feeding stations for 20 weeks)

Eligible Land: Only available in association with one of the following 'Creation of Desirable Transient Habitats' options:

- 5/01b(i): Winter Stubbles
- 5/01b(ii): Winter Fodder Crops
- 5/01b(iii): Traditional Spring Crops
- 5/01b(iv): Conservation Headlands
- 5/01b(v): Unharvested Cereal Headlands
- 5/01b(vi): Biennial Wild Bird Seed Mix Strips

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 the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner.

Management conditions:

- Seed mixture should be a maximum of 70% cereal (wheat, barley, oats, triticale) and the remaining 30% a mix of at least two of the following white millet, red millet, linseed, oil seed rape, canary seed, nyjer seed, sunflower hearts (which can be bought in). For example a mix of 40% naked oats, 30% wheat, 20% millet and 10% oilseed rape.
- Spread the supplementary feed mixture specified at an average rate of 25kg on the ground at least once a week from 1 December to 30 April, at each of two separate feeding locations.
- Select feeding areas that are firm and free-draining, such as farm tracks or hard standing areas, and in close proximity to the 'transient habitats' and hedgerows.
- Keep records and supply them on request on the following:
 - details of the mixture used (weight of components and cost)
 - dates of feeding
 - method feeding (hopper or spreading)
 - amount of feed
 - the location of the feeding areas.

Do not:

- Use hoppers to supply more than 10% of the total amount of feed provided during the specified feeding period
- Use tailings (small seeds and chaff removed from the harvested crop) as supplementary feed.

Farmer Initiatives

Purpose: Any other habitat enhancement or creation options will be looked at with a view to paying for wildlife and landscape benefits. Where a particular species/habitat requires a particular management this option may be recommended.

Schedule / Number**5/01b(viii)****Payment rates to be confirmed**

Any proposal will be compared with equivalent options from other agri-environment schemes in the British Isles, and a payment rate established accordingly. This will be discussed with DEFA and the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner, a payment calculated and agreed prior to application. Evidence of any associated capital expenses will be required.

Eligibility: This will be assessed on a site by site basis.

Examples

- a) Planting replacement trees in existing tree top heronry.
- b) Planting/sowing of field margins with bee crops or game crops.
- c) Delaying harvesting or grazing due to breeding birds of high conservation concern.

The Enhancement of Existing Habitats (5/02)

<p>Hedge Enhancement</p> <p>Purpose: To enhance existing hedges benefiting biodiversity, carbon capture and storage, reduced flooding, maintenance of soils and soil fauna, 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.</p>	
<p>Schedule / Number 5/02a</p>	<p>Payment Rate: £6/m planting £8.50/m fencing that includes rabbit wire Maximum length for hedge planting/gap filling 300m/yr Rabbit guard for hedge plants actual cost</p>
<p>Eligibility: Any established hedge, especially those that require gaps filling.</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 the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner.</p> <p>Management Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The shrubs must be planted in a double row at a minimum of 6 shrubs per metre. • The shrubs should be mixed with a minimum of six species and no more than 75% of one species. Any trees planted within the hedgerow will be additional to the six required shrub species. • Use species listed in Appendix 1. • Cut no more frequently than every third year. • Hedges should be trimmed between 1st December and 15th February. • Pesticides should not be applied to the hedge bottom of an established hedge. However, herbicides may be used to help shrub establishment, or to spot treat injurious weeds, with DEFA approval • Avoid spray drift or fertilisers and manures affecting the hedge. • Allow saplings to develop into trees, aiming at one per 100 metres. • Protect hedge with a stock proof fence. • Protect shrubs from rabbit or hare damage. <p>Items Eligible for Capital Payment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rabbit guards • Shrub species listed in Appendix 1 <p>Note: rabbit-proof fencing is preferable to the use of individual plant protectors.</p>	

Hedge Management	
Purpose: To provide enhanced hedge management to the benefit of wildlife.	
Schedule / Number 5/02b	Payment Rate: £8.00/100m for 1 side of a hedge
<p>Eligibility: Any established hedge, composed of woody plants with less than 2m between the ground and the base of the leafy layer, over 20m long, less than 5m wide gaps between major woody stems at the base and composed of at least 80% native shrubs Excludes hedges which are predominantly Gorse hedges/banks</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 the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner.</p> <p>Management Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a hedge at least 2m tall and 1.5m wide by year 2, except for sections gapped up, laid or coppiced during the agreement term • Cut hedgerows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ either no more than 1 year in 3 between 1 September and 28 February - leave at least two-thirds of hedges untrimmed each year ▪ or no more than 1 year in 2 between 1 January and 28 February - leave at least one-half of hedges untrimmed each year • Plant up any length of hedge with more than 10% gaps within the first 2 years <p>Do not</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove any tree limbs, including lower limbs. • Remove any standing deadwood, unless the deadwood is a Health & Safety issue • Supplementary feed livestock within 2m of the centre of the hedge 	

Dry-stone Walling, Repairing or Rebuilding	
Purpose: To create, maintain and replace dry stone walls in parts of the Island where these are an important landscape feature. Walls also provide a nesting habitat for wheatears and wagtails, give warmth and shelter to lizards and butterflies such as the wall brown, and shelter livestock.	
Schedule / Number 5/02c	Payment Rate: Payment rate £30/m ² Maximum length 100m/year An additional £6.50/m if materials need to be brought to the site. Top wiring or scare wire £1/m (only for walls built or repaired under the Scheme)
<p>Eligibility: Any site where a new wall can successfully be built. If repair or rebuilding is needed then the wall must have gaps of more than 1m.</p> <p>Management Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect with scare wire or top wiring (2 line wires with posts at intervals of not more than 6 metres) • Built from material traditional to the locality (i.e. limestone in the Castletown area and Manx slate in other areas). • Built in the style found in the locality. <p>Items Eligible for Capital Payment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top wire or scare wire 	

Manx Sod Hedge Building, Repairing or Rebuilding

Purpose: To create repair or replace Manx sod hedges (stone faced earth banks) in parts of the Island where these are an important landscape feature. These banks provide a nesting habitat for many birds including robins and wrens, give warmth and shelter to lizards and butterflies such as the wall brown, support particular wildflower species such as harebell, primroses and sheep's bit scabious and provide good shelter for livestock.

Schedule / Number
5/02d

Capital payment rates to be confirmed

Eligibility: For new sod hedges: subject to an Ecological Assessment, any site where a new sod hedge can be successfully created and where it links two other sod hedges. For repair or rebuilding: the existing sod hedge must have gaps of more than 5m.

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 the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner.

Management Conditions:

- Protect with stock-proof fencing on both sides if both sides are grazed.
- Build from material traditional to the locality, using soil from the farm, not brought in.
- Use stone facing if adjacent sod hedges have stone facing.
- Build in the style found in the locality.
- Height and width should match that found in nearest sod hedge.
- Pesticides should not be applied to the hedge bottom, however herbicides may be used, with DEFA approval, to spot treat injurious weeds.
- Avoid spray drift or fertilisers and manures affecting the sod hedge.

Protection of Existing Habitats (5/03)

Control of Invasive Non-Native Plant Species	
Purpose: To support the active management and eradication of infestations of any invasive non-native species listed on Schedule 8 of the Wildlife Act 1990 including Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed.	
Schedule / Number 5/03a	Payment Rate: £400 per acre
Eligible Land: All land that is currently declared in the ADS application. 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 the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner. Management Conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Control the invasive species so that cover is reduced to a set proportion by a set date• Only carry out chemical control on specifically identified areas• Use temporary grazing controls to protect vegetation regeneration• Control any re-infestation during the term of the agreement• Carry out specific follow up cutting or grazing management tailored to their site• Supplement cannot be used:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ To control specified weeds (list to be confirmed)▪ To control bracken and non native gorse▪ For complying with ADS Cross Compliance requirements Specific Method Statements will be provided depending on the species being controlled, the area of infestation and the proximity to watercourses.	

Catchment Management (5/04)

Wide Water or ASSI Buffer Zones (20 - 50 m)	
Purpose: To protect watercourses, ponds, dubs, Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) and Ecologically Important Habitats from adjacent intensive agriculture - e.g. effects of fertilizer runoff.	
Schedule/Number 5/04a	Payment Rate: Above Mountain Line land £8/acre Permanent grassland £80/acre Improved grassland (temporary ley) or arable £120/acre Minimum area 1.5 acre
<p>Eligible land: Any arable land, silage crop or low-diversity pasture beside a watercourse or pond (as defined above) or adjacent to an ASSI or Ecologically Important Habitat.</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 the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner.</p> <p>Management Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land must be fenced. • Land must not be fertilised or have slurry or FYM applied. • Where arable - put down to grass, with no pesticide or fertiliser use. • Where grassland - no pesticide use or fertilising. • 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 or are intended to regenerate. Cutting must be in wildlife friendly pattern. • Land may in certain circumstances be grazed lightly at the end of the summer, if there would be wildlife benefits from this. • Any Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam must be controlled. • Where there are problems with injurious weeds spot treatment of these species is permitted, with prior DEFA approval. <p>Items Eligible for Capital Payment (rates to be confirmed)</p> <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. • Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam or giant hogweed control. • Grassland establishment where there has been an arable crop • Native tree and shrub planting may be appropriate in certain places if farmer wishes. Species from the list in Appendix 1 only • Wildflower sowing/planting may be appropriate in certain places subject to an ecological assessment 	

Water Protection Zones	
Purpose: To protect banks of watercourses, ponds and dubs from erosion, prevent pollution of water by dung and silt and protect bankside vegetation from grazing and trampling by livestock.	
Schedule/ Number 5/04b	Payment Rates: Above Mountain Line land £8/acre Permanent grassland £80/acre Improved grassland (temporary ley) or arable £120/acre Minimum length 20m (fencing is not necessary if there is less than this in total)

Eligible Land: Land in a strip **between 3 and 5 metres wide**, taken from the top of the bank of the watercourse and it must be both sides of a watercourse (where both sides are farmed by the applicant). All watercourses which flow all year and are 1 metre or more wide should be included. Water margin already fenced at less than 3m from water should be re-fenced leaving a 3-5m strip. Water margin already fenced at 3-5m from water is eligible. Permanent (wet all year) ponds and dubs must have a 5m margin from the winter water's edge and an animal drinking access point on one side.

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 the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner.

Note: special management may need to be arranged if rare plants are present that require specific management.

In areas of extensive unimproved land, moorland and wetland, a water protection zone may only be required along one side of a watercourse. In all other instances both sides of the watercourse must be included if under the applicants agricultural control.

Management Conditions:

- Land must be fenced and may not be grazed (except in certain circumstances where the flora and fauna would benefit - September only).
- Land must not be affected by pesticide spray (a 5m no-spray zone from the top of the bank is required under the Protecting our Water and Soil code). Except where there is Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam or giant hogweed, which must be controlled using the pesticides specifically recommended for this purpose and with DEFA approval.
- Land must not be fertilised or have slurry or FYM applied (a 10m manure/slurry free zone is required under the Protecting our Water and Soil Code).
- Breaks in water margin for drinking spots of 3m width may be allowed in certain circumstances (after discussion with DEFA and the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner).

Items Eligible for Capital Payment (rates to be confirmed)

- Fencing and gates/stiles.
- Troughs as alternative water supplies where access by stock to water is prevented by water protection measures.
- Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam or giant hogweed control.
- Native tree and shrub planting may be appropriate in certain places if farmer wishes. Species from the list in Appendix 1.
- Wildflower sowing/planting may be appropriate in certain places if farmer wishes.

Diffuse Water Pollution Management (5/05)

Climate change is making our weather patterns more unpredictable with more frequent severe weather events including heavy, prolonged rain this in turn is increasing the risk of diffuse water pollution entering our watercourses and the sea. Fertilisers, FYM and pesticides intended to benefit the growth of crops can enter ditches, streams, rivers and the ground water if used incorrectly. The chemistry of water that is rich in nutrients and pesticides changes and this has negative impacts on the fauna and flora living there; it can also impact on our bathing water quality and marine life. In addition, the loss of valuable nutrients and soil particles from farming systems is a poor use of resources.

Crop Nutrient Management Plan	
Purpose: To reduce the risk of direct and diffuse pollution of rivers and streams, whilst maximising returns to the farmer.	
Schedule/ Number 5/05a	Payment Rate: £50 plus £1.50/acre Minimum area – total eligible acres (excludes AML)
<p>A crop nutrient management plan is a tool that farmers can use to increase the efficiency of all the nutrient sources a crop uses while reducing production and environmental risk, ultimately increasing profit. Important factors that need to be considered when managing nutrients include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">the application of nutrients considering the achievable optimum yields and, in some cases, crop quality;the management, application, and timing of nutrients using a budget based on all sources and sinks active at the site; andthe management of soil, water, and crop to minimize the off-site transport of nutrients from nutrient leaching out of the root zone, surface runoff, and volatilization (or other gas exchanges). <p>Further information can be found through the following link: http://www.nutrientmanagement.org/2-nutrient-management-plan/</p>	

Manure Management Plan	
Purpose: To reduce the risk of direct and diffuse pollution of rivers and streams, whilst maximising returns to the farmer.	
Schedule/ Number 5/05b	Payment Rate: £50 plus £1.50/acre Minimum area – total eligible acres (excludes AML)
<p>Manures (slurry, farmyard manure or poultry manure) are an important resource. They provide nutrients that could reduce artificial fertiliser costs, and organic matter that will improve the condition of soil and help crop growth and performance.</p> <p>Further information can be found through the following link: http://www.nutrientmanagement.org/assets/12029</p>	

Infield Grass Strips

Purpose: To reduce the quantity of sediment, nutrients and pesticides transported through surface run off, both within field and from field to field

Schedule / Number**5/05c****Payment Rate:**

£225 per acre

Minimum area – 1.25 eligible acres

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

Most effective on sloping ground.

Management Conditions:

- Establish or maintain a dense grassy area during the first 12 months
- Must exclude all livestock from the strip

Do not:

- Apply any fertilisers or manures
- Use the grassed area as an access route for vehicles or stock

Agricultural/Horticultural Initiatives (5/06)

To encourage the uptake of land management/husbandry practices whilst maximising returns to the farmer. The acreage payments in this section ONLY apply to land of BML character.

Winter Cover Crops	
Purpose: Minimise soil erosion and nutrient leaching.	
Schedule / Number 5/06a	Payment Rate: £50/acre Minimum 5 eligible acres – Maximum 40 eligible acres
Eligible Land: Any land that is in an arable rotation.	
Management Conditions:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideally Cover crops should be established by 15th September of the Scheme year • A mixture of seeds such as rye, vetch, phacelia, barley or mustard, can be sown, or other crops such as ryegrass or tillage radish • Destroy the cover crop in February (grazing can be part of this process), before it is too well developed of the Scheme year - if left too late nitrate leaching may increase the following winter • Cover crop destruction may include an application of glyphosate prior to destruction by cultivation for the following crop 	

Soil fertility - Soil Sampling	
Purpose: To match fertiliser use, organic and artificial, to crop need; optimising the use of nutrients whilst maximising returns to the farmer.	
Schedule / Number 5/06b	Payment Rate: 50% of actual cost of sampling and analysis costs Minimum 5 and maximum 20 samples (excludes AML)
Eligibility: Must be done in conjunction with a Crop Nutrient Management Plan (5/05a).	
Management Conditions:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide evidence that a Crop Nutrient Management Plan has been completed 	

Soil fertility – Imported Lime	
Purpose: Optimising the efficacy of nutrients whilst maximising returns to the farmer.	
Schedule / Number 5/06c	Payment Rate: £0.25 per percentage Effective Neutralising Value (ENV) per tonne (£14.25/t for lime of 57% ENV) Minimum area – 5 eligible acres
Eligible Land: Any grass fodder / cereal growing land in grass/crop rotation or where crops have been grown continuously.	

Legumes

Payment for growing legumes for combining – peas, beans, linseed 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:
£40/acre

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

Management Conditions:

- Ploughing, cultivations and sowing must take place between 15th February and 1st May. A later sowing date may be permitted for lucerne in certain weather situations with prior approval.
- Field margins must have at least 1m uncultivated or rough grass strip between crop edge and fence/hedge/base of sod hedge; if the hedge is very wide and/or overgrown, and hence more than 3m wide in total, the 1m strip can include part of the hedge overhang.

The Creation of Legume Rich Swards (in the grazing situation)

Payment for growing clover rich swards or using clover to supplement existing swards.

Purpose: To encourage the cultivation of nitrogen fixing crops.

Schedule / Number
5/06e

Payment Rate:
£30/acre
Maximum of 20% of the forage acreage in any one year
Any one field can only be claimed once in every 6 years

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

Management Conditions:

- If carrying out this initiative involves the breaking of permanent pasture prior approval from DEFA MUST be obtained
- To germinate Clover requires a soil temperature in excess of 6 degrees centigrade; sowing should be undertaken after mid March and before mid September.

Indicative Seed Rates			
		kg/ha	kg/acre
Grass Clover mix	Clover	3.5	1.5
	Grass	18	7.5
Adding Clover to existing swards		5	2

Organic Scheme Conversion and Management																										
Schedule/ Number 5/06f	Payment Rate: See table below Maximum area 200 eligible acres (BML only)																									
<p>Farmers can apply for conversion funding before starting the conversion process with an organic certification body. Farmers choosing to do this will have to complete an Organic Viability Plan as part of their application and submit it to DEFA with their application. You are able to find the Organic Viability Plan through the following link: www.gov.im/afgs/aes</p> <p>To apply for the management grant, producers must register their land with an organic certification body, such as the Soil Association. They must do this before submitting their application to DEFA and provide evidence of this organic assurance accreditation with their application.</p>																										
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">Total payment per acre per year</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>Conversion</th> <th>Management</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Rotational land</td> <td>£71</td> <td>£26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Improved Grassland</td> <td>£30</td> <td>£16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unimproved Grassland</td> <td>£20</td> <td>£8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Horticultural land</td> <td>£162</td> <td>£81</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Top Fruit</td> <td>-</td> <td>£121</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Enclosed rough grazing</td> <td>-</td> <td>£3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Total payment per acre 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
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Plant and Animal Health – Integrated Pest Management		
Purpose: Optimising the efficacy of animal and crop production whilst maximising returns to the farmer.		
Schedule / Number 5/06g	Payment Rate: £100 plus £0.25 per eligible acre Minimum area – total BML eligible acres (excludes AML)	
<p>An integrated Pest Management Plan must be produced and updated annually and a hard copy returned to the Department.</p> <p>Further information can be found through the following link: https://voluntaryinitiative.org.uk/schemes/integrated-pest-management/</p>		

Animal Health – Herd/Flock Health Plan	
Purpose: Optimising the efficacy of animal production whilst maximising returns to the farmer.	
Schedule / Number 5/06h	Payment Rate: £50 plus £1.50 per acre Total forage acres
<p>A Herd/Flock Health plan must be produced and updated annually and a hard copy returned to the Department.</p> <p>Further information can be found through the following link: https://assurance.redtractor.org.uk/contentfiles/files/Mocked_up_completed_health_plan.pdf</p>	

Dairy Productivity Recording KPIs	
Purpose: Optimising the efficacy of animal production whilst maximising returns to the farmer.	
Schedule / Number 5/06i	Payment Rate: £50 plus £1.50 per forage acre assigned to the Dairy enterprise
<p>Herd performance data must be recorded monthly and submitted annually.</p> <p>Further information can be found through the following link: https://ahdb.org.uk/optimal-dairy-systems-benchmarking-calculator</p> <p>Data required may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cows and heifers calved within the first 6 weeks (%) • Herd replacement rate (%) • Milk solids output per ha (kg milk solids/acres) • Milk yield from forage (litres) and (solids) • Overheads (excluding rent and finance) pence per litre 	

Beef Productivity KPIs	
Purpose: Optimising the efficacy of animal production whilst maximising returns to the farmer.	
Schedule / Number 5/06j	Payment Rate: £50 plus £1.50 per forage acre assigned to the Beef enterprise
<p>Herd performance data must be recorded and submitted annually.</p> <p>Further information can be found through the following link: https://ahdb.org.uk/beef-lamb-kpi-calculators</p> <p>Data required may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calves born alive per 100 cows & heifers put to the bull • Calves weaned per 100 cows & heifers put to the bull • Calving period first to last calf (weeks) • % of cows and heifers calving in first 3 weeks, if block calving • 200 day calf weight per cow & heifer put to bull 	

Sheep KPIs	
Purpose: Optimising the efficacy of animal production whilst maximising returns to the farmer.	
Schedule / Number 5/06k	Payment Rate: £50 plus £1.50 per forage acre assigned to the Sheep enterprise
<p>Flock performance data must be recorded and submitted annually.</p> <p>Further information can be found through the following link: https://ahdb.org.uk/beef-lamb-kpi-calculators</p>	

Other Livestock KPIs	
Purpose: Optimising the efficacy of animal production whilst maximising returns to the farmer.	
Schedule / Number 5/06l	Payment Rate: £50 plus £1.50 per forage acre assigned to the livestock enterprise
<p>Livestock performance data must be recorded and submitted annually.</p> <p>Required data to be agreed with DEFA and the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner.</p>	

Arable Cost of Production	
Purpose: Optimising the efficacy of cereal production whilst maximising returns to the farmer.	
Schedule / Number 5/06m	Payment Rate: £50 plus £1.50 per acre assigned to the arable enterprises
<p>Arable performance data must be recorded and submitted annually.</p> <p>Actual crop gross margin data must be collated.</p>	

Wildlife Boxes (5/07)

Wildlife Boxes	
Purpose: It provides nesting, roosting sites for specific mammals, birds and invertebrates	
Schedule/ Number 5/07	Payment Rate: Actual cost to a maximum of £28.50 per box up to a maximum of £200 per year. Manufactured from local sustainable wood.
<p>Eligible Land: Each box should be sited in the agreed location.</p> <p>Management Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each location must be agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner prior to installation. • Each box must be kept in its original location for a minimum of 5 years • Barn Owls/Choughs - information is available from the Barn Owl Trust, nest boxes should be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ in an accessible barn ▪ at least 3m high ▪ with a shelf to prevent young birds falling • Tree sparrows - boxes should be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ on farm buildings or hedgerow trees, ideally near permanent water such as ponds ▪ away from places cats and rats can easily access, with a secure lid ▪ out of the midday sun ▪ weatherproof with small drainage holes in the floor ▪ made from wood at least 15mm thick with a 28mm entrance hole - follow the RSPB and British Trust for Ornithology guidance • Bats - boxes should be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ large enough for a maternity colony to cluster to conserve heat ▪ dry, rainproof and draught-free, with no gaps where the sides and top join ▪ entered by a slit at the base (front or back) no more than 15mm to 20mm wide - follow the Bat Conservation Trust guidance ▪ preservative-free if made of wood ▪ out of the midday sun ▪ close to a hedgerow or tree line ▪ placed with other boxes facing in different directions to offer a range of temperature conditions ▪ Studies have shown that woodcrete boxes with a 17cm diameter and 36cm high with domed roof, two entrances (back and front) have the greatest uptake both in numbers of bats and species of bats • Solitary bees - boxes should be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ in a dry, sunny and sheltered position on farm buildings, a post, or freestanding with a raised base to prevent rising damp ▪ near pollen and nectar forage ▪ 50cm by 50cm and 20cm deep, open fronted but with a back ▪ made of untreated timber ▪ weatherproof with small drainage holes in the floor ▪ contain at least four compartments, packed tightly with drilled hardwood blocks, bamboo stem sections and reed stems or paper drinking straws <p>For further information on nest boxes use the links below: https://www.gov.uk/countryside-stewardship-grants/large-wildlife-box-wb3 https://www.gov.uk/countryside-stewardship-grants/small-wildlife-box-wb1</p>	

Educational Visits (5/08)

Educational Visits	
Purpose: To let schools/youth groups visit a farm for educational experiences	
Schedule / Number 5/08	Payment rate £290 per visit
Management Conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must carry out a health and safety check and prepare a risk assessment for the farm which is submitted to DEFA and given to the potential group leaders• Complete the online Farm Facts Template for the farm within 3 months of the start of the first visit, you will find it on our website through the following link: www.gov.im/afgs/aes• Must carry out enough promotion so that at least 1 and at most 10 group visits happen every year• 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 the links between farming, conservation, climate change, water protection and food production using the agreement land as a classroom• Must provide a feedback form completed by the tour organiser Do not: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Charge for visits• Receive any other direct income from government funds relating to the educational visit	

Upland Stewardship Scheme (5/09)

Upland Stewardship Scheme	
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
Eligible Land: Above Mountain Line (AML)	
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 Above Mountain Line land is eligible for the Upland Stewardship Scheme payment	
Further information can be found through the following link: https://www.gov.uk/countryside-stewardship-grants	

Appendix 1

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)