



**Isle of Man
Government**

Reillys Ellan Vannin

Agriculture and Fisheries Grant Scheme

Agri-Environment Handbook and Guidelines

Author	Revision Date	Summary of changes	Distribution	Distribution Date
J Harrison	2 nd October 2019	Initial draft	Strictly internal	
J Harrison	6 th August 2020	Version 4 as agreed by P&S	Industry wide	
J Harrison	9 th December 2020	Version 5 post launch	Industry wide	
J Harrison	7 th May 2021	Amendment/addition to 5/01b	Industry wide	
J Harrison	24 th July 2021	Amendment/addition	Industry wide	
J Harrison/ A Cooper	1 st April 2022	Amendments and consolidation of Handbook and Guidelines	Industry wide	
A Cooper	17 October 2022	Poultry Initiative added	Industry wide	

Adopted	
Agreed by Minister	Clare Barber MHK
Date	17/10/2022

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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.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Agri-Environment Initiatives Grant 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 and Guidelines for Applicants 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



Where to find the information

For further information on all aspects of the Scheme, please visit the following website:
www.gov.im/afgs/aes

On the website you will find the following:

- Agri-Environment Initiatives Grants Handbook which is incorporated into the Grants Guidelines document
- Application Forms for individual initiatives
- Supporting Information

2. 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;

Please note that for initiatives which involve altering the physical nature of the land i.e. tree planting, dub creation and hedge creation, tenants may require permission from their landlords to ensure they are not in breach of their tenancy agreements.

3. WHAT CAN YOU APPLY FOR

The rate of grant support depends on which Agri-Environment Initiative is being applied for, and are referred to as Schedules in the document. All the Schedules are listed in this document which provides information on the application and claim processes for each one.

The maximum grant available under the AFGS is £200,000 per applicant in any rolling 5 year period.

4. COMPLETING APPLICATION FORMS

Please refer to relevant schedules of this document for the application process for each Schedule as they do vary.

Applications to the Scheme are completed in the first instance by filling out the below form:

APPLICATION FORM - PRIMARY INITIATIVES 2022-23 which is sent to registered agricultural businesses as part of the ADS application process.

The PRIMARY INITIATIVES form is the application process for:

5/01b:(i) Winter Stubbles
5/01b:(ii) Winter Fodder Crops - grazed
5/01b:(iii) Traditional Spring Cropping
5/01b:(iv) Conservation Headlands
5/01b:(v) Unharvested Cereals
5/01b:(vi) Biennial Wild Bird Seed/Wild Flower Strips
5/01b:(viii-a) Buffer Strip on Cultivated Land
5/05a: Crop Nutrient Management Plan
5/05b: Manure Management Plan
5/05c: Infield Grass Strips
5/06a: Winter Cover Crops – not grazed or incorporated until 15 th Feb
5/06d: Legumes Combine/Harvested Forage
5/06e: The Creation of Legume Rich Swards
5/06g: Plant and Animal Health – Integrated Pest Management
5/06h: Animal Health – Herd/Flock Health Plan
5/06i-m: Management KPIs – Beef, Sheep, Dairy, Other & Arable Cost of Production
5/06n: The Creation of Herbal Leys

Selecting these initiatives on the form is all that is needed to apply, these applications will be processed and you will receive (subject to meeting the scheme criteria) an approval letter requesting further information and/or a claim form.

For all the other Schedules application forms are available from the AES website or by contacting the department by email agriculture.policy@gov.im and requesting an electronic or paper copy.

- **5/01a (i) Woodland Planting Scheme**
- **5/01a (ii) Dubs, Ponds, Scrapes and Wetland Habitats**
- **5/01a (iii) New Hedge Planting**
- **5/01a (iv) Farmer Initiatives – all**
- **5/02a Hedge Enhancement**
- **5/02b Hedge Management**
- **5/02c Dry Stone Walling, Repairing or Rebuilding**
- **5/02d Manx Sod Hedge Building, Repairing or Rebuilding**
- **5/03a Control of Invasive Non Native Plant Species**
- **5/06b Soil Fertility – Soil Sampling**
- **5/06c Imported Lime**
- **5/06f Organic Scheme Conversion and Management**
- **5/06o Pest and Disease Monitoring (plant & animal)**
- **5/06p Delivery a unique or desirable habitat**
- **5/07 Wildlife Boxes**
- **5/08 Educational Visits**
- **5/09 Upland Stewardship Scheme**

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.

WARNING: if you deliberately or recklessly provide any inaccurate information on your application, you could render yourself liable to prosecution.

5. HOW APPLICATIONS WILL BE ASSESSED

DEFA reserves the right to approve applications on the basis that they meet the application criteria and meet the Management Conditions as discussed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner and detailed in this document.

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

6. 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:

- 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).

7. HOW DO I CLAIM?

Please refer to the claim process for each Schedule as they do vary.

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 on 695742 or if the applicant indicated paper copies on the APPLICATION FORM - PRIMARY INITIATIVES 2022-23.

Once you come to submit your claim, you will need to provide all the relevant supporting documentation, as outlined in the relevant schedules before the expiry date as detailed on your Claim Form. It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the relevant Claim Form expiry date.

INCOMPLETE CLAIM FORMS OR FORMS RETURNED WITH NO EVIDENCE MAY LEAD TO THE FORMS BEING RETURNED UNPROCESSED.

If you wish to extend the deadline of your approval, please contact us BEFORE the expiry date. No further reminder will be issued once the original approval is given.

8. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Applications are subject to the Scheme conditions at the date of receipt of the application. Once a formal approval has been received by the applicant, the offer of assistance is valid for one year and claims must be submitted within that time. Once a formal approval has been received the applicant may make claims for payment. The offer of assistance is (unless stated otherwise) on the approval document valid for one year and claims must be submitted within that time. Upon application to the Department this period may be extended.

Support under the AFGS will not be paid retrospectively, standard terms and conditions are applied to all offers of financial assistance usually for either a three, five, ten or fifteen year period. They are intended to protect Government's investment so that if for example, a company ceases to trade within the period of the conditions or stops using the supported assets for the purpose intended, then all or part of the assistance received may be repayable. There are a number of scenarios that would trigger a default under the standard terms and conditions so it is very important that they are read and understood. DEFA may also impose further more specific conditions depending on the individual applicant's circumstances.

9. 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, which. They are therefore, not confidential to the company concerned. Applicants should also be aware that parliamentary questions may be raised on applicants.

10. 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.

11. 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: THE CREATION OF DESIRABLE PERMANENT HABITATS

The Creation of Desirable Permanent Habitats Schedule provides a grant towards the creation of woodland, wetland habitats, new hedges and bespoke initiatives to encourage biodiversity, carbon capture and reduce flooding.

Woodland Planting Scheme

Purpose: To extend and create new woodland composed of species listed in Appendix 1. Due to climate change, 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, 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
5/01a(i)

Payment Rate:

Up-to 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 to.

Items Eligible for Capital Payment:

- Trees species- see 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

The Application Process

This follows the AFGS process; the Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application **before** work has started accompanied with quotes for items of expenditure where applicable.

The information required on the Application Form includes, basic contact details, the size of the area involved, the field numbers affected, planning permission number if required, information on what is planned (e.g. tree species, length of planting time etc.) and expenditure information if applicable.

Claim Form and Payment

This follows the AFGS process, once work has been paid for, a claim for payment can be made. A copy of the receipted invoices or proof of payment must be supplied with the grant claim form where applicable. The work completed will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the works carried out meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the relevant Claim Form expiry date.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the management conditions listed in this document.

If the fields involved are eligible for payment under the Agricultural Development Scheme they will be eligible for the area payment for 10 years from the date of your Agri-Environment Scheme application. However, this is dependent on the woodland being actively managed to the satisfaction of the Department.

If the location is adjacent to an Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) or an area of high ecological importance it may be restricted to using native tree species only.

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: maximum of £2,000 Up-to 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 is subject to impact assessment and agreement with the Delivery Partner. Best practice would see no more than 1/3rd of a Dub or Pond dredged in any calendar year • Payment for scrub control (e.g. to prevent willow encroachment where appropriate) • Fencing and gates (including fencing off part of water margin) • Mechanical digger work (only where essential) • Payment of the removal of drains or blocking of ditches 	

The Application Process

This follows the AFGS process; the Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application **before** work has started accompanied with quotes for items of expenditure where applicable.

The information required on the Application Form includes basic contact details, the size of the area involved, a map of the area that clearly identifies the proposed works, the field numbers affected, **planning permission** number, information on what is planned and expenditure information if applicable.

Claim Form and Payment

This follows the AFGS process, once work has been paid for, a claim for payment can be made. A copy of the receipted invoices or proof of payment must be supplied with the grant claim form where applicable. The work completed will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the works carried out meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the relevant Claim Form expiry date.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the desired habitat outcomes agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

If the fields involved are eligible for payment under the Agricultural Development Scheme they will be eligible for the area payment for 10 years from the date of your Agri-Environment Scheme application. However, this is dependent on the area being actively managed to the satisfaction of the Department.

<p>New Hedge Planting</p> <p>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, 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.</p>	
<p>Schedule / Number 5/01a(iii)</p>	<p>Payment Rates:</p> <p>£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</p> <p>Maximum of 300m/year inspection required if any application is for a greater amount</p>
<p>Eligibility: For new hedges on a bank or at ground level. 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: 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. • 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 <p>Note: rabbit-proof fencing is preferable to the use of individual plant protectors.</p> <p>Items eligible for Capital payment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shrub species from Appendix 1 	

The Application Process

This follows the AFGS process; the Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application **before** work has started accompanied with quotes for items of expenditure if applicable.

The information required on the Application Form includes, basic contact details, the field numbers affected, information on what is planned and expenditure information if applicable.

Claim Form and Payment

This follows the AFGS process, once work has been paid for, a claim for payment can be made. A copy of the receipted invoices or proof of payment must be supplied with the grant claim form where applicable. The work completed will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the works carried out meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the relevant Claim Form expiry date.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the desired habitat outcomes agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

<p>Farmer Initiatives</p> <p>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.</p>	
<p>Schedule / Number 5/01a(iv)</p>	<p>Payment rates to be confirmed on application</p> <p>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, and a payment will be calculated and agreed prior to application. Evidence of any associated capital expenses will be required.</p>
<p>Eligibility:</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>For applications over £3,000 a short business case must be supplied along with a partial budget for net biodiversity gains over a 3, 5 or 10 year period.</p>	

The Application Process

This follows the AFGS process; the Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application **before** work has started, accompanied with quotes for items of expenditure if applicable.

The information required on the Application Form includes basic contact details, information on the initiative that is planned and expenditure information if applicable.

Claim Form and Payment

This follows the AFGS process, once work has been paid for, a claim for payment can be made. A copy of the receipted invoices or proof of payment must be supplied with the grant claim form where applicable. The work completed will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the works carried out meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the relevant Claim Form expiry date.

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.

<p>Winter Stubble</p> <p>Purpose: To provide foraging and feeding areas for birds such as yellowhammer, skylark, flocks of finches and tree and house sparrows.</p>	
<p>Schedule Number 5/01b(i)</p>	<p>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:</p> <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
<p>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.</p> <p>Management Conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) You MUST NOT use any herbicides to desiccate the crop before harvesting; b) After cereal crop has been harvested the stubble must be kept until 15th February the following year; c) Straw must be removed in a timely manner after harvest; d) Do not burn residues; e) Do not under sow; f) Do not use herbicides, pesticides or fungicides between harvest and ploughing (i.e. while in stubble); g) Spread no more than 10 tonnes/ac of Farm Yard Manure (FYM), if necessary, but only from 15th February onwards; h) No slurry to be applied from harvest until after 15th February; i) FYM and Slurry (unless injected) MUST be incorporated into the soil within one day of spreading; j) 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 	

The Application Process

The Department must have received an application form before 1st October of the Scheme year if the option was not indicated on the **APPLICATION FORM - PRIMARY INITIATIVES 2022-23**. If the total acres is completed on this form a further application form does not need to be completed.

Claim Form and Payment

The field numbers of the areas claimed as retained stubbles must be included on the claim form and may be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the agreed Management Conditions have been met, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 28th February of the Scheme year.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the Management Conditions agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

<p>Winter Fodder Crops Payment for growing winter fodder crops e.g. forage rape, kale or turnips Purpose: To provide cover and feeding areas for birds such as yellowhammer, skylark, and flocks of finches, including linnet.</p>	
<p>Schedule / Number 5/01b(ii)</p>	<p>Payment Rate: £10/acre 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. 	

The Application Process

The Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application **before** grazing commences if the option was not indicated on the **APPLICATION FORM - PRIMARY INITIATIVES 2022-23**. If the total acres is completed on this form a further application form does not need to be completed.

Claim Form and Payment

The fodder crop will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the agreed Management Conditions have been met, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 28th February of the Scheme year.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the Management Conditions agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

<p>Traditional Spring Cropping Payment for growing cereal crops: spring wheat, spring barley, oats or rye, with low inputs of fertiliser and no herbicides or insecticides. Purpose: 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.</p>	
<p>Schedule / Number 5/01b(iii)</p>	<p>Payment Rate: £120/acre Maximum acreage per applicant is 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 schedule 5/01b(i).</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 and 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. • Application and cropping records must be submitted with your claim form. • Optional introduction of arable weed seeds (e.g. poppies, field pansy). 	

The Application Process

The Department must have received an application form before the 31st May of the Scheme year if the option was not indicated on the **APPLICATION FORM - PRIMARY INITIATIVES 2022-23**. If the total acres is completed on this form a further application form does not need to be completed.

Claim Form and Payment

The traditional cropping will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the agreed Management Conditions have been met and evidence of low input has been supplied, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 28th February of the Scheme year.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the Management Conditions agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

This can be combined with the Winter Stubbles Schedule Number 5/01b(i).

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 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:

£120/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 6m and 24m 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.

The Application Process

The Department must have received an application form before the 1st July of the Scheme year if the option was not indicated on the **APPLICATION FORM - PRIMARY INITIATIVES 2022-23**. If the total acres is completed on this form a further application form does not need to be completed.

Claim Form and Payment

The Conservation Headlands will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the agreed Management Conditions have been met, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 28th February of the Scheme year.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the Management Conditions agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

Unharvested Cereal Headlands

Purpose: To provide an important food source for farmland birds and insects in the summer, and to 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, 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:

£290/acre

Minimum area 1 acre, Maximum area 20 acres per applicant*

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

- The eligibility of the project for areas greater than 20 acres 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:

- Establish a cereal crop (not maize) between February and April on the field Headland between 6m and 24m wide
- 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

The Application Process

The Department must have received an application form **before** the 1st July of the Scheme year if the option was not indicated on the **APPLICATION FORM - PRIMARY INITIATIVES 2022-23**. If the total acres is completed on this form a further application form does not need to be completed.

Claim Form and Payment

The unharvested cereal headlands will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the agreed Management Conditions have been met, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 31st March of the Scheme year.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the Management Conditions agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

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: £220 per acre Minimum area 1 acre
<p>Eligible Land: Any fodder / cereal growing land in grass/crop rotation or where crops have been grown continuously.</p> <p>Management Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seed mix of at least 3 small-seed bearing plants 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. 	

The Application Process

The Department must have received an application form **before** the 1st July of the Scheme year if the option was not indicated on the **APPLICATION FORM - PRIMARY INITIATIVES 2022-23**. If the total acres is completed on this form a further application form does not need to be completed.

Claim Form and Payment

The bird seed mix strips will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the agreed Management Conditions have been met, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 28th February of the Scheme year.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the Management Conditions agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

Supplementary Winter Feeding for Farmland Birds

Purpose: To supplementary feed 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/2BDyJAq>

Schedule/ Number 5/01b(vii)	Payment Rate: £1025 per tonne of feed for every 5 acres of 'transient habitats' (1 tonne will cater for 2 feeding stations for 20 weeks) capped at 10 acres or 10% of the combinable crop acreage, whichever is the largest area.
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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 1st December to 30th 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 and 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.

The Application Process

The Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application **before** 1st August of the Scheme year. The information required on the Application Form includes basic contact details, quantity of feed, field numbers, eligible acreages of transient habitats and location of feeding sites as agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner.

Claim Form and Payment

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, once confirmed the payment will be processed. It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 1st June following your application.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the Management Conditions agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

Buffer strip on cultivated land

Purpose: A grass buffer strip may provide new habitat, protect existing landscape features, and improve water quality

Next to existing features, it will provide habitat for wildlife, and form links or corridors between other habitats.

Next to a watercourse, it will also prevent pollutants, such as sediment and nutrients, from being transported in surface water runoff.

Schedule / Number	Payment Rate
5/01b(viii-a)	£120/acre If a wildlife cover crop is sown
	£70/acre Where an existing grass sward is kept

Eligible land: Any existing grass area left intact that will form a buffer between a boundary feature and a newly sown forage or cereal crop. The Buffer strip must be on average at least 6m wide to a maximum of 24m in width.

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:

- Where a cover crop is to be sown the seed mixture used must be agreed with the Delivery Partner before drilling
- Land must not be fertilised or have slurry or FYM applied.
- No pesticide use.
- Land may be grazed lightly from 1st September, if there would be wildlife benefits from this.
- The Buffer strip **MUST** be maintained until 1st February.
- The Buffer strip can be maintained for future Scheme years
- 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.

Items Eligible for Capital Payment (rates to be confirmed)

- Grassland establishment where there has been an arable crop
- Wildflower sowing/planting may be appropriate in certain places subject to an ecological assessment

The Application Process

The Department must have received an application form **before** the 1st July of the Scheme year if the option was not indicated on the **APPLICATION FORM - PRIMARY INITIATIVES 2022-23**. If the total acres is completed on this form a further application form does not need to be completed.

Claim Form and Payment

This follows the AFGS process, once work has been paid for, a claim for payment can be made. A copy of the receipted invoices or proof of payment must be supplied with the grant claim form where applicable. The work completed will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the works carried out meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the relevant Claim Form expiry date.

5/02: THE ENHANCEMENT OF EXISTING HABITATS

The Enhancement of Existing Habitats Schedule provides a grant towards repairing and enhancing existing habitats.

Hedge Enhancement	
Purpose: To enhance existing hedges benefiting biodiversity, carbon capture and storage, reduced flooding, maintenance of soil and soil fauna, and provide 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 5/02a	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
Eligibility: Any established hedge, especially those that require gaps filling. 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: 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.	
Items Eligible for Capital Payment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rabbit guards• Shrub species listed in Appendix 1	
Note: rabbit-proof fencing is preferable to the use of individual plant protectors.	

The Application Process

This follows the AFGS process; the Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application **before** work has started accompanied with quotes for items of expenditure if applicable.

Claim Form and Payment

This follows the AFGS process, once work has been paid for, a claim for payment can be made. A copy of the receipted invoices or proof of payment must be supplied with the grant claim form where applicable. The work completed will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the works carried out meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is generally 12 months from the date of approval.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the desired habitat outcomes agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

Hedge Management	
Purpose: To provide enhanced hedge management to the benefit of wildlife.	
Schedule / Number 5/02b	Payment Rate: £8/100m 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. 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. Farm maps highlighting hedges which meet the criteria of the scheme must be included in your application.</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 	

The Application Process

The Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application, a 3 year management plan and a proposed schedule of works as agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner **before** 1st September. An application must be submitted on an annual basis.

Farm maps highlighting hedges which meet the criteria of the scheme must be included in your application.

The information required on the Application Form includes, basic contact details, field numbers, total length of hedges involved and any relevant additional information.

Claim Form and Payment

The hedges will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the agreed Management Conditions have been met, once confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 28th February of the Scheme year.

<p>Dry-stone Walling, Repairing or Rebuilding</p> <p>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 birds, give warmth and shelter to lizards and butterflies, and shelter livestock.</p>	
<p>Schedule / Number 5/02c</p>	<p>Payment Rate: Payment rate £30/m² 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>
<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 	

The Application Process

This follows the AFGS process; the Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application **with photos** (electronic or paper) **before** work has started accompanied with quotes for items of expenditure if applicable.

The information required on the Application Form includes basic contact details, field numbers, total length of wall being created/repared, expenditure costs if applicable and additional relevant information.

Claim Form and Payment

This follows the AFGS process, once work has been paid for, a claim for payment can be made. A copy of the receipted invoices or proof of payment must be supplied with the grant claim form where applicable. The work completed will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the works carried out meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the relevant Claim Form expiry date, this will generally be 12 months from the approval date.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the desired habitat outcomes agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

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,, gives warmth and shelter to lizards 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%
Up-to 100m per year

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.

The Application Process

This follows the AFGS process; the Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application before work has started accompanied with quotes for items of expenditure if applicable.

The information required on the Application Form includes, basic contact details, information on the initiative that is planned and expenditure information if applicable.

Claim Form and Payment

This follows the AFGS process, once work has been paid for, a claim for payment can be made. A copy of the receipted invoices or proof of payment must be supplied with the grant claim form where applicable. The work completed will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the works carried out meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the relevant Claim Form expiry date, this will generally be 12 months from the approval date.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the desired habitat outcomes agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

5/03: PROTECTION OF EXISTING HABITATS

Control of Invasive Non-Native Plant Species	
Purpose: To support the active management and eradication of infestations of any invasive non-native plant species listed on Schedule 8 of the Wildlife Act 1990, including Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed.	
Schedule / Number 5/03a	Payment Rate: Up-to £400 per acre as assessed
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.	

The Application Process

This follows the AFGS process; the Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application **before** work has started.

The information required on Application Form includes, basic contact details, field numbers, acreages being claimed on and further relevant information on the proposed control plans.

Claim Form and Payment

This follows the AFGS process, once work has been completed a claim for payment can be made. It will be subjected to a physical inspection and the applicant will be required to provide before, during and after photos to confirm that the works carried out meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the relevant Claim Form expiry date.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the desired habitat outcomes agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

5/04: CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

Catchment Management provides grants to protect watercourses, ponds and dubs from intensive agriculture and erosion.

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 fertiliser runoff.

Schedule/Number	Payment Rate:
5/04a	Above Mountain Line land £8/acre Permanent grassland £80/acre Improved grassland (temporary ley) or arable £120/acre Minimum area 1.5 acre

Eligible land: Any arable land, silage crop or intensive grassland beside a watercourse or pond or adjacent to an ASSI or Ecologically Important Habitat.

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:

- 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 (September only), if there would be wildlife benefits from this as agreed with the Delivery Partner.
- 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.

Items Eligible for Capital Payment

- 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

Grant rate

- Payment rates on capital works are to be confirmed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner.

The Application Process

This follows the AFGS process; the Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application **before** 1st June with quotes for items of expenditure if applicable, to be eligible for payment in that Scheme year.

The information required on the Application Form includes, basic contact details, field numbers (if applicable), number of eligible acres for each land category and information on expenditure costs if applicable.

Claim Form and Payment

This follows the AFGS process, once work has been completed a claim for payment can be made. A copy of the receipted invoices or proof of payment must be supplied with the grant claim form where applicable. It will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the works carried out meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 28th February of the Scheme year.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the desired habitat outcomes agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

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 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. A water margin already fenced at less than 3m from water should be re-fenced leaving a 3-5m strip. A 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
- Land must 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 10m 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 agreement 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.

The Application Process

This follows the AFGS process; the Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application **before** 30th June with quotes for items of expenditure if applicable, to be eligible for payment in that Scheme year.

The information required on the Application Form includes, basic contact details, field numbers (if applicable), number of eligible acres for each land category and information on expenditure costs if applicable.

Claim Form and Payment

This follows the AFGS process, once work has been completed a claim for payment can be made. A copy of the receipted invoices or proof of payment must be supplied with the grant claim form where applicable. It will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the works carried out meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 28th February of the Scheme year.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the desired habitat outcomes agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

5/05: DIFFUSE WATER POLLUTION MANAGEMENT

Diffuse Water Pollution Management provides payment to reduce the risk of direct and diffuse pollution of our watercourses and the sea. 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 £3 / 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 £3 / 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>	

The Application Process

The Department must have received an application form **before** 1st October of the Scheme year if the option was not indicated on the **APPLICATION FORM - PRIMARY INITIATIVES 2022-23**. If the total acres is completed on this form a further application form does not need to be completed.

Claim Form and Payment

Once the plan has been completed a claim for payment can be made. It will be subjected to an inspection to confirm that the plan meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 28th February of the Scheme year.

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: £325 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. Only eligible on sloping ground.	
Management Conditions:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish or maintain a dense grassy area during the first 12 months • Must exclude all livestock from the strip 	
Do not:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply any fertilisers or manures • Use the grassed area as an access route for vehicles or stock 	

The Application Process

The Department must have received an application form **before** 1st June of the Scheme year if the option was not indicated on the **APPLICATION FORM - PRIMARY INITIATIVES 2022-23**. If the total acres is completed on this form a further application form does not need to be completed.

Claim Form and Payment

The infield grass strips will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the agreed Management Conditions have been met, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 28th February of the Scheme year.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the Management Conditions agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

5/06: AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL INITIATIVES

The Agricultural and Horticultural Initiatives are to encourage the uptake of land management/husbandry practices whilst maximising returns to the farmer.

The acreage payments for these Schedules only apply to land of BML character.

Winter Cover Crops	
Purpose: Minimise soil erosion and nutrient leaching.	
Schedule / Number 5/06a	Payment Rate: £100 / 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	

The Application Process

The Department must have received an application form **before** 1st August of the Scheme year if the option was not indicated on the **APPLICATION FORM - PRIMARY INITIATIVES 2022-23**. If the total acres is completed on this form a further application form does not need to be completed.

Claim Form and Payment

A claim for payment can be made after 15th February of the Scheme year. Evidence of drilling date will be required and it will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the works carried out meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 28th February of the Scheme year.

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 using the information from the Soil Samples taken 	

The Application Process

The Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** soil sampling application **before** work has started.

The information required on the Application Form includes basic contact details and number of proposed samples to be taken.

Claim Form and Payment

This follows the AFGS process, once work has been paid for, a claim for payment can be made. The applicant must provide evidence that a Crop Nutrient Management Plan has been completed and a copy of the receipted invoices or proof of payment must be supplied with the grant claim form.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is generally 12 months from the date of approval.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the Management Conditions agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

Soil fertility – Imported Lime	
Purpose: Optimising the use 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.	

The Application Process

This follows the AFGS process; the Department **must** have received a completed Agri-Environment Initiatives application **before** work has started i.e. before the lime is ordered.

Online applications can be completed here: <https://www.gov.im/agandfishgrantscheme>

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.

The information required on the Application Form includes basic contact details, tonnes required, neutralising value and cost of product per tonne. 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.

Claim Form and Payment

This follows the AFGS process, once the lime has been paid for, a claim for payment can be made.

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.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the relevant Claim Form expiry date.

Legumes Combined/ Harvested Forage	
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	Payment Rate:
5/06d	£80/acre
<p>Eligible Land: Any arable land in grass/crop rotation or where crops have been grown continuously.</p> <p>Management Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Application Process

The Department must have received an application form **before** 1st June of the Scheme year if the option was not indicated on the **APPLICATION FORM - PRIMARY INITIATIVES 2022-23**. If the total acres is completed on this form a further application form does not need to be completed.

Claim Form and Payment

A claim for payment can be made after 1st September of the Scheme year. The applicant must supply evidence of drilling date, date of harvest and it will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the works carried out meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 28th February of the Scheme year.

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:

£60/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
- Clover leys under sown in cereal crops are NOT eligible under this initiative
- 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

The Application Process

The Department must have received an application form **before** 1st October of the Scheme year if the option was not indicated on the **APPLICATION FORM - PRIMARY INITIATIVES 2022-23**. If the total acres is completed on this form a further application form does not need to be completed.

Claim Form and Payment

A claim for payment can be made after satisfactory establishment. The applicant must supply evidence of how much grass clover has been used, which can be in the form of a receipted invoice. It will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the works carried out meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 28th February of the Scheme year.

Organic Scheme Conversion and Management

Schedule/ Number 5/06f	Payment Rate: See table below Maximum area 200 eligible acres (BML only)
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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.

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

Conversion payments - 3 years for top fruit 2 years for everything else.

The Application Process

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 information required on the Application Form includes basic contact details, field numbers, types of land involved, eligible acres to be claimed on, if the land is being converted or managed and an Organic Viability Plan (if applicable).

Claim Form and Payment

A claim for payment can be made after the 1st August of the Scheme year. The applicant **must** supply a copy of their organic certificate and once this has been received the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 28th February of the Scheme year.

Plant and Animal Health – Integrated Pest Management	
Purpose: Optimising animal and crop production whilst maximising returns to the farmer.	
Schedule / Number 5/06g	Payment Rate: £100 plus £0.50 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 animal production whilst maximising returns to the farmer.	
Schedule/ Number 5/06h	Payment Rate: £50 plus £3 per acre of your 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>	

The Application Process

The Department must have received an application form **before** 30th June of the Scheme year if the option was not indicated on the **APPLICATION FORM - PRIMARY INITIATIVES 2022-23**. If the total acres is completed on this form a further application form does not need to be completed.

Claim Form and Payment

Once the plan has been completed a claim for payment can be made. It will be subjected to an inspection to confirm that the plan meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 28th February of the Scheme year.

Further Information

Further information can be found in the Agri-Environment Initiatives Handbook.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Payments under the following KPI initiatives are calculated on the basis of the percentage of the farm that is used for each enterprise the total of these percentages will equal 100.

Dairy Productivity Recording KPIs	
Purpose: Optimising animal production whilst maximising returns to the farmer.	
Schedule / Number	Payment Rate:
5/06i	£50 plus £3 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 animal production whilst maximising returns to the farmer.	
Schedule / Number	Payment Rate:
5/06j	£50 plus £3 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 animal production whilst maximising returns to the farmer.	
Schedule / Number 5/06k	Payment Rate: £50 plus £3 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 animal production whilst maximising returns to the farmer.	
Schedule / Number 5/06l	Payment Rate: £50 plus £3 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 cereal production whilst maximising returns to the farmer.	
Schedule / Number 5/06m	Payment Rate: £50 plus £3 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>	

The Application Process

The Department must have received an application form **before** 30th June of the Scheme year if the option was not indicated on the **APPLICATION FORM - PRIMARY INITIATIVES 2022-23**. If the total acres is completed on this form a further application form does not need to be completed.

Claim Form and Payment

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 28th February of the Scheme year.

The Creation of Herbal leys	
Purpose: To encourage the use of diverse herb rich swards which deliver enhanced animal performance and improve biological biodiversity.	
Schedule / Number 5/06n	Payment Rate: £60/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:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If carrying out this initiative involves the breaking of permanent pasture prior approval from DEFA MUST be obtained 	

The Application Process

The Department must have received an application form **before** 1st October of the Scheme year if the option was not indicated on the **APPLICATION FORM - PRIMARY INITIATIVES 2022-23**. If the total acres is completed on this form a further application form does not need to be completed.

Claim Form and Payment

Claim for payment can be made after 30th October of the Scheme year.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 28th February of the Scheme year.

Further Information

Further information can be found in the Agri-Environment Initiatives Website.

Pest and Disease monitoring	
Purpose: Optimising production, reducing the use of Pesticides, whilst maximising returns to the farmer.	
Schedule / Number 5/06o	Payment Rate: 80% of costs
<p>Items of Expenditure Eligible for support include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laboratory analysis and sampling costs <p>An integrated Pest Management Plan must be produced and updated annually and a hard copy returned to the Department.</p>	

The Application Process

This follows the AFGS process; the Department must have received a completed form before work commences.

The information required on Application Form includes basic contact details and number /type of testing taking place.

Claim Form and Payment

This follows the AFGS process, once work has been paid for, a claim for payment can be made. A copy of the receipted invoices or proof of payment must be supplied with the grant claim form, once this has been assessed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is generally 12 months from approval.

Delivering a unique or desirable permanent habitat

Purpose: to support those who are delivering a unique or desirable habitat through current farming practices as agreed with the Delivery Partner.

Schedule / Number 5/06p	Payment Rate: £58/acre Minimum area 2 acres per farm. The following payment rate will be applied to the relevant acres of each farm: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Up to 10 acres 100% of the rate• Over 10 acres will be paid at 10% of the rate Maximum area eligible to receive payment 200 acres
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Eligibility:

- Any area of land that has been identified as delivering a unique or sought after habitat through current farming practices

Eligible Land:

- Land eligible for this initiative under the ADS as agreed with the Delivery Partner and DEFA

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
- Any land under Organic scheme conversion or management as part of 5/06f

Management Conditions:

- Must be agreed with the Delivery Partner

The Application Process

The Department must have received an application form **before** 30th June of the Scheme year.

Claim Form and Payment

Once the plan has been completed and agreed with the Delivery Partner a claim for payment can be made. It will be subjected to an inspection to confirm that the plan meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 28th February of the Scheme year.

5/06r Poultry efficiency initiative

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
5/06r**

/

Payment Rate:

25% of the value at purchase and 25% of the purchase price at end of life

Eligibility – 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
- have a current flock health plan in place

To be eligible to receive the second payment – all applicants must:

- provide evidence of humane end of production 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

<p>Forage sampling – Making the best use of home grown feed</p> <p>Purpose: Using forage analysis to optimise the use of conserved forage;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reducing the need for bought in supplementary feeds for Livestock • optimising the use of conserved forage • meeting livestock nutritional requirements • optimising the animal economic performance • maximising returns to the farmer 	
<p>Schedule / Number 5/06Q</p>	<p>Payment Rate: 50% of actual cost of sampling and analysis costs Minimum 1 and maximum 5 samples</p>
<p>Eligibility: Any conserved forage can be analysed under this initiative</p> <p>Management Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide evidence that the analysis results from the sampling have influenced the use of the conserved forage and the purchase and/or rationing of other feed items. <p>Evidence could be supplying ration info such as:</p> <p>Beef fattening ration to give X kg/day live-weight gain Silage Y kg/day Barley Z kg/day</p>	

The Application Process

The Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** forage sampling application **before** work has started.

The information required on the Application Form includes basic contact details and number of proposed samples to be taken.

Claim Form and Payment

This follows the AFGS process, once work has been paid for, a claim for payment can be made. It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is generally 12 months from the date of approval.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the Management Conditions agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

5/07: WILDLIFE BOXES

Wildlife Boxes	
Purpose: Provides nesting and 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 claim. Manufactured from local sustainable wood.
Eligible Land: Each box should be sited in the agreed location.	
Management Conditions: <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 -<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ RSPB and British Trust for Ornithology guidance• Bats -<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Bat Conservation Trust guidance• 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	
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	

The Application Process

This follows the AFGS process; the Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application **before** work has started.

The information required on the Application Form includes basic contact details, type and number of boxes, proposed locations of the boxes and any relevant further information.

Claim Form and Payment

This follows the AFGS process, once work has been paid for, a claim for payment can be made. A copy of the receipted invoices or proof of payment must be supplied with the grant claim form, once this has been assessed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is generally 12 months from approval.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the Management Conditions agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

5/08: EDUCATIONAL VISITS

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	

The Application Process

The Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application **before** the date of the first planned visit of the Scheme year.

The information required on the Application Form includes basic contact details, the date of the educational visit(s), the name and contact details of the tour leader and a completed Farm Facts Document.

Claim Form and Payment

A claim for payment can be made following each planned visit or before the expiry date of the approval form. A copy of a feedback form must be supplied with the grant claim form, once this has been assessed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the Management Conditions agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

5/09: UPLAND STEWARDSHIP SCHEME

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	

The Application Process

The Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application before 1st July of the Scheme year.

The information required on the Application Form includes basic contact details, field numbers, eligible acreages and the appropriate Habitat Management Plan/s.

The Habitat Management Plans should be produced and agreed in conjunction with the Agri Environment Delivery Partner.

Please find a Habitat Management Plan Template under the Downloadable Document section on the website: www.gov.im/afgs/aes

Claim Form and Payment

Claim for payment can be made after you have agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner that you have met the required management conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed after the conclusion of the scheme year.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 28th February of the Scheme year.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the Management Conditions agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

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 willow	<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 silvatica</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)